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Thinking about accommodation at UNIVERSITY

UCAS
OVERVIEWS

FOR STUDENTS
APPLYING FOR
UNIVERSITY
START IN
SEPTEMBER
2027
OR LATER

SOME STARTING POINTS

There are a number of options when you are thinking about your accommodation at university. Much of the decision can be based around your budget restrictions alongside the experience you want from university.

Advice on budgeting can be found on most university sites and details of how much loan and maintenance loan you can receive can be determined by following the advice on Studentfinance.gov.uk

You could also consider commuting to study and many universities run courses and social programmes to cater for those who remain close to campus and those who commute - such as early evening events and daytime social activities. You might also consider a hybrid approach. commute for one year reside for another. This should be a factor when considering university locations. You might need to research this clearly and factor in public transport costs, owning a car, car sharing or using a bicycle.

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN OPTIONS TO START FROM, WITH VARIATIONS SUCH AS STAYING WITH RELATIVES, RENTING DURING THE WEEK GOING HOME AT WEEKENDS

STAY AT HOME

FACTOR IN TRAVEL COSTS

LIMITS CHOICE OF UNI TO LOCAL ONES

KEEPS LIVING COSTS DOWN

YOU CAN STILL BE INVOLVED SOCIALLY

RETAIN PART TIME JOBS ETC

STAY IN HALLS

USUALLY AVAILABLE FOR FIRST YEARS

MEET NEW PEOPLE

LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

MAY BE CATERED

PAY FOR WHEN YOU STAY - VACATE AT TERM BREAKS

CHOICES OF HALLS

RENT A FLAT

CAN BE INDEPENDENT

COULD SHARE A FLAT WITH A FRIEND

COOK OWN MEALS

CAN WORK FOR FULL LENGTH OF COURSE MIGHT REQUIRE PAYING OVER SUMMER

RENT A ROOM

CAN CHOOSE WHO TO RENT WITH – STUDENTS – PROFESSIONALS- FAMILY

ONLY PAY FOR ROOM AND SHARE FACILITIES

CAN BE CHEAPER

Halls of residence

Halls of residence are owned by your uni and they're mostly reserved for first year students. They're usually closer to campus and can be cheaper than other types of accommodation.

You'll need to apply for a place in halls of residence through the uni accommodation office, and you can usually do this online. You'll apply for a few different halls and rate them in your preference order, but bear in mind they are popular, so you may not get your first choice. Check the uni website for details on how and when to apply.

Pros

Uni halls are very social, and it's a good chance to make lots of new friends.

Halls are great if it's your first time living away from home. You usually get water and electricity bills included, as well as broadband.

Cons

Halls are the most popular option, so you might not be put in your first choice.

You'll be living with lots of people you don't know, which can be challenging if you're not used to it.

Things to think about when choosing your halls

The best place to start is the uni website.

Cost: Prices vary, depending on location and what's included. You usually get electricity and water bills, but you'll still need to pay for things like a TV licence and insurance, so make sure you factor those in.

The right fit: Check the uni accommodation website to see what they offer. Some might be catered, or have shared bathrooms. Understanding what's included will also help you know what to take with you.

Location: Depending on which uni you're going to, you'll need to think about the location of your accommodation. For example, is there a halls option on your campus and if not, how will you travel to uni and how much will it cost?

Read the small print: Know what you can and can't take with you, some halls have restrictions on taking cars, and some accommodation has different contract lengths.

Remember: You aren't guaranteed a place in your first choice, so when you're selecting your options, make sure you'd be happy to live in any of them and scope out what your day-to-day life would look like in each one.

Private halls of residence: Like normal halls of residence but not owned by the uni. They're usually part of a UK-wide chain of purpose-built student accommodation. Sometimes this means you could be living with students who don't go to the same uni as you. They also sometimes have other options like studio flats available, although they're more expensive.

Shared housing

If you're not interested in going into halls of residence, or you haven't managed to get a place, you could choose to rent a house or flat, either by yourself or with other students.

