

A Guide to Living at Brunel

2011/2012

www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation



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Close to the bright lights of Central London, but providing a compact, friendly environment in which to live, study and socialise, life at Brunel really does offer you the best of both worlds.

Brunel's halls of residence have been transformed in recent years as part of a £300 million investment in campus buildings and infrastructure, including the refurbishment of existing halls of residence and the construction of the new Isambard Complex.

All our halls provide high quality facilities, and what's more, they are all on campus, meaning you are never more than 10 minutes away from the teaching, social and sporting facilities.

Our campus accommodation package includes:

- Guaranteed accommodation for all new UCAS main scheme first year undergraduates, including those from the local area;
- Guaranteed accommodation for all new, full time postgraduates who have confirmed their acceptance and met the conditions for a course by 1 September;
- Free network connection in all rooms through which you can access the Internet at no extra cost*;
- Modern accommodation, with a choice of either en suite or standard facilities as well as studio flats for co-habiting couples;
- Heating, lighting, water and standard insurance included in your rent.

** (with some limitations and subject to the Computer Centre's Terms and Conditions)*

For the seventh year in a row, Brunel's Accommodation Services and Residential Services have received 'Hospitality Assured' accreditation, which demonstrates our focus on your needs and our commitment to excellent customer service. We have also achieved 'Investor in People' accreditation, an employee focused award.



Everyone has different priorities, so we offer a choice of en suite, standard and studio residences. Rooms are available on campus for undergraduates, postgraduates, students with disabilities and co-habiting couples.

Living on campus

We can now proudly boast 34 self-catering halls of residence (31 with en suite facilities), bringing our on-campus accommodation to 4,549 rooms, including studio flats.

The facilities are very similar across all our halls of residence, so you can only indicate a preference for an en suite or standard room, rather than for a specific hall. The Accommodation Office will take your preference into account, but your choice cannot be guaranteed as some types of accommodation are more popular than others.

Living off campus

You may choose not to live in halls of residence at all, or to live off campus after your first year. Brunel's dedicated Housing Office maintains a large database of available rooms, houses and flats, and can help you find off-campus accommodation. Local private housing is very reasonably priced and is generally much cheaper than Central London (for more information, see pages 14-15).



FACT FILE

En suite halls provide over 84% of our accommodation and are always very popular with new students. All the en suite halls contain specially-adapted rooms for students with disabilities. Our 112 studio flats for couples are located in the Isambard Complex.

Rent

Rent rates for 2011/12 are not yet set, but for 2010/11 the rate is **£110.25** per week for en suite rooms laid out in flats, and **£108.22** per week for en suite rooms laid out on corridors. The rate for a studio flat in the Isambard Complex is **£165.06** per week. Please check the web at www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation for the latest rates

Tenancy period

36 weeks for undergraduates,
51 weeks for postgraduates

Internet

Free network connection in all rooms through which you can access the Internet at no extra cost*

Facilities

Bathrooms contain a vanity unit, shower, washbasin and lavatory

Security

Swipe card entry or entrance code system; most halls also have CCTV monitoring

**(with some limitations and subject to the Computer Centre's Terms and Conditions)*



FLEMING HALL

This large, modern residence is located at the heart of the campus. The hall comprises 380 en suite bedrooms divided into 52 flats, each with a shared kitchen.





FARADAY HALL

This hall is close to the main entrance to the campus on Kingston Lane, and also to the sports facilities. There are 279 en suite rooms with 11 rooms sharing a kitchen on each corridor and a small Common Room, making this hall a great place to socialise.

GALBRAITH HALL

Galbraith Hall is set around an attractive courtyard and is close to the centre of campus. With 328 en suite rooms in all, the 40 flats each contain 5 to 10 rooms around a large, communal kitchen.





MILL HALL

This hall is built around a landscaped courtyard, close to the centre of campus and with easy access to local bus services. The 357 en suite rooms are spread over 27 corridors, each sharing a kitchen.



BISHOP COMPLEX

(Bishop, Kilmore, Lacy and St Margaret's Halls)

The Bishop Complex is one of our largest residences, and is situated next to the Indoor Sports Arena. There are 698 en suite rooms across the four halls, divided into a total of 76 flats which each share a large, communal kitchen. Each block is accessed by lift.

