

For immediate release: Tuesday, 21st June, 2005

MANCHESTER TOP PLACE TO BE A STUDENT

- accommodationforstudents.com survey identifies university towns with best facilities -

(London, 21/6/05) Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just released the results of a new survey identifying the best places to be a student, based on over 20,000 student reviews. Students from over 70 university towns rated (out of 10) their university location across five criteria: *going out* (restaurants, pubs, clubs), *shops* (supermarkets, corner shops, book shops video shops), *transport links* (buses, trams, train, underground), *community* (safety, student population, surroundings) and *facilities* (gyms, libraries, parks).

Top marks went to Manchester with a score of 62%. Scottish universities fared well with Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow also scoring 62%, along with Brighton, the only other top English university. Cardiff, Exeter, Liverpool, Norwich, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Plymouth, Swansea and Sheffield also scored highly with 60%. Bolton, Salford and Bradford came out lowest with 38%, 42% and 46% respectively.

William Berry, co-founder and director of Accommodation for Students, said:

“Manchester’s performance reflects its dominance as one of the biggest student cities around. Manchester University and UMIST have now been amalgamated. The new, bigger university, plus Manchester Metropolitan University and other further educational establishments, means that the city now hosts more students than any other in Europe. These figures represent students’ real opinions about where they study and are, of course, helpful to students going to university for the first time who visit our website.

Likewise our student rental review provides invaluable data about the average cost and availability of student accommodation in over 60 locations throughout the UK, even to the extent of identifying the most popular student areas in each town.

Features like these are one reason why Accommodation for Students had a record breaking month in May, with over 300,000 visitors, and an average site visit time of over 5 minutes.”

Accommodation for Students has recently expanded its operation internationally to include USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Europe and the Far East.

- ENDS -

About Accommodation for Students

Accommodation for Students Ltd. was founded by William Berry and Simon Thompson, graduates from Manchester Metropolitan University, in June 2000.

Partners

Accommodation for students is a content partner for MSN (MSN displays AFS content on its website) <http://afs.money.msn.co.uk> and Virgin Student.

Accommodation for students is sponsored by STA Travel, Virgin Mobile, Saxon Insurance and Barclays Bank.

Accolades

- Nominated for Best Use of Web in 2005 and 2004 New Media Age Awards.
- Highly Commended in the Best Industry Innovation category at the inaugural 2002 Property Business Awards

The site's features include:

For students

- A powerful search engine accessing a nationwide database of student accommodation properties
- An easy-to-use, comprehensive set of accommodation criteria, including geographical location, number of rooms (including required size of room), rent, availability dates, interior facilities (from satellite/cable television to dishwasher), exterior facilities (from garden to off-street parking) and service facilities (e.g. CORGI registered gas central heating)
- Notice board facility with student profile and avatar features. Also detailed messaging services.
- Clipboard facility to save accommodation details
- Landlord email facility which sends an e-mail to the landlord with one click when a student finds a property they like. The e-mail specifies the house and student details and effects an introduction between the student and landlord.
- Chatroom to allow potential housemates to talk to each other and review house options.

For Landlords

- Sophisticated, user-friendly '**landlord admin suite**' which allows landlords to directly upload and edit their property details and pictures on the Accommodation for Students website. The unique measurement facility allows landlords to judge the effectiveness of the website in attracting student interest to their properties and ultimately their letting.
- Fully integrated online payment system with full transaction history and invoice reporting functionality.

- Multiple image and logo upload facility
- Easy contact system: Accommodation for Students '**e-mail landlord service**'. This service enables students to send a generic e-mail of interest to a landlord with one click. This also ensures the privacy of landlord email addresses.
- Free website

For further information please contact:

Stewart Ross (Ross Media Relations)

Tel: 07966 540787

stewart@rossmediarelations.co.uk

William Berry (Accommodation for Students)

Tel: 07843 121 121

will@easyafs.com

Simon Thompson (Accommodation for Students)

Tel: 07808 714 068

simon@easyafs.com