

London student housing rent report

Overview

This report provides an overview of student housing rental trends, based on live listings on Accommodation for Students (AFS). It compares private student housing with purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) to help landlords and letting agents benchmark their properties. This July 2026 edition includes:

- **Average room rents** (monthly and yearly change, by segment)
- **Rent trend** (13 months of average advertised rents)
- **Year-to-date comparison** (2026 vs 2025)
- **City comparison** (how the city sits against the UK market)

Throughout, student housing means the widest range of privately rented student accommodation, including shared houses and flats marketed to students, rather than solely the legal definition of a house in multiple occupation (HMO).

£253

Average room rent
(£/week)

↑ 10%

£393

PBSA average
(£/week)

929

Rooms analysed

325

Properties
advertised

Average room rents

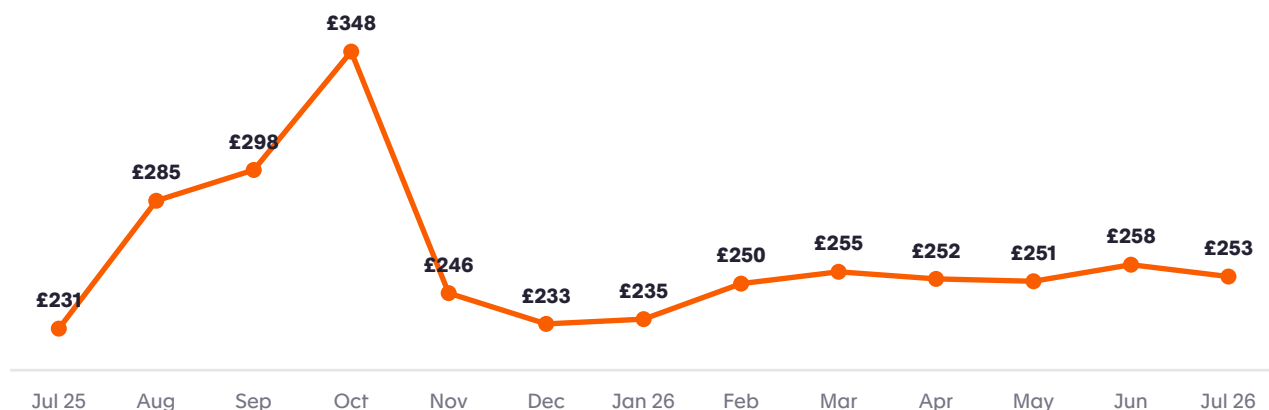
London / July 2026

Segment	Average rent (£/week)	Rooms (n)	Monthly change (vs Jun 2026)	Yearly change (vs Jul 2025)
All student housing	£253	929	↓ 2%	↑ 10%
Bills included	£339	141	↑ 3%	↑ 29%
Bills excluded	£236	762	↓ 2%	↑ 8%
1-3 bedrooms	£321	292	↓ 2%	↑ 15%
4+ bedrooms	£221	637	↓ 1%	↑ 2%
PBSA room benchmark	£393	863	0%	↓ 6%

Source: AFS live listings snapshot 2026-07-31 | averages of advertised weekly room rents

Rent trend

London / 13 months to Jul 2026



Source: Average advertised room rent at each month-end snapshot | late-summer months carry a smaller, dearer advertised mix as let stock delists

Market insight

Student housing in London currently rents around 36% below PBSA on an average room basis. The average advertised rent is 10% higher than in July 2025 and 2% lower than in June 2026, but like-for-like rents on properties advertised in both periods moved by only around 1% in each case; the moves mostly reflect changes in the advertised mix rather than price changes. Bills-inclusive listings sit well above the market average, but this reflects where they are concentrated (studios and small flats); among comparable larger houses, including bills makes little difference to the advertised rent. Rooms in larger houses (4+ bedrooms) list at £100 a week less than rooms in 1-3 bedroom properties.