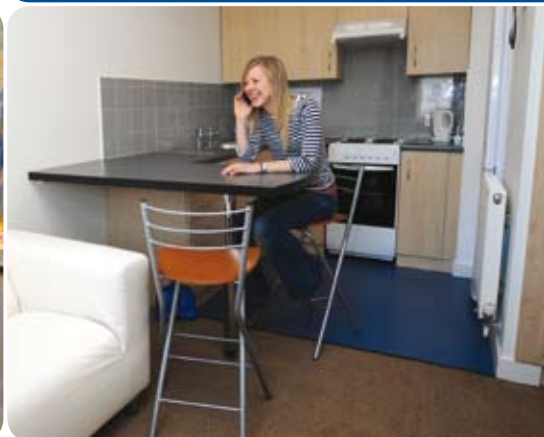




LANCASTER COMPLEX

(Lancaster, Stockwell, Southwark, Borough Road, Maria Grey and Gordon Halls)

Situated at the heart of the campus, the Lancaster Complex consists of 518 en suite rooms, divided into 56 flats of up to 10 residents who have shared use of a large communal kitchen/diner. Some flats are specially adapted to make them more accessible and all the halls in the Complex have lifts.



ISAMBARD COMPLEX

(North, Meadow, Michael Bevis, Concourse, Stephen Bragg, West, Maurice Kogan, David Neave, Central, East, Runnymede, George Shipp, Trevor Slater, Shoreditch, Syd Urry, South and Brian Winstanley Halls)

Set in landscaped grounds at the west end of the campus and close to the University's social building, this spectacular new complex provides 1,188 en suite rooms, 40 specially adapted rooms for students with disabilities, and 112 studio flats for co-habiting couples.



FACT FILE

Rooms in standard halls of residence offer a high standard of accommodation at a lower cost than the en suite residences. These smaller, more intimate halls are very sociable communities in which to live, and they have recently been renovated to ensure that you have access to high quality accommodation, no matter what your budget. The three halls are similar in both appearance and location, close to the centre of the campus and the River Pinn.

Rent

Rent rates for 2011/12 are not yet set, but for 2010/11 the rate is **£86.52** per week. Please check the web at www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation for the latest rates

Tenancy period

36 weeks for undergraduates,
51 weeks for postgraduates

Internet

Free network connection in all rooms through which you can access the Internet at no extra cost*

Facilities

The majority of rooms have a washbasin and vanity unit

Security

Swipe card entry or entrance code system; most halls also have CCTV monitoring

**(with some limitations and subject to the Computer Centre's Terms and Conditions)*



CHEPSTOW HALL

Chepstow overlooks landscaped grounds and the river. It has 231 rooms, and corridors of up to 11 rooms share the use of bath, shower and toilet facilities, as well as a kitchen. Each corridor also has a pantry containing a large fridge and freezer.





CLIFTON HALL

This hall has 235 rooms and is only a two minute walk from the sports facilities and gym. Corridors of up to 11 rooms share the use of bath, shower and toilet facilities, as well as a kitchen. Each corridor also has a pantry containing a large fridge and freezer. One room is designed for disabled access.



SALTASH HALL

Saltash boasts attractive views over the River Pinn and is conveniently close to the lecture centre and the Students' Union. Its 183 rooms, also grouped in corridors of 11 to 16, share the use of bath, shower and toilet facilities, and a kitchen.



Will I be guaranteed accommodation in my first year?

We can provide accommodation for all new UCAS main scheme undergraduates, although students who enter the University through the Clearing/Adjustment system are allocated rooms after main scheme students have been accommodated. Accommodation is also guaranteed for all new, full time postgraduates who have confirmed their acceptance and met the conditions for a course by 1 September. The Housing Office will assist any student who is not allocated a room on campus to find alternative accommodation.

How will my accommodation contract work?

If you are an undergraduate student, you are currently required to pay accommodation fees for a period of 36 weeks. If you wish to remain in halls over the summer vacation, this can be

arranged at an additional cost, although it may not be possible to remain in the same room. If you are a postgraduate student your contract period is 51 weeks.

How will I pay for my accommodation?

