

BRIGHTON AND MANCHESTER TOP PLACES TO BE A STUDENT

- accommodationforstudents.com identifies university towns with best facilities -

(London, 8/11/06) Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just released new data identifying the best places to be a student, based on nearly 32,000 student reviews from 78 university towns.

Equal first with a score of 62% are Brighton and Manchester in England, and Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee in Scotland. Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield, Cardiff, Swansea, Exeter, Plymouth, Belfast, Oxford and Southampton are among the second tier that scored 60%.

Surprises in the table include London and Cambridge with scores of just 56% but bottom of the league are Salford and Bolton with 42%, and Bradford with 46%. A full table is appended below.

In their reviews, students 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).

Accommodation for Students has also released its latest rental data, based on over 31,000 properties across 72 UK locations. The average student weekly rent for the UK is £59. However, rents are much higher in some cities, notably London, where the average student weekly rent is £100. Cambridge and Oxford are also well above average, with weekly rents of £83 and £79 respectively. Interestingly, although Brighton and Manchester scored equally in terms of the best place to be a student in England, Manchester students have much the better deal in terms of rent, only paying an average £52 per week, compared to the £72 per week paid by Brighton students.

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

“This information, available on our website, represents students’ real opinions about where they study and is, of course, helpful to students going to university for the first time. It is also useful for existing students who are looking to move as it also provides a breakdown of the best areas within cities. For instance, in the City of Manchester the area of Fallowfield comes out as the top place to live for students. For Brighton, it’s Bevendean.

Likewise our student rental analysis provides invaluable data about the average cost and availability of student accommodation in over 80 locations throughout the UK.

Features like these are one reason why Accommodation for Students has over 400,000 registered student users, receives over 475,000 unique visitors in peak months, and has students spending

an average of over 7 minutes on the site per visit.”

Total university locations = 78

Total Sample (Number of reviews): 31940

| City | Going out | Shops | Transport links | Community | Facilities | Number of reviews | Score |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Dundee | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 443 | 62% |
| Aberdeen | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 466 | 62% |
| Brighton | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 573 | 60% |
| Glasgow | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1093 | 60% |
| Edinburgh | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1410 | 60% |
| Manchester | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 2336 | 60% |
| Bangor | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 41 | 60% |
| Cheltenham | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 130 | 60% |
| Swansea | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 179 | 60% |
| Exeter | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 200 | 60% |
| Preston | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 282 | 60% |
| Belfast | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 337 | 60% |
| Oxford | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 425 | 60% |
| Plymouth | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 456 | 60% |
| Southampton | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 738 | 60% |
| Cardiff | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 800 | 60% |
| Liverpool | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1269 | 60% |
| Sheffield | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1669 | 60% |
| Newcastle-Upon-Tyne | 6 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 863 | 60% |

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|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|------------|
| Bedford | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 26 | 60% |
| Chester | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 66 | 58% |
| Guildford | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 107 | 58% |
| Lancaster | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 198 | 58% |
| Norwich | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 277 | 58% |
| Derby | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 277 | 58% |
| Lincoln | | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 337 | 58% |
| Bour- nemouth | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 385 | 58% |
| Ports- mouth | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 443 | 58% |
| Leicester | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 640 | 58% |
| Bristol | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 984 | 58% |
| Leeds | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 986 | 58% |
| Notting- ham | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1760 | 58% |
| Poole | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 23 | 56% |
| Derry | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 56% |
| Blackpool | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 39 | 56% |
| Carlisle | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 50 | 56% |
| St An- drews | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 75 | 56% |
| Dublin | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 94 | 56% |
| Reading | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 195 | 56% |
| Hull | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 234 | 56% |
| Cam- bridge | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 240 | 56% |
| York | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 250 | 56% |
| | 5 | | | 6 | 5 | | 56% |
| Birming- ham | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 337 | 56% |

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|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|------------|
| Birmingham | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1326 | 56% |
| London | 5 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5005 | 56% |
| Essex | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 98 | 56% |
| Stirling | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 27 | 54% |
| Wakefield | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 34 | 54% |
| Newport | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 38 | 54% |
| Surrey | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 125 | 54% |
| Loughborough | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 130 | 54% |
| Luton | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 142 | 54% |
| Canterbury | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 260 | 54% |
| Huddersfield | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 431 | 54% |
| Coventry | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 618 | 54% |
| Staffordshire | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 52% |
| Herts | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 35 | 52% |
| Worcester | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 52% |
| Winchester | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 90 | 52% |
| Wolverhampton | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 96 | 52% |
| Durham | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 108 | 52% |
| Middlesbrough | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 160 | 52% |
| Stoke-On-Trent | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 243 | 52% |
| Barnsley | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 138 | 50% |
| Northampton | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 29 | 50% |
| Gloucester | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 44 | 50% |
| Stafford | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 76 | 50% |

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|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|------------|
| Notts | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 56 | 48% |
| Middlesex | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 65 | 48% |
| Kent | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 91 | 48% |
| Hertfordshire | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 35 | 46% |
| Cheshire | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 37 | 46% |
| Hatfield | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 77 | 46% |
| Bradford | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 114 | 46% |
| Bolton | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 31 | 42% |
| Pontypridd | 3 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 38 | 42% |
| Salford | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 145 | 42% |

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.

Accommodation for Students was the most visited student portal in August 2006. Source: Hitwise.

Accolades

- Winner BT Business, Essence of the Entrepreneur Award , June 2006
- Featured in BBC's Dragons' Den in November 2005
- 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 park-

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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

For further information please contact:

Stewart Ross (PR121)

Tel: 020 8832 1258

Mob: 07966 540787

stewart@pr121.co.uk

Simon Thompson (Accommodation for Students)

Tel: 07808 714 068

simon@easyafs.com