Year-to-date comparison

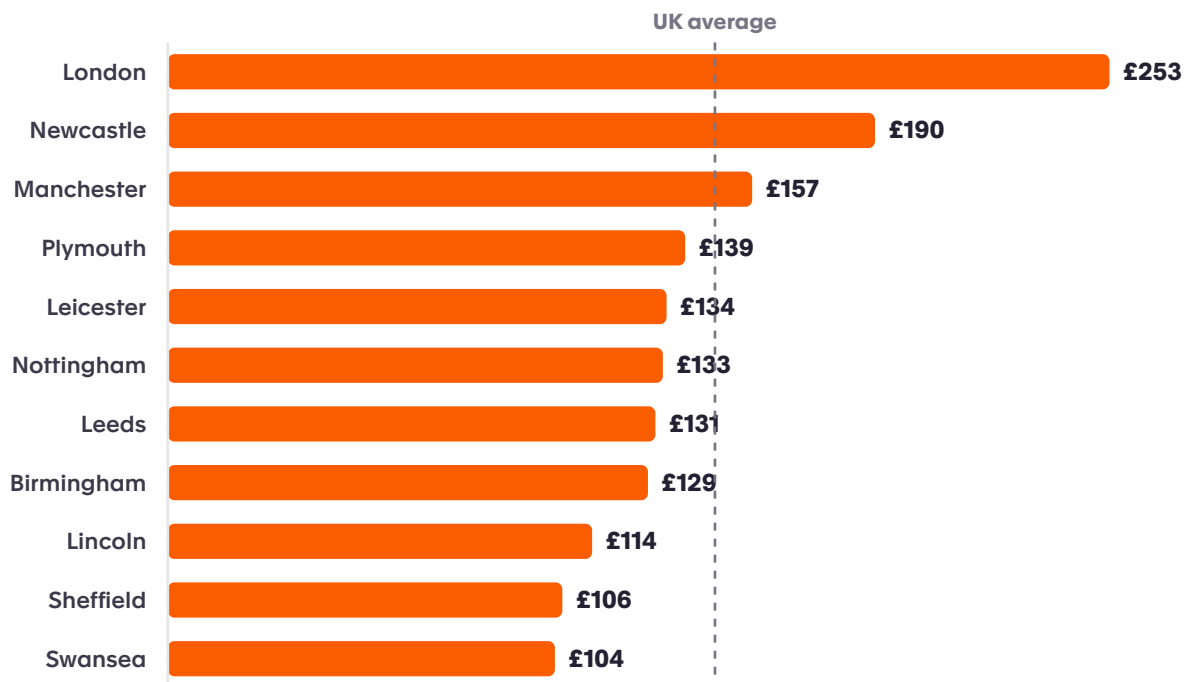
Jan-Jul 2026 vs Jan-Jul 2025

Segment	2025 avg (£/week)	2026 avg (£/week)	% change
All student housing	£235	£250	↑ 6%
Bills included	£262	£321	↑ 22%
Bills excluded	£228	£236	↑ 4%
1-3 bedrooms	£284	£304	↑ 7%
4+ bedrooms	£223	£229	↑ 3%

Source: Average of monthly averages over months with 30+ advertised rooms in both years

How London compares

average room rent / July 2026



Source: Largest markets by advertised rooms, of 30 cities with 100+ rooms | highest Edinburgh £300 and lowest Stoke £91 among cities with 25+ properties | UK average £147

Bills and the advertised rent

Bills-included rooms in London list at an average **£339** a week against **£236** bills-excluded, a headline gap of £103 (+44%). That gap mostly reflects the stock, not the bills. 75% of bills-inclusive rooms are in studios or 1-3 bedroom properties, which price differently. Within comparable 4+ bedroom houses, bills-included rooms list at £226 against £220 bills-excluded (35 and 588 rooms).

Methodology

- **Where the data comes from.** Live listings on AFS, captured in a daily snapshot. This edition uses 31 July 2026, compared with 30 June 2026 and 31 July 2025.
- **What we measure.** The average advertised weekly room rent. Obvious pricing errors (below £30 or above £1,000 a week) and purpose built student rooms cross-listed as shared housing are removed first, so the figures reflect genuine student houses and flats.
- **Small numbers.** Any figure based on fewer than 30 advertised rooms is shown as a dash. The city chart covers cities with at least 100 advertised rooms.
- **Bills and bedrooms.** Bills included means all bills are included; bills excluded means none are; listings with partial or optional bills packages (26 rooms this month) sit in neither segment. Bedroom bands use the advertised bedroom count.
- **Prices or mix?** Monthly and yearly changes are checked against properties advertised in both periods. When a change mostly reflects a different mix of advertised properties rather than price changes, the commentary says so.
- **PBSA benchmark.** The average weekly rate for full-year (40+ week) PBSA rooms advertised during the month. The level and its changes are calculated with the same method as the monthly PBSA pricing report, so the two reports agree.
- **Year to date.** The average of the monthly figures, using months with enough data in both years.

Source: AFS live listings | data extracted 4 August 2026 | 929 rooms across 325 properties in London



Need further insights or bespoke data analysis?



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