

Private Sector Housing

# ***Private Home Accommodation***

Please keep this leaflet in a safe place and refer to it for general information about your stay in Private Home accommodation

# Welcome

Dear Student

Private home accommodation, is when a student lives in a private family home, renting a room from the home owner, on an independent basis. This type of accommodation is on a self-catered basis. You will be provided with a cupboard in the kitchen and space in the fridge and freezer for storing food, plus use of all kitchen utensils, pans, crockery etc. You may also be required to provide your own bedding and towels – please check this with the private home provider.

All private home properties have been inspected by a representative of the Accommodation Office. Properties could be owned by a family with children, a widow, a single person or an older couple whose children have left home. Private home providers are local people who have a spare room in their home and enjoy having students staying with them.

No more than **two** students should be accommodated in private home accommodation at any one time.

## **How do I find suitable accommodation?**



By accessing the studentpad website  
([www.chichesterstudentpad.co.uk](http://www.chichesterstudentpad.co.uk)).

You will need to make your own arrangements direct with the private home provider.

The Studentpad website provides a detailed accommodation search facility which allows you to access information regarding all types of available accommodation in the area. Once you have registered on the site, you can elect to receive automatic updates of any new properties being advertised.

The service is free to all University of Chichester students and can be accessed at [www.chichesterstudentpad.co.uk](http://www.chichesterstudentpad.co.uk).

To gain access to property details, you will need to contact the Accommodation Office for a validation password. You will need to have your University of Chichester student number to hand, when you contact us. Alternatively, you can log onto the University's Admission Portal, using your student number to gain access to the password (from the Private Sector Housing page).

On accepting a room, you will be expected to pay a 'holding deposit'. If you then change your mind, you will forfeit your holding deposit. In these circumstances, please ensure you notify the home owner immediately.

## **Private Home providers are expected to provide the following:**

- A clean, comfortable bedroom which is recognised as your own private area during your stay, with enough storage for belongings. Please note that some bedrooms and houses may be quite small and hosts may, (if you are staying for a fairly short period) use some storage areas within this room for their own possessions. Bedrooms will be cleaned on a weekly basis by the host (please ensure surfaces are clear for this purpose).
- Access to a desk or table, suitably lit, away from normal household disturbances, for quiet study. This may not necessarily be in the bedroom.
- Heating appropriate to the time of year. Hosts are not required to keep the heating on all night during the winter, as it is very expensive.
- Suitable lighting in the bedroom.
- Hot water, sufficient to allow for a bath or shower daily. Some hosts may not have both a shower and a bath in their bathroom and there may only be one bathroom in the property. Please agree with the host, the most convenient time to shower/bathe daily. Students are required to ensure they keep the bathroom facilities clean after use.
- Facilities for the purpose of laundering personal clothing, bedding and towels, in reasonable amounts.
- A key to the house but not to your bedroom. If you lose your key, you could be charged for a replacement lock to be fitted to the property.
- Notice if they wish you to leave. This is usually one week if you pay your rent weekly, or one month if the rent is paid in monthly instalments.
- Allow internet access. Internet access is available at the University until fairly late in the evening (if required).



***Please note that Private home providers are not expected to:***

- Provide transportation.
- Allow your visitors in their home (although some will, if you make prior arrangements).
- Allow you to use their telephone (except for emergency use).
- Have an inappropriate relationship with the student.
- Provide storage for bikes and large items (although some will).
- Keep the heating on all night during the winter, as it is very expensive.
- Provide a parking space
- Provide any food or beverages (unless by prior arrangement).

***Students are required to:***

- Pay rent on the agreed date. All rent is due in advance. We recommend that you and the private home provider both sign and date a rent book each time money changes hands.
- Speak with the private home provider if there is anything troubling you regarding your accommodation or stay. You can also talk to the Accommodation Office.
- Remember you are staying as a guest in somebody's home and must respect this fact and be appropriately

courteous.

- Inform the private home provider if you break or damage anything. You may be asked to pay for this. We recommend that you take out insurance to cover this. Please speak to one of our Student Advisers for further information – Tel: 01243 812146
- Turn off lights and heaters etc. when not needed as gas and electricity is very expensive.
- Not smoke in the home.
- Make your own way to University. Buses run regularly and you will need to pay for this yourself.
- Ensure you have appropriate medical cover.
- Not give out your address to strangers.
- On the day of arrival, familiarise yourself with any house rules.
- Never borrow family items, without the express permission of the private home provider.
- Give appropriate notice if you wish to leave i.e. one week's notice if you pay weekly or one month if you pay monthly.
- Pay a retainer (usually 50%) if you are going to be away for more than 7 days but wish to keep the room.
- Respect sleeping patterns of the private home provider.

We hope all your questions have been covered in this pamphlet but if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us (**Email: [accommodation@chi.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@chi.ac.uk)**).

#### Find out more

Contact: Accommodation Office

Tel: +44 (0)1243 816069 or 812120

Email: [homestay@chi.ac.uk](mailto:homestay@chi.ac.uk)

Web: [www.chi.ac.uk/accomm](http://www.chi.ac.uk/accomm)

All staff, students and external parties in partnership or association with the University are required to adhere to the principles and requirements of equality legislation and the University's Equality and Diversity Policy. In the provision and letting of housing or associated goods and services for their properties, owners must ensure that all stakeholders, (including tenants or suppliers) are treated fairly, equitably and with respect.

Individuals should not receive unfair treatment because of a particular protected characteristic or dual characteristics. The protected characteristics identified in equality legislation are Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, and Sexual Orientation. The University does not tolerate any form of discrimination or abuse by staff, students or anyone else connected with the University and its activities.

The University's Equality and Diversity Policy and further information can be found on our website at:

[www.chi.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-work/equality-diversity](http://www.chi.ac.uk/about-us/how-we-work/equality-diversity)

[chi.ac.uk/accomm](http://chi.ac.uk/accomm)