

Great things about living in halls and potential challenge



Starting University and moving into student halls is the beginning of an exciting chapter.

As someone who's been through it, I can promise you, the blend of freedom, new friendships, and personal growth you'll experience is amazing.

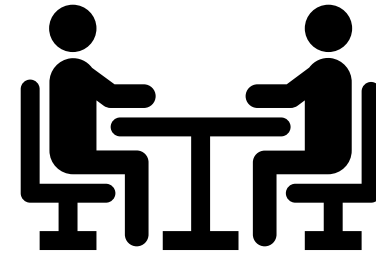
To help get you excited for the big move, I've put together some highlights of hall life, along with some tips for tackling the more scary bits!



Meet your new best friends

From day one, your halls will become your built-in support network. Casual corridor conversations can blossom into deep friendships, and shared movie nights or study sessions become cherished memories.

Make the effort to attend flat socials if you can and spend a few minutes chatting to your flatmates over a cuppa, remember everyone is in the same boat filled with new experiences so you'll have loads in common.



Everything you need, right on your doorstep

One of the greatest perks of hall living is being so close to – if not actually on – campus.

No more early commutes or rushing across town; lectures, libraries, café's and society events are all just a short walk away. Being so close to everything you need makes the transition from home to Uni much easier, with no stress about running late or missing the last bus home!



Your room, your rules

Living away from family for the first time can be scary, but there are so many great things about it that soon you'll never want to go back!

No more fighting over what to watch, you always get to choose what you want to eat, and no more parents or siblings coming into your room and leaving the door open!

It always takes a little time to adjust but having a space that is entirely your own while still being around friends is the best way to ease into living alone. (And don't worry, if you ever need a 'real-adult' for advice or help, the halls staff are always on hand to help you out.)



The dreaded cleaning schedule

Although living in halls with other people is a lot of fun, it can get tricky in communal spaces like shared kitchens and bathrooms if everyone isn't doing their fair share of cleaning.

Luckily, at Reading, all our halls have cleaning staff that come at least once a week to clean any communal spaces, so they never get too bad; however, that doesn't mean there's no cleaning to be done outside of those times.

It's important to always clean up after yourself and to set a cleaning schedule for a quick once-over every other day to keep everything clean and safe. Nobody likes the schedule, but I promise you it's worth it!



Overcoming Homesickness

Feeling homesick is entirely normal when you're away from home for the first time.

I was REALLY homesick when I first moved away to Uni and the things that helped me the most were; regularly phoning home even for silly things (Mum, how do I cook rice?), bringing some cosy things along in case I was feeling down (you're never too old to have a teddybear on your bed) and putting lots of photos on my pinboards of the people I missed (even if they do have silly filters on).

And remember, lots of other people will be feeling homesick too, you'll all be able to comfort each other.



Sometimes meeting new people is hard

As much as I can say that you truly will meet your best friends while at university, of course it is possible that you may not get along with some people and this can be difficult to deal with.

Living alongside a diverse group of people means occasional clashes are bound to happen. Make sure you approach disagreements calmly and remember that everyone is still learning to live alone – almost every disagreement is minor and is easily solved with an honest conversation.

But of course, if you need them, the university staff are always there to help, we have a Halls Hotline and lots of great student support services if you need some extra support. They're always there to help!