Undergraduate students pay for their accommodation in three termly instalments, and postgraduate students pay in four instalments. You can pay by direct debit, debit or credit card, cash or cheque, and payments can be made online, at the University Cash Office, or over the phone.

To secure a room on campus at Brunel you will need to pay a deposit of £250. This will be paid back to you by reducing the cost of your last rent payment at the end of the tenancy period.

You will be provided with further details on these arrangements when you are offered a place and a room at Brunel.



Will my room and belongings be insured?

Insurance of buildings and basic insurance for your personal belongings are included in your rent. However, if you own any particularly valuable items, such as a laptop or bicycle, you can add this to the insurance policy for a small additional cost – it is advisable to read the extent of your cover carefully.

Are there rooms suitable for students with disabilities?

Most halls of residence have rooms which can be adapted to meet the individual needs of disabled students wishing to live on campus. This may mean the provision of a wheelchair-accessible room, a room with en suite facilities or equipped for those with a hearing impairment, or a room which is located in the centre of campus close to

the main University buildings. Other adaptations can be made to meet individual students' needs as they arise.

The University also recognises that some disabled students would face a substantial disadvantage if they were not able to continue living on campus after their first year, and will consider all such cases fairly.

Students who feel that they may need adapted accommodation, or on-campus accommodation after the first year, should contact the Disability and Dyslexia Service once they have been offered a place at Brunel (see the back page for contact information).



What will I find in my room?

All rooms on campus are carpeted and contain the following:

- bed
- bedside table
- wardrobe
- desk and chair
- shelves
- wastepaper bin
- notice board
- mirror

All halls of residence are non-smoking.

Each room has an **Internet connection point**, but you need to provide your own computer equipment, including a network card (available for around £30 from the Computer Centre shop) and network cable (available for a small charge from your Residences Office or the Computer Centre shop). Network access is available for free, 24 hours a day (with some limitations and subject to the Computer Centre's Terms and Conditions). If you do not have your own computer you can use one of the many workstations around the campus, some of which are available 24 hours a day.

For details of the facilities available in each hall, see www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation/residences/facilities.

What will I find in the communal kitchen?

All our residences are self-catering, and kitchens are equipped with the following:

- cooker
- fridge
- freezer
- sink
- kettle
- kitchen bin and recycling facilities
- iron and ironing board
- dustpan and brush
- mop and bucket
- a kitchen table and seating
- food storage space

Kitchens for the larger flats contain extra cookers, fridges and sinks. You will need to bring your own crockery and cooking utensils.

Will I be able to receive post?

Each hall has a post room where you can collect your post.

How secure are the halls of residence, and are they staffed?

Residences Managers can be found in a central Residences Office either within or near your hall, every weekday between 8.30am and 5pm. In addition, Residences Student Mentors are available during term time, Monday to Thursday evening until 9pm. They will help you to resolve any problems or queries that may arise while you are living in halls.

The University also has a 24 hour **Security Service** which patrols the campus. Outside of normal office hours, Security also patrol residential buildings, and students requiring assistance can contact them. We also have our own Metropolitan Police Officer based on campus, to build relationships and confidence within the community and the local area.



Are there recycling facilities on campus?

You are encouraged to separate and recycle refuse by using the facilities provided in the kitchens.

Can I have a TV in my room?

If you bring any equipment for receiving or viewing television programmes with you to University, you must purchase a television licence. We are unfortunately unable to license an entire hall of residence.

Where can I eat on campus?

If you don't wish to cook for yourself, you can find several places to eat around campus, all of which serve halal meat and vegetarian options. The main refectory, the More Foodhall, serves British, Indian, Thai, Chinese and Italian dishes throughout the week.

You can purchase an all-purpose meal voucher package for use in the main campus food outlets. Each voucher is redeemable to the value of £5.75 of food or non-alcoholic drinks, and they can be purchased in packages of either 50 or 100 vouchers for extra savings. The following rates are valid for 2009 entry, and should be used as a guide only:

- 50 voucher package: you pay £260 for tickets with a redeemable value of £300 (13.3% discount)
- 100 voucher package: you pay £510 for tickets with a redeemable value of £600 (15% discount)

If you do prefer to cook for yourself, there are two general stores on campus and several supermarkets just a short walk or bus-ride away.