This is common for second and third year students, but you can ask your accommodation office or students' union to see if there are other first years looking for private rented accommodation too. This might also suit you if you're a mature student.

Pros

You can choose exactly who you live with and you're in control of your independence.

You can explore more options – from flats and houses, to studio apartments.

Cons

It can be harder to make friends. You don't naturally meet as many people as you would in halls of residence.

You'll need to organise more bills yourself and you'll have to liaise directly with the landlord.

Things to think about when considering shared housing

Here are some top tips if you're looking for shared, rented accommodation.

Cost: On top of any rent, you'll need to budget for your essential bills like electricity, water, and WiFi. You'll need to manage your budget well, which can be tricky if you're not used to living away from home. You also need to pay a deposit for rented accommodation, so make sure you factor that into your costs.

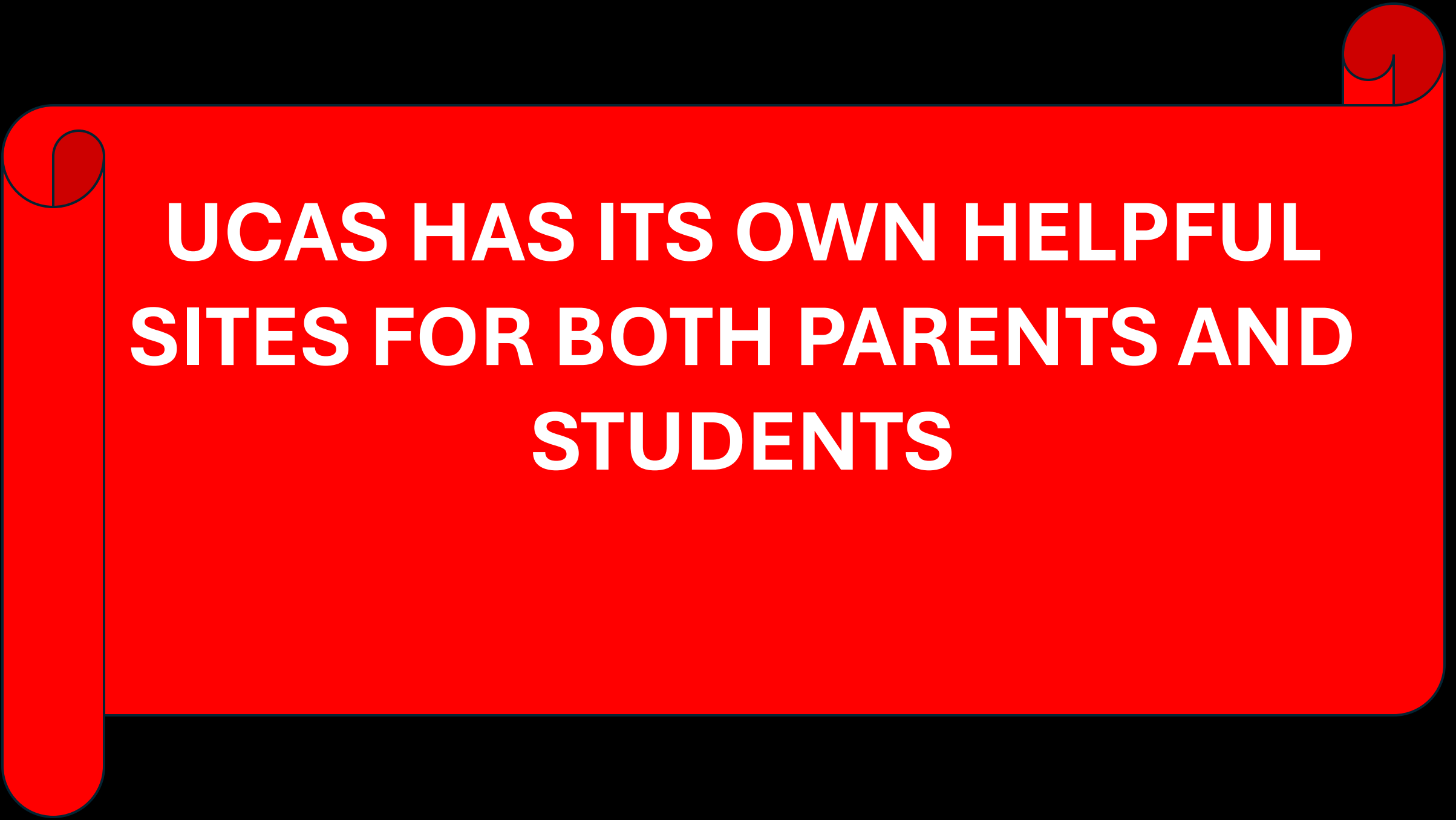
The right fit: One of the pros of living in shared accommodation is you can choose who you live with. Make sure you know who you'll be living with beforehand. It's a good idea to visit the property before signing any contracts or paying a deposit to make sure you know what you're paying for and that it's a good fit for you.

