

House hunting for student accommodation? Use our handy checklist

Students are notorious for choosing their accommodation based on proximity to the closest pub. But if you want to get serious about choosing the best student house, then you'll need to do your research before signing your year away.

Propertywide.co.uk, a leading estate and lettings agent specialising in student accommodation, recently carried out a survey of 5,000 undergraduate students in the UK. The survey was intended to ascertain exactly what students know about moving into privately-rented houses, questioning them on their fears, concerns and important factors to take into account before signing a lease.

The survey found that 85% of students were unsure where to start when it came to house hunting and 80% had help from a parent or relative. They also found that 72% didn't remember to ask about the Gas Safety Certificate or smoke alarms, and that 83% forget to check whether the taps in the bathrooms and kitchen worked or if the property was structurally sound.

Propertywide has designed a handy print-out-and-keep checklist for house-hunting students. It covers all the essentials that you should consider when looking around potential new homes for the year, including rent and deposit costs and reminders to check fire alarms, alternative accesses and locks.

House hunting for Students
a checklist

Address: _____
Date: _____
Landlord: _____

Money
Contract start: _____
Contract end: _____
£ per week/month: £ _____
Deposit: £ _____
bills included? yes / no If yes estimate per quarter? £ _____
Total cost per week / year / contract? £ _____ / £ _____ / £ _____
note: don't give any money to the landlord until you are all happy and have viewed the property

Safety

Gas Safety Certificate	y / n	Smoke Alarms	y / n
HMO Licence	y / n	Escape Route	y / n
Smoke Alarms	y / n	NICEIC	y / n

Property

Type of heating	gas / electric / oil
Taps	work / don't work
Toilets flush?	y / n
Shower Pressure decent	y / n
Windows and doors decent	y / n
Looks structurally sound	y / n
Lockable?	y / n

note: Make sure you check everything in the property i.e. the cooker works, check the heating fires up and works, check the fridge is cold etc. You can't be too thorough.

Most important of all, can you see yourself living here?

Yes No

Propertywide also found that 76% of students were concerned about the cost of the deposit and rent and over half thought that the average cost of monthly rent in the Buckingham area would cost over £800 a month. Yet the average cost of a deposit in Buckingham is just £690, with many student accommodations costing a lot less.

Get your student accommodation sorted so that you can concentrate on what you're really at university for (no, not drinking) – studying!

www.propertywide.co.uk is Countrywide Group's dedicated property website, created to provide online access to letting and property related services and specialising in student accommodation. The independent survey of 5,000 students currently studying in the UK was carried out in March 2012.