ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON

The Architectural Association offers an accommodation service from the beginning of September for three weeks. AA students will be available during this time to advise you about prices and location of accommodation you seek. There will be a wide variety of accommodations advertised in the office. Please bear in mind that the School does not have any arrangement with any residence, agency or hotel, and that we do not have any obligation to provide accommodation to the new or existing students. We merely provide information and guidance for you to start looking.

TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION

1. Halls of Residence
You will live in a study bedroom, sharing bathrooms and other facilities. Breakfast and evening meals are often provided, but self-catering halls can also be found where students buy and prepare their own food.

2. Independent Halls and Hostels
Hostels are normally owned by charitable organisations. As well as providing accommodation they offer a homely environment, often with social opportunities and events. Like halls or residence, sometimes meals are provided, or sometimes there are cooking facilities. Hostels are very popular and have long waiting lists, so apply with plenty of time.

3. Private Accommodation
This is when you rent from a private landlord/landlady. Normally you would arrange this once you arrive in London, make sure that at least you have a temporary room booked in a hostel of hotel for when you arrive.

You will need to accept how difficult it is to find affordable accommodation in the central zones of London. Normally students in private accommodation will need to live some distance from the school and travel every day.

Private accommodation options:
- A room in a private home, sharing facilities with the flatmates.
- A bed-sit is a single room in which you live and sleep, usually with limited cooking facilities. Bathroom facilities are usually shared.
- A studio flat is a single room with self-contained kitchen and bathroom.

One of the cheapest ways of living is to share a flat or house with friends or colleagues from the school. Rent, bills and cleaning can all then be shared.

When arranging long-term accommodation you will usually sign an agreement with your landlord/landlady. When you sign, you will need to pay a deposit, which is returned to you when you leave. However, if you have caused damage to the accommodation, or leave without giving the required notice, the landlord may have the right to keep your deposit.

It is important therefore not to sign any contract or agreement you do not understand. Read all documents carefully before you sign them and keep copies. Always ask for a receipt for each payment. Free advice about your legal rights can be found at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (www.nacab.org.uk)

Be careful if using an accommodation agency. Many are listed in BT’s ‘Yellow Pages’ and can be good, but others ask for large deposits and rent in advance. Find out any costs before asking them to look for accommodation for you.
The cost of accommodation varies enormously according to type, quality and location, but you might find a room in shared accommodation for approximately £85-£90 per week. Do check whether your rent includes gas, electricity, water; it almost certainly will not include the use of telephone.

You may want to start looking for accommodation or getting acquainted to prices and locations before you arrive in London. Private accommodation is advertised in local newspapers, including 'Evening Standard', 'Loot' (www.loot.com) and 'Time Out'. On the University of London Accommodation Office website (www.lon.ac.uk/accom) there is a very useful 'Student Contact List', which enables students to advertise their accommodation, sharing needs.

**ACCOMMODATION ADDRESSES**

- **International Students House (ISH)**
  229 Great Portland Street
  London W1W 5PN
  Tel: 0044(0)20 7631 8310
  www.ish.org.uk
  Temporary and longer-term student accommodation all year round, including limited family flats accommodation. Usually there are some temporary places available for students arriving in the UK in September.

- **The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)**
  Tel: 0044(0)20 8520 5599
  www.ymca.org.uk
  Accommodation suitable for students of any religion.

- **The Youth Hostel Association (YHA)**
  www.yha.org.uk
  Seven hostels in London with beds in shared rooms for YHA members. Maximum stay is two weeks.

- **B’nai B’rith Hillel Foundation**
  Hillel House
  1-2 Endsleigh Street
  London WC1
  Tel: 0044(0)20 7388 0801
  www.hillel.co.uk
  Residential houses for Jewish students

- **London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates**
  Mecklenburgh Square
  London WC1N 2AB
  Tel: 0044(0)20 7837 8888
  www.lgt.org.uk
  Residential college for postgraduate students from the UK, Commonwealth, US and continental Europe.

- **London Hostels Association Ltd (LHA)**
  54 Eccleston Square
  London SW1V 1PG
  Tel: 0044(0)20 7834 1545
  www.london-hostels.co.uk
• **Nansen Village Student Housing Association**  
  21 Woodside Avenue  
  London N12 8AQ  
  Tel: 0044(0)20 8445 8644  
  [www.lcos.org.uk](http://www.lcos.org.uk)  
  Accommodation for postgraduate married students, with or without children.

• **Zebra Housing Association**  
  Glendower Place  
  London SW7 3DU  
  Tel: 0044(0)20 7584 2906  
  [http://Homepages.poptel.org.uk/zebraha/](http://Homepages.poptel.org.uk/zebraha/)  
  Postgraduate students with a maximum of two children or without children. Gives priority to students from developing countries.

If you need Hotel accommodation for a short period of time while finding a more definitive place, you are strongly advised to make a reservation before you leave your home country.

The **British Council** uses an agency to obtain discounted rates for hotel accommodation, and can be contacted by email, fax or telephone:  
British Council Hotel Reservation Service  
13, Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1W 0BD  
Tel: 0800 783 6695  
0044(0)207 825 1506  
Fax: 0044(0)207 828 2881  
Email: [hotels@britishcouncil.org](mailto:hotels@britishcouncil.org)

Another useful contact if you need where to stay during your first days in London is:  
**British Tourist Authority (BTA)**  
Tel: 0044(0)207 604 2777 (fee charged)  
[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)

We have a list of economy hotels within in the vicinity of the AA if you want to stay close to the school during your first days in London. We do not have any specific arrangement with those hotels and are neither responsible of the quality of the service they offer nor their tariffs.
THE COST OF LIVING IN LONDON

Living Costs

Estimates vary as to how much students should budget for, and London, like other destinations, can be as expensive as personal taste dictates.

Accommodation in International Student Halls provided by universities and colleges is the cheapest option, but demand for places is high. Rents in private properties depend on the quality of accommodation and the location: a flat in Zone 1 (central London) will cost a lot more than a shared house in Zone 3. You may find a room in a shared flat/house for around £500.00 per month, but the upper limit you could pay would depend on your budget and the location you want.

Weekly Expenses

An estimate of £325 living expenses per week includes: accommodation at £150, food £55, travel £30, utilities (gas, electricity, telephone) £20, books and materials £20, entertainment £25, and other expenses (such as snacks, haircuts, postage, newspapers etc) £25 per week. This equates to a yearly expenditure (52 academic weeks) of £16,900 for a 12-month course.

Please note: the list above does not include clothes and incidental expenditure such as contents insurance to cover lap-tops etc, TV license, laundry etc.

Course-related Expenses: should include a minimum of £800 - £1,000 to cover study trip/s.