Location: One of the perks of shared accommodation is you can choose the exact location of where you live, so you could pick somewhere right in the centre of the local town or city, or somewhere close to campus. Think about how you'll get to uni each day and what's in the local area before signing any paperwork.

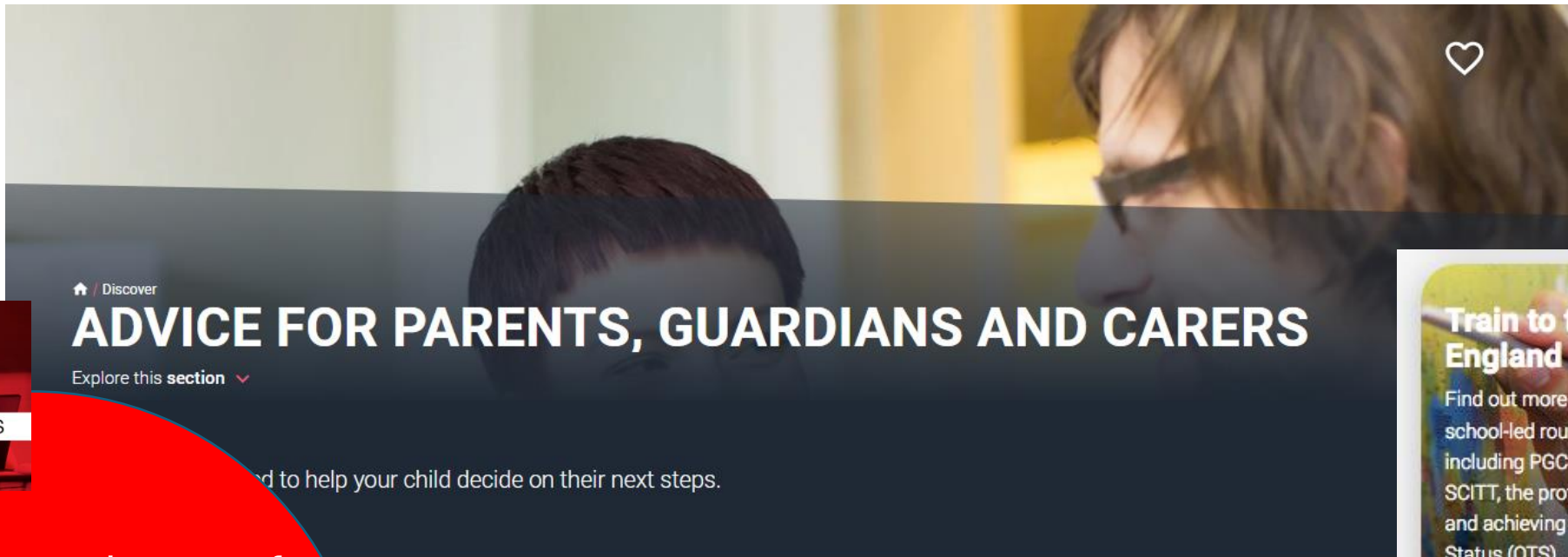
Read the small print: Make sure you understand exactly what you're signing up for when renting, how long your contract is for, and that your deposit is secured in a deposit protection scheme.

