

# Finding a new place

## What to do, when to do it, and how



## Top Tips from current students



If there's anything at all you're not sure about, pop into SU Advice. It's what they're there for.



Have fun! Finding a house is a big responsibility but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy it. Nottingham has loads of options, visit all you can and find your home.

It may seem like everyone has a house before Christmas when you've barely looked. That's fine, you're not alone! Nottingham has lots of housing options so you don't need to rush. Take your time and find what's right for you.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. No matter how big or small, your landlord or letting agent should be able to help you.

If you decide on a shared house or private halls, go to viewings, explore different areas, compare properties and be picky – it'll be your home, after all.



## Moving In, Moving On

For more top tips and to meet some accommodation providers, why not pop along to the University's 'Moving in, Moving On' fair being held in the Student Hub at Portland Building on Thursday 23 November from 11am.

Over the next few months your friendship groups might change. So, take your time and don't feel you need to settle on housemates before January but think about it.

Speak to students in the years above you, they've done this before. Find out the good, the bad and the ugly of locations and agents before you sign a contract.



# What should I do, and when?

To help you start planning, we've broken the whole process down month-by-month. First things first: we recommend waiting 'til January to start searching for a new place.

## October

### Get settled

Do nothing. Settle into halls, make friends, get to grips with university life, and take it easy.

## November

### Get informed

**From Monday 20 November, head to a New Home talk in halls.** We'll be there to answer any questions you have about life beyond first year.

## December

### Get organised

House share, private halls or university halls? Start thinking about which could be right for you, try to chat to 2nd and 3rd year students about their experiences.

## January

### Get ready

Consider your final decision on all accommodation types. Going for a house share or flat? Once exams are out of the way, round up your housemates and start searching!

## February

### Get active

It's house hunting time! Whichever type you're going for, search online, book viewings, and compare different places. You may even find once you're looking that your first option isn't for you.

## March

### Keep going

Not found somewhere you like? No problem. There will still be plenty of rooms and houses going, and you might even get a better deal.

## April

### Don't panic

It's not too late – we promise! Try Flatmate Finder, a UoNSU Facebook Group, if you're struggling for housemates or just want a room.

## May

### Get advice

If you haven't yet sorted somewhere, get in touch with SU Advice – we're here to help.

## June, July, August

### Get excited

It'll soon be moving time! Check to see when your contract starts and grab our Moving In guide for more tips and information.



# What are my options?

Whether you want a quiet spot with your closest uni friends, a private room in halls, or see yourself at the centre of city life, there's somewhere for you. You don't just have to leap into a house share.

## Staying in uni halls



Just want to keep things simple? That's totally fine (and we don't blame you!). If you're happy in halls you might be able to re-book where you're already living.

### Here are a few things to think about:

- Halls can be a bit more expensive than sharing a house, but the costs do include bills.
- To get meals sorted you can choose catered accommodation.
- Halls are on, or close to, campus (so you can roll out of bed and get to lectures on time).
- There's on-site security, so you'll always feel safe.
- Watch out for returner deals, which could help you to save money.



### How to book

Speak to the Accommodation Office to book online, or halls provider.



## Private halls

If you like your own space then private, self-catered halls in Nottingham could be just the thing. Before you make a decision, here's what you need to know:

- In private halls you can get self-contained studio rooms – great for a bit more personal space.
- Bills are usually included which makes things easier.
- What you get will vary from place to place, but some halls have on-site gyms, cinemas, security, and social or study spaces.
- Halls are often located between the campus and the city, with lots in the city centre.

### How to book

This will depend on the halls you choose, but you'll be able to find most rooms online.

## Sharing a house

Many students go for a house share, which means moving into the private rented sector. This isn't as scary as it may seem, though it can be a bit more complicated than halls.

### In a privately rented house:

- You'll deal directly with landlords and/or agents.
- Costs can vary depending on the size and location and contract length.
- You'll need to pay money up front. If you're not sure, visit SU Advice before you sign or pay anything.
- When it comes to furnishings, what you see is what you get – but if the sofa's a bit grotty or you could do with a wardrobe or bedside table, you might be able to negotiate.
- Usually you'll have to sort your own bills and things like your internet, but this varies from place to place. You should find this out when viewing properties.

Remember, sharing and looking after a house can be quite different to living in halls and you'll all be responsible for your space (so that's where picking the right housemates comes in). Think about how all the little bits will work, from bills and sharing the bathroom to noise and privacy.

Grab our **Guide to Househunting** for all the finer details.

## Any questions?

This leaflet is part of a whole series of information about accommodation and housing. So, if there's something you'd like to know pop into SU Advice or send an email to [suadvice@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:suadvice@nottingham.ac.uk)



## New Home talks

Look out for New Home talks taking place from Monday 20 November in Hall clusters. You can find out helpful information about moving from current students and we'll answer any questions you may have.

**There'll be a schedule available soon to find out when we're coming to you.**