accommodation for students

October 2026 Edition

Durham 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 October 2026 edition includes:

- **Average room rents** (monthly and yearly change, by segment)
- **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).

£168	—	400	85
Average room rent (£/week)	PBSA average (£/week)	Rooms analysed	Properties advertised
↓ 5%			

Average room rents

Durham / October 2026

Segment	Average rent (£/week)	Rooms (n)	Monthly change (vs Sep 2026)	Yearly change (vs Oct 2025)
All student housing	£168	400	—	↓ 5%
Bills included	£197	43	—	—
Bills excluded	£157	303	—	—
1-3 bedrooms	£165	45	—	—
4+ bedrooms	£169	355	—	↓ 8%

Source: AFS live listings snapshot 2026-10-31 | averages of advertised weekly room rents

Market insight

Compared with October 2025, the average advertised room rent was 5% lower, though only 2 properties were advertised in both periods, too few to check like-for-like whether that reflects prices or a change in the advertised mix. Even among comparable 4+ bedroom houses, bills-inclusive rooms carry a 30% premium. Rooms in larger houses (4+ bedrooms) list at £3 a week more than rooms in 1-3 bedroom properties.

Year-to-date comparison

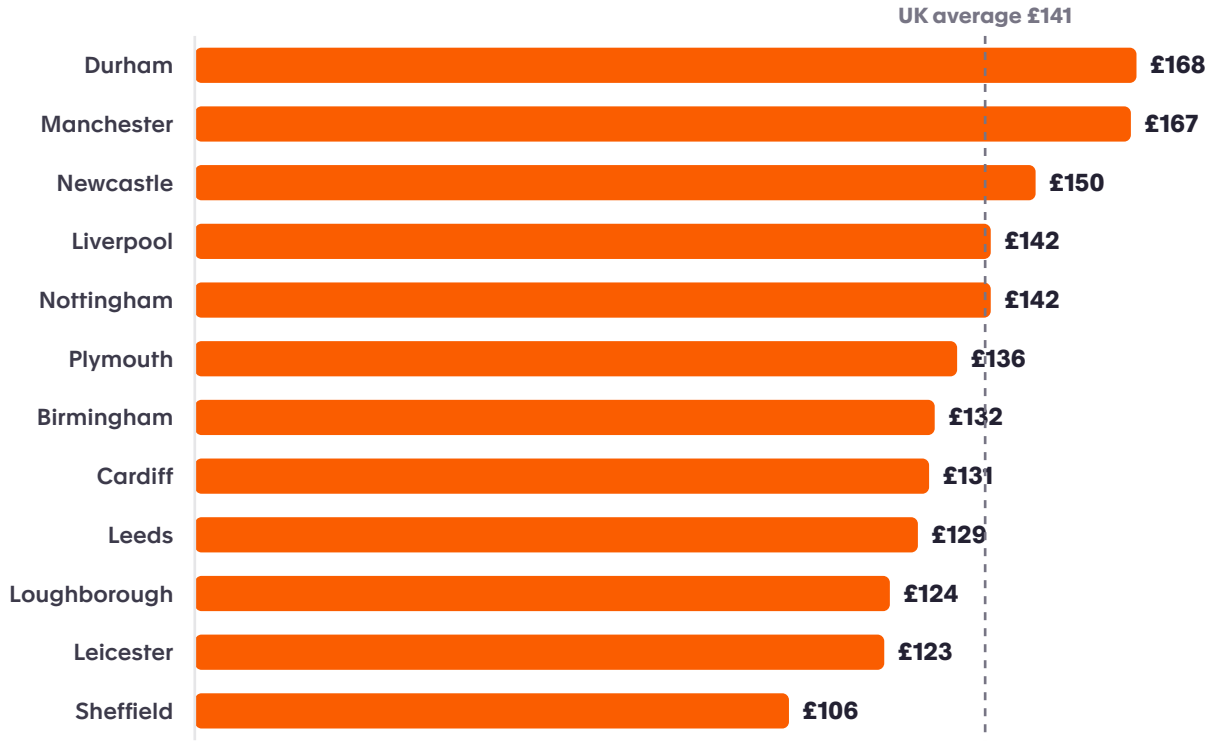
4 comparable months, 2026 vs 2025

Segment	2025 avg (£/week)	2026 avg (£/week)	% change
All student housing	£187	£163	↓ 13%
Bills included	—	—	—
Bills excluded	—	—	—
1-3 bedrooms	—	—	—
4+ bedrooms	£192	£165	↓ 14%

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

How Durham compares

average room rent / October 2026



Source: Largest markets by advertised rooms, of 36 cities with 100+ rooms | highest London £280 and lowest Stoke £95 among cities with 25+ properties | UK average £141

Bills and the advertised rent

Bills-included rooms in Durham list at an average **£197** a week against **£157** bills-excluded, a headline gap of £40 (+25%). The gap is not explained by the advertised mix. 21% 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 £204 against £157 bills-excluded (34 and 273 rooms).

Methodology

- **Where the data comes from.** Live listings on AFS, captured in a daily snapshot. This edition uses 31 October 2026, compared with 30 September 2026 and 31 October 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 (54 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 wherever enough of them overlap. The commentary says so when a change mostly reflects a different mix of advertised properties rather than price changes, and says so too when too few properties overlap for that check to be made.
- **Year to date.** The average of the monthly figures, using months with enough data in both years.

Source: AFS live listings | data extracted 4 November 2026 | 400 rooms across 85 properties in Durham

Need further insights or bespoke data analysis? Contact Sales