

Accommodation in London

The Architectural Association offers an accommodation service from the beginning of September for three weeks. Someone 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 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 usually owned by charitable organisations. As well as providing accommodation they offer a homely environment, often with social opportunities and events. Like halls of residence, sometimes meals are provided, or there may be 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. You will need to arrange this once you are in London, so make sure that at least you have a temporary room booked in a hostel or hotel for when you arrive.

You will need to accept that it is very difficult 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 other residents.

- A bedsit: a single room in which you live and sleep, usually with limited cooking facilities and shared bathroom.

- 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 cause damage to the house, 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 £90–100 per week. Make sure you check whether your rent includes gas, electricity and water charges. It almost certainly will not include the use of the telephone.

You may want to start looking for accommodation or finding out about prices and locations before you arrive in London. Private accommodation is advertised in local newspapers, including the *Evening Standard*, *Loot* (www.loot.com) and *Time Out*.

Accommodation Addresses

International Students House (ISH)

229 Great Portland Street
London W1W 5PN
Tel: +44(0)20 7631 8310

www.ish.org.uk

Temporary and longer-term student accommodation all year round, including a limited number of family flats. Usually there are some temporary places available for students arriving in the UK in September.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

Tel: +44(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 WC1H 0DS
Tel: +44(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: +44(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: +44(0)20 7834 1545
www.london-hostels.co.uk

Nansen Village Student Housing Association

21 Woodside Avenue
London N12 8AQ
Tel: +44(0)20 8445 8644
www.lcos.org.uk

Zebra Housing Association

5-13 Glendower Place
London SW7 3DU
Tel: +44(0)20 7584 2906
<http://Homepages.poptel.org.uk/zebraha/>

Provides accommodation for postgraduate students with a maximum of two children. Gives priority to students from developing countries.

Before you find Permanent Accommodation

If you need hotel accommodation for a short period of time while finding a more permanent 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
+44(0)207 825 1506
Fax: +44(0)207 828 2881
Email: hotels@britishcouncil.org

Another useful contact if you need somewhere to stay during your first days in London is:

British Tourist Authority (BTA)

Tel: +44(0)207 604 2777 (fee charged)
www.visitbritain.com

The AA has a list of economy hotels within in the vicinity of the School that you can ask for 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, although by visiting its website you will be able to find out these details quite quickly.