



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**09/08/06**

**Latest rent research as peak time for seeking accommodation approaches**

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*- London still leads the way in terms of student rental costs -*

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**ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS**

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## London 09/08/2006

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Pupils receive their A-level results next week and those finalising their university places are faced with a scramble to find accommodation before term starts. The UK's No 1 student accommodation website, Accommodation for Students ([www.accommodationforstudents.com](http://www.accommodationforstudents.com)), can not only help them in their quest it can also ensure they don't pay over the odds. Accommodation for Students (AFS) has just published its latest research into the nationwide cost of rented student accommodation based on 29,000 properties in over 60 university locations across the UK featured on its website. It reveals that the current average weekly rent for a student in the UK is £58.19, an increase of 3.3% over last year's figure of £56.30.

Rents vary dramatically across the UK. London is, by far, the most expensive place to study, at an average weekly rent of £102, a massive 75% above average. Top university towns, Cambridge and Oxford, come next, 38% above average, followed by a host of south-eastern and southern university locations: Guildford, Kent (Canterbury), Bristol, Exeter and Eastbourne (see full league table below). Scottish university cities Glasgow and Edinburgh are also more expensive to live in, both being 15% above average. The traditional English redbrick universities: Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Nottingham, Newcastle and Leeds are all average or below average for student rentals. Best value locations in terms of student rental accommodation are the less fashionable student towns like Middlesbrough, Stoke, Wolverhampton, Bradford and Sunderland with average weekly rents of £38, £39, £41, £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 £63 this year, 8% above average, and Loughborough has risen from £52 last year, 7% below average, to £62 this year, 7% 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 is a valuable tool for both new and existing students in assessing their accommodation options."*

*Not only does Accommodation for Students offer more rental properties than any other student accommodation website but we also give students excellent added value features on the website. They can advertise for housemates via our notice board facility. Our rental*

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*reviews even gives them rental costs by area for each city, as well as the city average. Further, we provide the students' own ratings for each university town in terms of going out, shopping, transport and facilities."*

Accommodation for Students is top of the UK search engines and had a record breaking month in July with over 475,000 visitors, and an average site visit time of over 5 minutes.

## APPENDIX

Table 1 - UK Student Rent Analysis, August 2006 (64 cities/28,807 properties)

City	Average Rent (£per week)	Index*
London	101.83	175
Cambridge	80.26	138
Oxford	80.16	138
Guildford	78.95	136
Kent	72.05	124
Bristol	69.76	120
Exeter	69.38	119
Eastbourne	68.89	118
Canterbury	68.44	117
Brighton	68.31	117
Warwick	68.00	117
Edinburgh	67.14	115
Glasgow	66.69	115
Hatfield	67.69	116
Winchester	65.35	112
Bath	65.26	112
Reading	63.65	109
Chester	63.55	109
Durham	62.95	108
Bournemouth	62.94	108



Cornwall	62.81	108
Colchester	62.18	107
Loughborough	62.09	107
Luton	59.02	101
Lincoln	59.01	101
Leamington Spa	58.94	101
Southampton	58.89	101
Nottingham	58.40	100
Plymouth	58.25	100
Newcastle	58.23	100
Leeds	57.52	99
Devon	57.52	99
York	56.87	98
Swansea	56.63	97
Portsmouth	56.43	97
Cardiff	55.53	95
Norwich	55.42	95
Sheffield	54.60	94
Cheltenham	54.13	93
Aberdeen	53.97	93
Birmingham	52.52	90
Stafford	52.45	90
Derby	51.56	89
Huddersfield	51.34	88
Manchester	51.17	88
Dundee	50.63	87
Bolton	50.23	86
Leicester	50.20	86
Blackpool	50.12	86
Northampton	49.20	85
Lancaster	48.87	84
Coventry	47.83	82
Preston	47.66	82



Salford	47.48	82
Liverpool	46.71	80
Carlisle	46.46	80
Hull	45.12	78
Belfast	44.69	77
Sunderland	44.32	76
Bradford	42.91	74
Wolverhampton	41.43	71
Stoke-on-Trent	38.96	67
Middlesbrough	37.50	64
<b>UK Average</b>		<b>58.19</b>

\* Index compared to August 2006 average UK student rental cost of £58.19

## Contacts

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**Stewart Ross (Director - PR121)**

Tel: 0208 832 1258

e-mail: [stewart@pr121.com](mailto:stewart@pr121.com)

**Simon Thompson (Director - Accommodation for Students)**

Tel: 0845 351 9911

**William Berry (Director - Accommodation for Students)**

Tel: 0121 2757 121