



# STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

## FROM HALLS TO HOUSE



# CONTENTS



How to be a Green renter .....	<b>3</b>
How to be a good neighbour .....	<b>5</b>
Registering to Vote .....	<b>7</b>
Changes to University Support .....	<b>7</b>
Renting Rights and Responsibilities .....	<b>8</b>
Community Living Rules and Regulations .....	<b>10</b>
Your Halls to House Checklist .....	<b>11</b>

# HOW TO BE A GREEN RENTER

## WASTE

Disposing of your waste correctly shows you care for where you live so we all have cleaner streets. Recycling preserves natural resources, saves energy, and causes less harm to the environment than extracting and processing raw materials.

- In Bristol recycling is collected once a week and general waste (black wheelie bin) is collected every two weeks.
- You should put out your waste out after 7pm the evening before it is due to be collected and you must bring in your bins and boxes on the day they are collected.
- If you are missing any bins, there is an online request form on the Bristol City Council website.

**Houses:** When you move into a house, you should have as minimum:

**Green box:** For your cans, plastic bottles and containers (No plastic bags or black plastic)

**Black box:** for your glass and paper (not brown paper)

**Blue bag:** for your cardboard, cartons and brown paper.

**Brown caddy:** for food waste wrapped in newspaper or compostable bags

**Black wheelie bin:** for non-recyclable waste

**Bristol Waste Company and Bristol City Council; everything you need to know about waste:**

<https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/household/students-and-new-residents/>

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling>

### Top Tips

- ✓ Find your collection dates and make a note of these on your phone.
- ✓ Make sure you fully close the top on your black bin and blue bag. Bins will not be collected if they are overflowing (bags left next to bins will also not be collected).
- ✓ Make sure you follow the recycling instructions carefully. Recycling will not be collected if it is not in the correct boxes or bag.
- ✓ Plastic bags cannot be recycled in your boxes, local Sainsburys and Co-op supermarkets have bins where these can be recycled.



**Apartment Buildings:** If you live in a large block of flats, you may have a recycling or waste centre for the whole building. Information on how to use this should be provided by your landlord/letting agent. If you are not sure what to do you can check with your neighbours.



## TRANSPORT

Bristol is a great place to get around without a car and the University's central location means you can reach most places easily on foot, by bike or by public transport.

- You are entitled to a discount on local buses, see the Student Travel website for links.
- If you are travelling further afield by train you can buy a Railcard for 1/3 off fares.

You should not bring a car to Bristol unless it is essential, for example because of a disability. Bristol is a highly congested city and there are many restrictions on parking in place.

Leaving your car at home means you are not adding to local pollution, congestion, and parking problems.

If you feel you need to use a car from time to time you can see if you are eligible to join a Car Club. They have student discounts, and pay-as-you go cars located across Bristol, the Student Travel web-pages have more detail.

### UoB Student Travel Pages:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/transportplan/student-travel/>

## ENERGY AND WATER

Follow these tips and advice for quick and easy ways to save energy, lower your bills and reduce your carbon footprint.

- draught proof gaps where you can.
- turn down radiators in rooms you are not using.
- turn off lights and appliances when you are not using them, don't leave them on standby.
- wash your clothes at a lower temperature.
- close your curtains and blinds at night.
- take short showers instead of baths whenever possible.
- use cold water rather than hot when it makes sense.
- make sure washing machines, tumble dryers and dishwashers are full before using them.
- turn off taps while brushing your teeth or when they're not in use.
- if you have a smart meter track your energy use.

## FOOD

Wasting food will cost you money and is not good for the environment.

- Plan meals in advance and create a shopping list, stick to this when you are shopping to help you avoid impulse buys.
- Resist 2-for-1 offers on products with short use-by dates or food you only occasionally eat.
- Before you go food shopping check what you already have.
- Plan meals to use up ingredients before they go off, and make sure you aren't buying more of an item than you need.
- If you do have left over food waste, make sure you use your brown caddy to dispose of it each week. If you put food waste in your black wheelie bin it can be two weeks before it is collected.

# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR



## SAY 'HELLO'

Introducing yourself to your neighbours sets you apart from previous tenants.

If you are on friendly terms with your neighbours, it will be easier for you to appreciate any concerns they may have (for example if they have young children), and they will be more likely to approach you rather than the University, Police or Council if they have a problem.

Give your neighbours your contact details and ask them to let you know if they have any problems. You might like to print out and use this greeting template: <https://tinyurl.com/clohelo>

## NOISE

Excessive noise impacts the wellbeing of all your neighbours, both students and non-students.

