

Preparing to live in halls

Congrats on getting to uni! One of the next big steps is moving into student accommodation. For a lot of you, this may be the first time living away from home and from your parents, and while it's exciting, it can also feel a bit overwhelming. Here's a quick guide to help you prepare for life in university halls.

1. Complete your induction and book your arrival

Before you even move into your halls, make sure you complete the online induction that you would have received through your emails. This will cover info like life in halls, health and safety, and general information about your reception and accommodation group. This will also cover contact details for any member of staff you might need to contact and security teams around campus to keep you safe. You'll also need to book your arrival slot as moving in days can get quite busy, so scheduling a specific time can make the process smoother and easier for both you and the accommodation team.



2. What to pack (and what not to)

Essentials include:

- Sheets & duvets (check your hall's mattress size)
- Kitchen basics (saucepans, frying pans, cutlery, plates, bowls, cups, tea towels)
- Toiletries, laundry baskets and liquid
- Important documents (ID, passport, student finance info)
- Chargers
- Study supplies
- Decorations like photos or fairy lights to make your room feel like home



Don't bring: kettles, toasters, irons, etc. as these are often provided or shared in your flat kitchen.

3. Learn to cook (and clean!)

Even if you're in catered halls, knowing how to cook a few simple meals can help you save money and give you flexibility around mealtimes. Learn to cook and clean while you're still living with your parents as it is the perfect time to pick up some basics before you're on your own.



When it comes to cleaning, there are cleaners who come once a week to clean communal areas like the kitchen and shared bathrooms, but it will be your responsibility to keep your room (and

en-suite if you have one) clean and tidy. It is also your job to make sure the kitchen counters are clear, and that you wash up after cooking. It makes a big difference to the students living with you if communal areas are kept clean, and if that's not enough of an incentive, you might get fined if spaces are deemed too messy.



4. Allocate shared spaces

Prepare to have shared spaces with your flat mates. You will be sharing kitchen cupboards and fridge shelves with your whole flat and it will be important to organize a space for each person to avoid potential conflicts later on in the year. You might also be in a shared bathroom flat and it's nice to have a set bathroom, so you have space to put your toiletries. A thing I would do early on is to set up a group chat with your flat. This makes the whole process of allocating space much easier, and it's also a place where you can chat and share any updates.



5. Download the Home@Halls app

You can download the app before you even arrive at halls and familiarize yourself with it. This app is where you will receive any news about halls and any events that are going on. There will be a lot in the first few weeks and joining them is a great way to meet new friends or get more familiar with your flat mates, especially if you're feeling a bit nervous about making friends.



Wherever you end up living after, your first year in halls will be a big part in your uni experience, so take the time to settle in, make connections, and most importantly, enjoy it!

~ Jasmine