UNIVERSITIES WILL HAVE ACCOMODATION PAGES ON THEIR WEBSITES WITH LINKS TO LOCAL PROVIDERS, STUDENT ACCOMODATION AGENCIES AND HALLS OF RESIDENCE

They will also link to the university student accommodations office and the student union advisors. Many have instagram and facebook sites where students can contact each other when looking for partners to share with. Many have accommodation days as social events before starting at uni to help you meet up with others looking to rent etc.

A red scroll graphic with a black outline, featuring a vertical strip on the left side that curls at the top and bottom, and a small circular element at the top right corner. The text is centered on the scroll.

**UCAS HAS ITS OWN HELPFUL
SITES FOR BOTH PARENTS AND
STUDENTS**



Train to teach in England

Find out more about university and school-led routes, ITT programmes including PGCE, School Direct, and SCITT, the professional skills tests, and achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

A graphic with a background image of a hand holding a pen over a document. The text is white and black on a dark background.

UCAS has lots of helpful sites to explain every part of the application process for both students and parents and guardians



Conservatoires
Education and training in the performing arts

Studying at a conservatoire
What are conservatoires like? How do conservatoires differ from a university or college?

A graphic featuring a golden mask and musical notes.

Help your child write a great personal statement

Taking a positive approach, and leaving enough time to do a good job, really can make your child's application stand out from the crowd.

What happens once UCAS gets an application?

Find out what we do with your child's application and the different decisions a uni or college can make.

The next page has a number of links to accommodation sites. Rightmove has its own student rental section to allow you to determine fair pricing and what expectations to have from your accommodation. You need to be realistic about your budget and what you can afford. Private residential halls will most likely be more expensive than uni owned ones but they may be closer to the uni so offset transportation costs. It is wis eto look at the finance in detail to understand true costs of travel vs location vs catered vs self catered.

WORRIED ABOUT ACCOMODATION? THEN TRY THESE SITES



<https://www.accommodationforstudents.com/>

<https://www.rightmove.co.uk/student-accommodation.html>

https://www.student.com/en-gb/?gclid=EALalQobChMIxLzToO7E6AIViLbtCh0jMguXEAAyAAEgJCy_D_BwE

Many students worry about where they will live when studying. Most Universities provide halls for the first year of study and there will be links to housing departments on all university sites. There are also many independent agencies that offer student accommodation. These are some of the largest and most reputable.

Find student accommodation across the UK

Search input: e.g. 'York', 'NW3', 'NW3 5TY' or 'Waterloo station' | This area only

Filters: Min Price, Max Price, Min Beds, Max Beds, All Property Types, Include Let Agreed Properties

Find Accommodation

Find university accommodation, student housing, halls of residence and private halls close to your university.

Search by UK University
We offer a wide range of student accommodation across the UK.
[Search by UK University >](#)

Not sure where to start?
Check out our student guide to renting for help finding a new home near your university.
[Not sure where to start? >](#)

Are you a student letting agent or private halls company that would like to advertise on Rightmove? Please call on 01908 712322 or complete our [online form](#) and a member of our team will be in touch.

rightmove.co.uk | Buy | Rent | Find Agent | House

Location: Southampton

Bedrooms: Min Beds to Max Beds

Property Type: All Property Types

1001+ student properties found

- Palmerston Road, Southampton, SO14**
1 bedroom flat
£400 pppw
fees apply
YOUR MOVE Lettings
- 102-108 Above Bar Street, Southampton, United Kingdom**
Studio flat
£300 pppw
fees apply
Student Mundial
- Terminus Terrace, Southampton, United Kingdom**
Studio flat
- 108 Above Bar St, Southampton, United Kingdom**
Studio flat

