



PRESS RELEASE

08/05/06

**Northern and Scottish universities
best place to be a student**

*- accommodationforstudents.com survey identifies
university towns with best facilities -*

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS

UK'S #1 STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SEARCH ENGINE

www.accommodationforstudents.com

0845 351 9911



London 08/05/2006

Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just released the results of a new survey identifying the best places to be a student, based on over 20,000 student reviews. Students from over 70 university towns 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).

The northern universities fought it out with their Scottish rivals for top place with only Brighton representing the southern half of the country. Eight universities shared top spot with a score of 62%. The Scots just about edged it with four of their universities sharing top spot: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee. The 'Northern Lights' were Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle. Only the above-mentioned Brighton got the South in the mix.

Other well-known universities to share the second highest score of 60% included: Southampton, Exeter, Sheffield and Portsmouth. Also on this mark, the Celtic fringe was represented by Bangor, Swansea, Cardiff and Belfast. Languishing further down the table was Oxford, Cambridge and, most surprisingly, London, with scores of 58%, 56% and 56% respectively. Clearly being the capital doesn't necessarily cut it with students. Academic chumps as far as good places to study were Durham with 52%, Bradford with 46% and poor old Salford with a lowly 42%. Ironic that the worst place to be a student is but a couple of miles from the best! A full table is appended below.

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

"These figures, available on our website, represent students' real opinions about where they study and are, of course, helpful to students going to university for the first time. They are also helpful for existing students who are looking to move as they also provide 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 London, it's Bloomsbury.

Likewise our student rental review provides invaluable data about the average cost and availability of student accommodation in over 60 locations throughout the UK, even to the extent of identifying the most popular student accommodation areas in each town.

Features like these are one reason why Accommodation for Students has over 300,000

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registered student users, receives over 425,000 unique visitors in peak months, and has students spending an average of over 7 minutes on the site per visit.”

Accommodation for Students features a number of blue-chip companies as sponsorship and marketing partners on its website, including UNITE, Virgin Mobile, Endsleigh Insurance and STA Travel.

City	Going Out	Shops	Transport	Community	Facilities	Number of Reviews	Score
Aberdeen	6	6	7	6	6	385	62%
Brighton	6	6	7	6	6	473	62%
Dundee	6	6	7	6	6	388	62%
Edinburgh	6	6	7	6	6	1276	62%
Glasgow	6	6	7	6	6	978	62%
Liverpool	6	6	7	6	6	1171	62%
Manchester	6	6	7	6	6	2139	62%
Newcastle	6	6	7	6	6	722	62%
Bangor	6	6	6	6	6	34	60%
Belfast	6	6	6	6	6	295	60%
Cardiff	6	6	6	6	6	707	60%
Cheltenham	6	6	6	6	6	126	60%
Exeter	6	5	6	7	6	189	60%
Plymouth	6	6	6	6	6	416	60%
Portsmouth	6	6	6	6	6	407	60%
Preston	6	6	6	6	6	235	60%
Sheffield	6	6	6	6	6	1551	60%
Southampton	6	6	6	6	6	675	60%
Swansea	6	6	6	6	6	150	60%
Bournemouth	6	6	6	6	5	342	58%
Bristol	6	6	6	6	5	893	58%
Derby	6	6	6	6	5	252	58%
Lancaster	6	6	6	6	5	180	58%



Leicester	6	6	6	6	5	553	58%
Lincoln	6	6	5	6	6	316	58%
Norwich	5	6	6	6	6	206	58%
Oxford	5	5	7	6	6	390	58%
Bath	5	6	6	6	5	238	56%
Birmingham	5	6	7	5	5	1184	56%
Cambridge	5	6	5	6	6	200	56%
Dublin	5	6	6	6	5	76	56%
Hull	6	6	6	5	5	207	56%
Leeds	6	6	6	5	5	914	56%
London	5	6	7	5	5	4403	56%
Nottingham	6	6	6	5	5	1630	56%
Reading	5	6	6	6	5	172	56%
St Andrews	5	5	5	7	6	69	56%
York	5	6	6	6	5	222	56%
Canterbury	5	5	5	6	6	243	54%
Coventry	5	6	6	5	5	545	54%
Guildford	5	5	6	6	5	93	54%
Huddersfield	5	5	6	6	5	388	54%
Loughborough	5	5	5	6	6	107	54%
Luton	5	6	6	5	5	124	54%
Newport	5	5	5	6	6	35	54%
Stirling	3	5	7	6	6	23	54%
Wolverhampton	5	6	6	5	5	83	54%
Durham	5	5	5	6	5	98	52%
Middlesbrough	6	6	5	4	5	141	52%
Stafford	4	5	5	6	6	73	52%
Stoke on Trent	5	5	5	5	5	80	52%
Sunderland	5	5	6	5	5	209	52%
Winchester	4	5	6	6	5	84	52%
Worcester	5	5	5	6	5	34	52%



Gloucester	4	5	6	5	5	41	50%
Middlesex	3	6	6	5	5	61	50%
Surrey	4	5	6	5	5	109	52%
Bradford	4	4	5	5	5	102	46%
Hatfield	3	4	5	5	5	60	44%
Salford	3	4	6	4	4	132	42%
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Contacts

Stewart Ross (Director - PR121)

Tel: 0208 832 1258

e-mail: stewart@pr121.com

Simon Thompson (Director - Accommodation for Students)

Tel: 0845 351 9911

William Berry (Director - Accommodation for Students)

Tel: 0121 2757 121