

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS PUBLISHES UK LEAGUE TABLE FOR STUDENT RENTS IN 65 CITIES

- London still leads the way at £102 per week, compared to UK average of £60; Durham and Loughborough are the big movers -

(London, 6/3/07) Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just published its latest research into the nationwide cost of rented student accommodation based on 37,000 properties in over 60 university locations across the UK. It reveals that the current average weekly rent for a student in the UK is £60, 7% higher than last year's figure of £56.

Rents vary dramatically across the UK. London is, by far, the most expensive place to study, with an average weekly rent of £102, a massive 71% above average. Top university towns, Cambridge and Oxford, have rents of £84 and £79 per week, 42% and 32% above average respectively, followed by a host of south-eastern and southern university locations: Guildford, Exeter, Brighton, Kent (Canterbury), Eastbourne, Bristol and Bath (see full league table below).

Some Scottish university cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh are also more expensive to live in, with rents of £70 and £68 per week, 17% and 15% above average. However, surprisingly, the most expensive university location in Scotland is St Andrews with an average rent of £82 per week, 38% above average and on a par with Oxbridge.

The traditional English redbrick universities: Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Newcastle and Leeds are all below average for student rentals. Best value locations in terms of student rental accommodation are the less fashionable student towns like Crewe, Middlesbrough, Stoke, Wolverhampton, Bradford and Sunderland, with average weekly rents of £37, £38, £40, £42, £43 and £44 respectively.

By and large most university locations show an average rent consistent with last year but there are two big movers. The average weekly rent in Durham has shot up from £50 last year, 10% below the UK average, to £67 this year, 12% above average, and Loughborough has risen from £52 last year, 7% below average, to £65 this year, 10% above average.

Simon Thompson, co-founder and director of Accommodation for Students, said:

"Now that students are accumulating large borrowings to subsidise their study the cost of accommodation has become a critical factor in their choice of university and our UK-wide league table for rents is a valuable tool for new students in assessing their university options.

Although southern universities are still more expensive for accommodation, with London way out front, some increasingly popular university locations have seen a corresponding rise in rents: Durham, Warwick and Loughborough are three good examples.”

Accommodation for Students has over 400,000 registered students. It is top of the UK search engines and receives over 475,000 visitors per month, with an average site visit time of over 7 minutes.

APPENDIX

Table 1 - UK Student Rent Analysis, March 2007 (65 cities/37,112 properties)

City	Average Rent (£)	Index*
London	102.11	171
Cambridge	84.36	142
Guildford	83.18	140
St Andrews	81.96	138
Oxford	78.72	132
Exeter	75.97	128
Brighton	72.35	121
Kent	72.33	121
Canterbury	70.47	118
Glasgow	69.50	117
Eastbourne	68.89	116
Bristol	68.67	115
Bath	68.50	115
Edinburgh	68.39	115
Chester	67.68	114
Chichester	67.31	113
Bournemouth	67.07	113
Durham	66.97	112
Warwick	66.67	112
Winchester	65.74	110
Reading	65.43	110
Loughborough	65.33	110
Colchester	63.27	106

Plymouth	60.38	101
Lincoln	59.64	101
Luton	59.52	100
Southampton	59.38	100
York	59.22	99
Nottingham	59.09	99
Devon	58.46	98
Leeds	58.01	97
Portsmouth	57.62	97
Aberdeen	56.47	95
Norwich	56.41	95
Newcastle	56.40	95
Sheffield	56.17	94
Swansea	55.74	94
Stafford	55.66	93
Cheltenham	54.95	92
Cardiff	54.87	92
Manchester	54.72	92
Birmingham	53.67	90
Huddersfield	53.27	89
Dundee	53.20	89
Leicester	52.11	87
Northampton	51.97	87
Derby	51.82	87
Preston	50.61	85
Lancaster	50.16	84
Bolton	50.15	84
Blackpool	50.13	84
Coventry	49.46	83
Bangor	49.07	82
Liverpool	48.14	81
Salford	47.86	80
Carlisle	47.08	79
Hull	46.82	79

Pontypridd	46.64	78
Belfast	45.30	76
Sunderland	44.35	75
Bradford	43.21	73
Wolverhampton	42.35	71
Stoke	40.25	68
Middlesbrough	37.85	64
Crewe	37.22	62
UK Average Rent	59.56	100
Index compared to average UK student rental		

cost of £59.56

About Accommodation for Students

Accommodation for Students Ltd. was founded by Simon Thompson and William Berry, 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 UNITE, STA Travel, Virgin Mobile and Endsleigh Insurance.

Accolades:

- Winner BT Business, Essence of the Entrepreneur Award, June 2006
- 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 loca-

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tion, 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

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