There are a number of secure cycle sheds around the campus, should you wish to bring a bicycle. Access can be arranged through the Residences Office.

Please note that parking availability on campus is extremely limited. However, the campus is well served by public transport and Uxbridge town centre and London underground station are only a short walk or bus-ride away.

Parking on campus

If you live in halls of residence or within a two-mile radius of the University, you will not be permitted to park on campus. If you live further than two miles away, or if you are a disabled blue badge holder, you will be eligible to apply for a parking permit, which currently costs £93 a year. A permit is required to park on campus from Monday to Friday, between 8am and 4.30pm. Special arrangements will be in place at the start and end of each year so that new Freshers and returning students can load and unload their personal belongings.

Public transport

Uxbridge at the end of the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines on the London Underground. You can buy an Oyster Card to use on buses, the tube and local trains, saving you money in comparison with standard fares (see www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets/14825.aspx). If you purchase a season ticket, then you may be eligible for a 30% discount through a student Oyster photocard (see www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets/14312.aspx).

Either before or after your first year, you may decide to live off campus. Whatever you're looking for, your first port of call should be the Housing Office, which is dedicated to students' needs and does not charge for its services, unlike most agencies.

They can provide you with useful advice as well as booklets and leaflets containing all the information you'll need to find good quality housing, on subjects such as safety, what to expect when viewing a private let, and advice on tenancy deposit legislation.

Your options

The Housing Office operates several different schemes and lists of resources to help you in your search, and these are described below.

- **Head-leasing
(for full-time students only)**

Put simply, the University rents good-quality, affordable properties from local private landlords, and then rents them on to groups of students. The University therefore becomes the students' landlord for the duration of the lease.

- **Private sector houses**

The Housing Office have details of private sector properties, all of which have been inspected and have had their gas, electric and any other relevant certificates checked by a member of the team. Details of all available properties can be viewed online, along with information about arranging viewings and other useful notes.

- **Private sector rooms**

The Housing Office also has details of rooms available in private houses, sometimes in family homes with a resident landlord. These rooms can be very good value for money, as rent often includes heating, electricity and occasionally broadband. These rooms are not always inspected by the Housing Office team, however landlords must provide a copy of the current Gas and Electrical Safety Certificates before we will advertise these rooms. Details of available properties can be viewed online, along with information about arranging viewings and other useful notes.



- **Student advertisements**

In the Housing Office, students can advertise spare rooms in their house or search for people who are looking for rooms, by placing an advertisement on the notice board.

- **Letting agencies and private advertisements**

There are plenty of letting agencies and local papers through which you can find accommodation. Many of these do charge for arranging tenancies and checking references, so it is advisable to start your search with the Housing Office.

- **Local newspapers**

The Housing Office holds copies of the local papers for reference, and can photocopy the relevant section on request.



To be considered for a room in Brunel's halls of residence, all you need to do is indicate when choosing Brunel on your UCAS form that you will not be living at home. If you are offered a place on a course, the Accommodation Office will then contact you with further details.

In the meantime, the following services can provide you with information on any of the topics covered in this guide – and much more!

All mail should be directed to the office or service in question, followed by the University's address:

Brunel University
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB8 3PH

For accommodation on campus:

The Accommodation Office
Tel: +44 (0)1895 267900
Text: +44 (0)7624 805069
Fax: +44 (0)1895 269793
Email: accom-uxb@brunel.ac.uk
Web: www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation

For accommodation off campus:

The Housing Office
Tel: +44 (0)1895 266187
Email: housing-uxb@brunel.ac.uk
Web: www.brunel.ac.uk/life/accommodation/offcampus

For enquiries relating to facilities for disabled students:

The Disability and Dyslexia Service
Tel: +44 (0)1895 265213
Text: +44 (0)7790 761932
Email: disability@brunel.ac.uk
Web: www.brunel.ac.uk/life/welfare/dis

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure and the University will take all reasonable action to deliver these services in accordance with the descriptions set out in it. However, the University reserves the right to vary these services, using all reasonable efforts to offer a suitable alternative. All cost, rates and prices stated in this brochure are subject to amendment and should be taken as a guide only.

Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the University's summary of terms which is published on the web at www.brunel.ac.uk/about/administration before accepting a place.