STUDENT.COM

Search, explore and book your **room!**

Search by city, university or property

10+ years In Business | 2M+ Beds

Student Accommodation Students Love

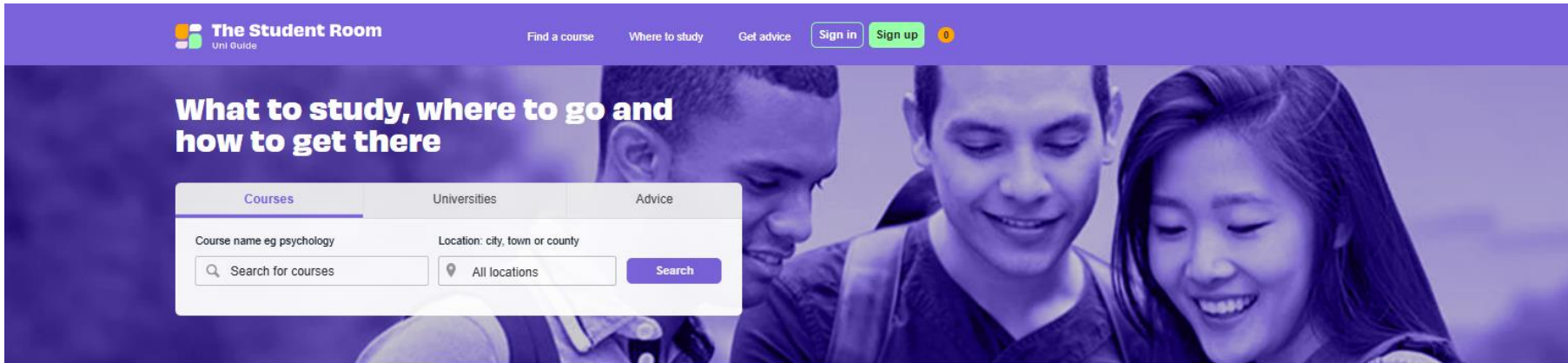
- Glasgow | Manchester | Melbourne | Nottingham | Sydney
- Glasgow West End - Aparto** 4.3/5
17 mins from University of Glasgow
From £250 /week
- St Andrews Glasgow Green** 5.0/5
23 mins from Academy of Music and...
From £595 /week

[Southampton, Hampshire, SO12 2JF](#)

For wider overviews of universities then try comparison sites such as the which comparison site on the next slide. It can expand your searches into more localised information also try the student-based sites such as PUSH which can help with identifying the cheapest places to live and eat for university students.

Discover uni gather a wide range of statistic that you might find useful in making your decisions [Discover Uni Home | Discover Uni](#)

When students register with UCAS they access the UCAS HUB. This highlights sites such as The UniGuide, bespoke site built by **Which?** and **The Student Room** providing independent information about universities and courses. It builds shortlists prioritising entry requirements making it easy to see which universities to focus on in detail



The site links to the university websites but gives you at a glance entry requirements



Your journey to uni starts here

We'll keep you on track with the right advice, when you need it

[Browse all advice](#)

A card featuring a close-up photograph of a young man with dark, curly hair, wearing a blue sweater. Below the image, the text reads 'Questions answered on conditional offers'.

A card with a photograph of a woman with long blonde hair looking at a laptop. The text below the image says 'How student finance actually works'.

A card with a photograph of a person in a white lab coat, possibly a student or staff member. The text below the image says 'Uni replies: how long might you wait?'.

A card with a photograph of a group of students sitting around a table, looking at a laptop. The text below the image says 'University tuition fees to increase'.

A card with a photograph of a student sitting at a desk with a laptop. The text below the image says 'Post-Ucas deadline: what's next?'.

