

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME - 2024/2025: Accommodation

As you will have been made aware during your interview, the nature of the PGCE programme is such that you may be expected to take up a placement outside of Bristol. You may have to travel or find temporary accommodation to reach school in good time and be refreshed once you get there. The PGCE office has contacts with local householders in most of the areas for these school placements, however, sometimes accommodation in a B&B might be the best option.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply to live in University accommodation for the full academic year?

Applications for University accommodation are open from 5 March 2024 to 30 June 2024. Applications will remain open until 31 July 2024 but students will not be guaranteed an accommodation offer if they apply after 30 June 2024.

If you do not meet the terms of our accommodation guarantee, you can apply from 18 August 2024 but we cannot guarantee that you will receive an offer of University accommodation. As demand for University accommodation is high, we strongly recommend that you look for accommodation in the private sector alongside any application for University accommodation.

Can I apply to live in University accommodation for part of the year?

From January 2025, you will be able to apply for any remaining rooms in University accommodation. There is limited availability, so you will not be guaranteed an offer: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/students/life-in-bristol/accommodation/apply-to-stay-in-university-accommodation/in-year-accommodation/>

I've been advised not to sign a long-term contract in the private sector – is this possible?

Most student landlords will expect you to sign a fixed-term tenancy agreement, sometimes for 9 months but more often for 12 months. It is possible to find landlords willing to agree to 6-month contracts, particularly in the professional lettings market. 6 months is usually the shortest assured shorthold tenancy you will find.

Resident landlords are more flexible and can offer shorter tenancies. A resident landlord owns and lives in the property with the tenants. Some resident landlords live in large properties and their tenant/s live in a separate part of the house with their own facilities. Shorter tenancies and resident landlords may be advertised on the Bristol SU Lettings website <https://www.bristolsulettings.co.uk/> as well as on the Bulletin Board <https://bristol.studentpad.co.uk/MessageBoard>

What happens if I have signed a 12-month fixed term contract in the private sector but I am not going to be in Bristol for the spring or summer term?

If you're starting a PGCE programme and are likely to be leaving Bristol before the end of your tenancy then you should inform your co-tenants and discuss this with prospective landlords **before** signing a contract if possible, to check whether they are happy to allow you to find a suitable replacement tenant to take over your tenancy or to sublet for the period you're away.

Your tenancy agreement will dictate whether your landlord will allow or prohibit subletting or transfer of rooms. Most commonly the contract will state that it can take place with the consent of the landlord. Even if the agreement prohibits it, landlords may sometimes agree anyway. Replacement tenants or subletters will need to be suitable and agreed by the landlord and the remaining tenants if it is a joint contract.

You are likely to incur some administrative costs, though this would normally be under £50. If you're having problems getting a landlord to agree to you finding a replacement tenant, then please contact the Student Accommodation team at student-accommodation@bristol.ac.uk.

Please note, if you can't find a replacement tenant by the time you need to leave, and your landlord will not agree to release you from your contract, you will still be liable to pay rent until the fixed term ends or until a replacement tenant is found.

How would I go about advertising my room details to find replacement tenants or subletters?

The best place to do this is on the Bulletin Board <https://bristol.studentpad.co.uk/MessageBoard> . You may also wish to advertise on other student websites such as those listed in the finding properties to view page: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/finding-private-accommodation/finding-properties-to-view/>

If I give up my room in the private sector for the Spring term, what can I do when I come back for the Summer term?

From January 2025 onwards, you can apply for any remaining rooms in University accommodation. The tenancy will be from January 2025 until the end of the academic year. There is limited availability so you are not guaranteed an offer of University accommodation.

If you find you need accommodation in Bristol, you can also check the Bulletin Board <https://bristol.studentpad.co.uk/MessageBoard> ,

Is there any financial assistance available if I have to pay rent on 2 properties?

If you are having money issues then please contact the Student Funding Office at Senate House Telephone: +44 (0) 117 331 7972, Email: student-funding@bristol.ac.uk. They will be able to assess you for support under the 'Access to Learning Fund' and if you are experiencing hardship, they may be able to offer limited financial assistance.

In the private sector, what's the difference between 'individual' and 'joint' tenancy agreements?

If you sign an individual agreement, you will only be responsible for payment of your own rent. If you sign a joint tenancy agreement you will be jointly and individually liable for the rent for the whole house. So, as a joint tenant, if you move out during the fixed term and stop paying rent without having found a replacement, the landlord could ask your co-tenants or their guarantors to make up the shortfall. The remaining tenants could sue you for your share of the rent if you do leave without having found a replacement and they have been forced to pay your rent in your absence.

How do I find accommodation in the private sector?

For all the information you need about finding rented accommodation please see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/>

Important information regarding scams.

There are a number of scams operating in the UK which involve criminals posing as landlords and collecting "rent" and "deposits" for properties they do not own. **You should never transfer or hand over any money until you are 100% sure that the person accepting the money can let the property to you and the arrangement is genuine.** See private sector housing advice:

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/privately-rented/advice/> If you are in any doubt about the authenticity of the arrangement, you can contact the Student Accommodation team at student-accommodation@bristol.ac.uk for advice before transferring any money. You could also check property ownership online with the UK Land Registry.