

For immediate release: Monday, 5th April, 2004

**LATEST RESEARCH REVEALS MOST (AND LEAST)
EXPENSIVE PLACES FOR STUDENTS TO LIVE IN UK**

*– accommodationforstudents.com confirms London, Cambridge,
Oxford and Glasgow have highest student rents; Crewe,
Middlesbrough and Stoke the lowest –*

(London, 5/4/04) Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just released its latest research into the nationwide cost of rented student accommodation based on 14,000 properties in 54 university locations across the UK featured on its website. It reveals that the current average weekly rent for a student in the UK is £52.44. London, Cambridge, Oxford and Glasgow, however, at an average weekly rent of £102, £80, £77 and £76 respectively, are 95%, 53%, 47% and 45% higher than average. Best value locations in terms of student rental accommodation are the smaller student towns like Crewe, Middlesbrough and Stoke with average weekly rents of £33, £34 and £37 respectively.

There is also a strong north/south bias. Traditional northern redbrick university towns like Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham and Leicester all have below average rents, whilst Eastbourne, Kent, Brighton, Reading and Winchester are all well above average (see below for full analysis and index.) Edinburgh rivals its Scottish counterpart,

Glasgow, by having a high average student rent of £65 per week, 24% above the national average.

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

“With the Government’s policy change in regard to tuition fees becoming a major new factor in the cost of being a full-time student in the future, the price of accommodation will increasingly be a major cost consideration in students’ selection of which universities they will attend. We may well see students choosing universities based on the cost of accommodation as much as curricular availability or academic reputation.”

Accommodation for Students has over 20,000 properties on its website, including larger student private housing schemes, such as those provided by UNITE and Jarvis UPP, as well as private rented sector properties. The site, at its peak, attracts over 40,000 student visitors a week. Accommodation for Students monitors student rents on an ongoing basis and this research supplements an earlier survey last year.

About Accommodation for Students

Accommodation for Students Ltd. was founded by William Berry and Simon Thompson, graduates from Manchester Metropolitan University, in June 2000. The site currently attracts 150,000 unique users a month.

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, interior facilities (from satellite/cable television to dishwasher), exterior facilities (from garden to off-street parking) and service facilities (eg CORGI registered gas central heating)
- Notice board facility
- Clipboard facility to save accommodation details
- Landlord email facility which sends an email to the landlord with one click when a student finds a property they like. The email 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.
- Easy contact system: Accommodation for Students '**email landlord service**'. This service enables students to send a generic email of interest to a landlord with one click. This also ensures the privacy of landlord email addresses.

Accommodation for Students Accolades

- Highly Commended in the Best Industry Innovation category at the inaugural 2002 Property Business Awards

- ENDS -

Table 1 – UK Student Rent Analysis, April 2004 (54 cities/14,000 properties)

City	Average Rent (£ per week)	Index*
Aberdeen	54	99
Bangor	39	74
Birmingham	50	95
Bolton	39	74
Bournemouth	61	116
Bradford	39	74
Brighton	65	124
Bristol	64	122
Cambridge	80	153
Canterbury	67	123
Cardiff	53	101
Cheltenham	50	95
Coventry	45	86
Crewe	33	63
Derby	44	84
Devon	57	109
Dundee	45	86
Eastbourne	69	132
Edinburgh	65	124
Exeter	62	118
Glasgow	76	145
Huddersfield	46	88
Hull	41	78
Kent	67	128
Lancaster	48	92
Leeds	52	99
Leicester	48	92
Lincoln	44	84
Liverpool	43	82
London	102	195
Loughborough	52	99
Luton	58	111
Manchester	47	90
Middlesbrough	34	65
Newcastle	56	107
Newcastle on Tyne	54	103
Norwich	51	97
Nottingham	53	101
Oxford	77	147
Plymouth	52	99
Preston	48	92
Reading	65	124
Salford	42	80
Sheffield	50	95
Southampton	57	109
Stoke-on-Trent	37	70
Sunderland	43	82
Swansea	55	105
Winchester	65	124
Wolverhampton	38	72

* Index compared to average UK student rental cost of £52.44

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