Things to be aware of:

- Unlike Halls, there is no 11.00pm cut off for noise in the community.
- Noise can be considered excessive at any time of the day or night.
- Many houses in Bristol are old with poor insulation so noise travels easily through floors and walls.
- You are responsible for the behaviour of your visitors.
- A multi-occupancy household is likely to create quite a bit more noise than a family home, particularly if you have visitors.
- What may not sound loud to you may disturb your neighbours.
- There are no 'student areas' in Bristol.
- All residential areas are shared with a variety of people.

You can avoid the risk of disturbing your neighbours by:

- not holding large gatherings or house parties in your property.
- avoiding using the garden, street or rooms that adjoin neighbours' bedrooms if you have visitors.
- positioning stereos, TVs, and speakers away from adjoining walls and keeping the volume low.
- use headphones when you are listening to music.
- keeping doors and windows closed to help prevent noise from travelling.
- avoid shouting, slamming doors, or running up and down stairs.
- make sure you and your guests arrive and leave quietly when you have a night out.

## TOP TIPS

- ✓ Check your noise - go outside or visit your neighbours to find out if you can hear your house noise.
- ✓ Don't expect your neighbours to keep contacting you about noise, if they have told you noise is disturbing them keep your music/other noise below that level.
- ✓ Find your local businesses – curry house, restaurant, pub, or club where you can hold your event. You won't disturb your neighbours and you will support local businesses and provide employment.





## GET INVOLVED

Getting involved with a resident's association or volunteering can help you get to know your neighbours and benefit the local community as well as helping with your CV – have a look at signing up for a Bristol Plus Award.

Local resident's associations may have gardening projects, litter picks, quiz nights and socials which you could get involved with. Some areas also run welcome events for students. Look out for posters in your local area or flyers through your door.

To find your local residents association try this link <https://tinyurl.com/clogrouplist> or Google the name of your local area.



**Bristol Hub:** <https://www.bristolhub.org/>

Bristol Hub supports University of Bristol students to tackle social challenges, learn about issues and connect with each other.

### City Challenges:

<https://universityofbristolcareers.blogs.bristol.ac.uk/2023/04/05/five-reasons-why-you-should-take-part-in-a-city-challenge/>

During a City Challenge, you help a Bristol non-profit tackle an issue they are facing. You learn about a local cause, help improve them and have a positive impact on the local community.

### Volunteering Opportunities:

<https://www.bristolsu.org.uk/volunteering>

Whether you want to make a difference to the Bristol community during your time at university, if you're looking to boost your skills, your confidence and your CV or if there's just a cause you really care about Bristol SU can help get you started with your volunteering journey.

**Bristol Plus Award:** <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/careers/bristol-plus-award/>



# REGISTERING TO VOTE



You can find out how to vote in UK elections as a student at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/students>

If you are eligible you can register to vote at: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

From the 4th of May 2023 you will need to provide an accepted ID to vote in UK elections, this could include a passport, drivers licence or PASS card. If you do not have an accepted form of ID, or if you would prefer not to use your ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

**Full information on accepted IDs and how to apply for a Voter Certificate is available at:**

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id>

# CHANGES TO UNIVERSITY SUPPORT



As you move out into the community there will be some changes to where you receive support.

**Wellbeing Support:** If you need wellbeing support this will move from Residential Life to the Student Wellbeing Service when you leave University residencies. You can find out more and request support online: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/support/wellbeing/request-support/>.

If you are currently receiving support from Residential Life, your advisor will talk to you about this.

The Student Wellbeing Service operates during office hours, for out of hours support you can contact the Samaritans 24 hours a day for free on 116 123.

**Security Services:** University Security does not operate in the community. If you are concerned about your safety, contact the police on 999 in an emergency, or 101 if it is not an emergency.

**Student Health:** Most students will be able to remain registered with Student Health. You can check your address at: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/students-health/register/>. You can also register with Student Health on this website if you did not do so when you enrolled on your course.

# RENTING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



## You have the right to:

- Live in a property that is safe and in a good state of repair.
- 24 hours' notice if your landlord needs to come around (unless it is an emergency).
- Live in the house for the length of your contract
- Your landlords contact details (not just your letting agents).

## Your landlord must provide you with:

- A copy of the government's 'How to rent guide'.
- A gas and electricity safety certificate.
- An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).
- Deposit protection paperwork showing where your deposit is held (within 30 days).

## You have a responsibility to:

- Take good care of the property.
- Not cause noise and other forms of nuisance to your neighbours.
- Manage your waste and recycling effectively.
- Let your landlord/letting agent know of any repairs that are needed.
- Repair or pay for any damage caused by you or your friends.
- Pay the agreed rent on time.
- Pay your household bills on time.
- Not to sublet unless you have your landlord's permission.