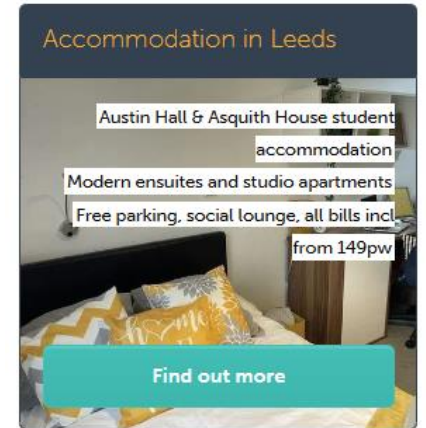
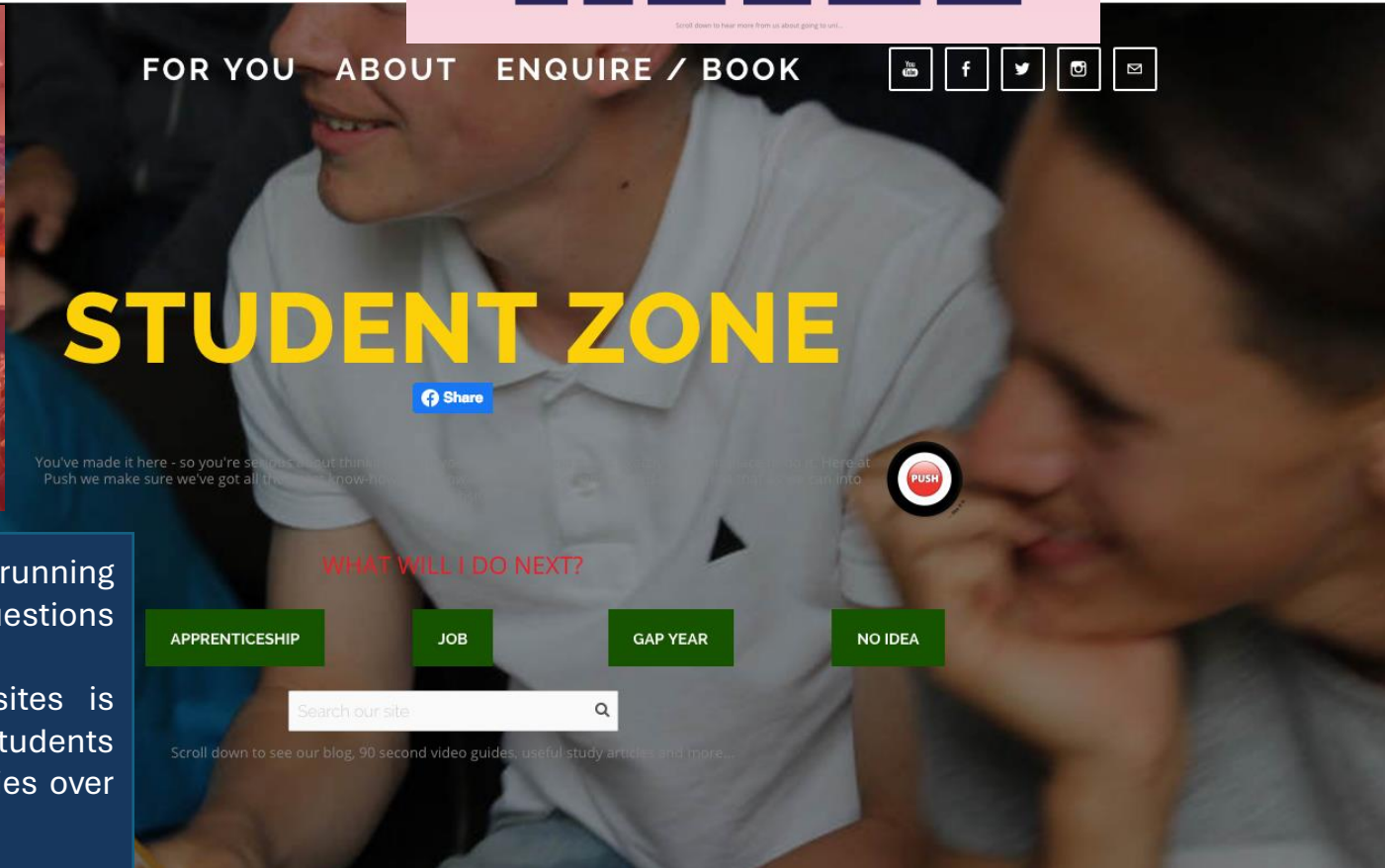
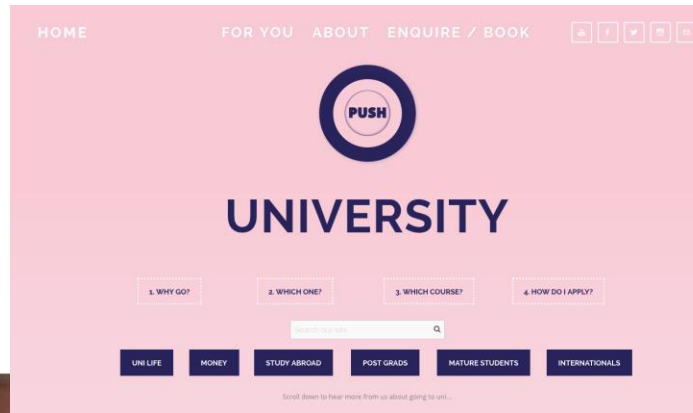
A card for Durham University. It features a photograph of the university's modern architecture. The text includes: 'Durham University | Durham and Bishop Auckland', 'Geography >', 'BSC (HONS) 3.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020', and 'UCAS Points: 144-168'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Similar courses (5) >' and 'Shortlist +'.