If you require a landlord reference and you have not been a responsible tenant, your landlord may not provide you with the reference you were hoping for. This could affect your future property choices.

**How to rent:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent>

**Where to get help:** <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/advice/>







## STAYING SAFE IN YOUR PROPERTY

### Security and Crime

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Keep laptops, smartphones, keys and other valuables out of sight.
- Register your valuables (e.g., Immobilise).
- Only let people you trust into your home if you feel unsafe call the police.

See the Avon and Somerset Police website for more information.

### Household Hazards

- If you have any concerns about the safety of your property you should contact your landlord/letting agent straight away.
- All rented houses must have smoke and CO detectors (if you have a gas boiler), large properties must also have fire alarm systems.
- Test your detectors regularly where you can.

Read 'How to rent a safe home' for more information

## WHAT IS A HOUSE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO)?

An HMO is a property where at least 3 tenants live, forming more than 1 household, where there are shared facilities such as bathroom or kitchen. As student tenants each of you are your own household.

Most student HMOs in Bristol should be licenced because they contain over 5 households or because they are part of the central Bristol licencing area. Licenced HMOs are required to meet standards which can be found on the Bristol City Council website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/property-licences/types-of-licence>

**How to rent safely:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent-a-safe-home>

**Crime prevention:** <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/crime-prevention-advice/>

# COMMUNITY LIVING RULES AND REGULATIONS



## UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY BEHAVIOUR RULES

The University of Bristol has an expectation that students will respect the community they live in and, like all other residents, are bound by national and local legislation. The University of Bristol enforces rules which state that students must respect residents and be considerate to the local community. Students are responsible for visitors to their homes.

Disciplinary action may be taken in the case of:

- Excessive noise that causes a disturbance to other residents at any time of day or night.
- Non-compliance with local council waste and recycling collection procedures.
- Any violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, intimidating or offensive behaviour or language whether expressed orally or in writing, including electronically.
- Sexual, racial or any other form of harassment, including bullying.
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- Any other behaviour that causes danger or distress.
- Any other misconduct (as defined by the Regulations) within the community.

Misconduct can be dealt with locally first by the Community Liaison Manager, penalties can include a fine of up to £250.

For full information and penalties: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/community/student-behaviour-in-the-community/>

## BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD ENFORCEMENT TEAM (NET)

NET combines several enforcement functions for Bristol City Council, including noise and waste. A member of the public may report a problem directly to the Council, or, in some instances the Community Liaison Officer may report you to NET if you have not responded to university requests to change your behaviour (e.g., not playing loud music or cleaning up waste).

The NET team can impose Community Protection Warnings, Notices, and Fines. If there are still ongoing issues you may be prosecuted in court and fined up to £2,500 as well as having property (e.g., stereo systems) confiscated.

### OUR COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER STEVE SAYS ...



- ✓ Everyone is entitled to have a good time, but not at the expense of your neighbours.
- ✓ Enjoy your houses and Respect the Student Rules.
- ✓ Get involved in the community association projects – look up your Association on-line. <https://tinyurl.com/clogroup1st>
- ✓ You have skills and time to volunteer for many projects that your community need you for – Music events / Horticultural / Litter Picking / Sports events/Mentoring/ Foodbanks and more.
- ✓ Finally - Please be respectful to everyone in our neighbourhoods.

# YOUR HALLS TO HOUSE CHECKLIST



Not found your accommodation yet? See the accommodation services website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/finding-private-accommodation/>

## Before you move in

- Find out your bin days and store them on your phone
- Consider contents insurance
- Compare energy suppliers and work out how you will organise your bills
- Get a TV Licence
- Check you can stay registered with Student Health
- Make sure you have read your tenancy agreement
- Enter your term time address when you re-register with the University
- Consider who needs your new address (e.g., banks, student finance, DVLA)

## When you move in

- Say 'Hello' to your neighbours
- Check your accommodation inventory and report and discrepancies. Take photos.
- Submit your meter readings (e.g., gas, electricity, or water)
- Make sure you know where your deposit is held and who your landlord is
- Make sure you have a copy of your gas and electricity safety certificates and EPC
- Ensure you have enough recycling boxes and bags; note your collection days
- Request your Council Tax exemption or discount
- Register to vote and make sure you have an accepted ID

## Check out your local area

- Find out about your local resident's group and any welcome events in your area
- Identify your local charity shops to drop of what you don't need or pick up a bargain
- Find your local pubs/clubs/restaurants to hold your events