A card for Newcastle University. It features a photograph of a university campus with greenery. The text includes: 'Newcastle University | Newcastle upon Tyne', 'Geography >', 'BSC (HONS) 3.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020', and 'UCAS Points: 128-153'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Similar courses (6) >' and 'Shortlist +'.

A card for Northumbria University. It features a photograph of a modern university building. The text includes: 'Northumbria University, Newcastle | Newcastle upon Tyne', 'Geography >', 'BSC (HONS) 3.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020', and 'UCAS Points: 120'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Similar courses (6) >' and 'Shortlist +'.

Alternate search and comparison sites.

There are a number of independent sites that are run by students for students, ranking universities on less academic factors. These are designed to give you a students eye view of a university and will allow you to see the university experience from an often lighthearted viewpoint or will address issues



University of Leeds Hall Rankings

Study Inn Leeds - Brotherton House	#1
Leonardo	#2
IconInc - The Edge	#3
Mary Morris House	#4
The Refinery	#5
Sycamore House	#6
Concept Place	#7
Pennine House	#8

Push.co.uk is one of the longest running sites and has links to many of the questions you want answered impartially. The information given on these sites is independent and designed to allow students the opportunity to explore their worries over 'what it will be like at uni'.

- 1. Be sure to read through the accomodation deadline details for the university you plan on attending. Do not miss the Halls booking day!**
- 2. Try to visit the Halls to see what they are really like.**
- 3. Be sure to understand the room pricing. There may be cheaper rooms or more expensive ones – make sure you understand the difference.**
- 4. If there is the possibility of not getting your first choice - be sure to have checked out the second or third choices. You may end up a greater distance from the uni than you intended.**
- 5. If you are not happy with your accommodation, when you move in, then talk to the housing advisers**
- 6. If you are renting privately then understand you rcontract fully.**

Living independently can be one of the best or most challenging experiences of university life.

It is a change in your circumstances and sometimes you will need a little time to become accustomed to that change. Give your self that time to acclimatise to a new situation, you may be surprised what you learn about yourself and others. Talk to those around you, keep your lines of communication open. Understand that many may feel the same way you do about this next step in life. Be aware of this and seek advice from the many wellbeing sources that you will find at uni.