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NEW RESEARCH REVEALS MOST (AND LEAST) EXPENSIVE PLACES FOR STUDENT RENTED ACCOMMODATION IN UK

– accommodationforstudents.com confirms London and Oxford at top of average student rent list, Hull and Middlesbrough the lowest –

(London, 26/2/03) Accommodation for Students (www.accommodationforstudents.com), the UK's No 1 student accommodation website, has just released new research into the nationwide cost of rented student accommodation based on 7000 properties in 45 university locations across the UK featured on its website. It reveals that the current average weekly rent for a student in the UK is £53.80. London and Oxford, however, at an average weekly rent of £102 and £79 respectively, are 90% and 47% higher than average. Best value locations in terms of student rental accommodation are Middlesbrough, Crewe and Hull with average weekly rents of £34, £35 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 Reading, Brighton, Southampton, Bristol and Exeter are all above average. (See below for full list and index.) Interestingly, too, main Scottish university towns

are not cheap to live in. Glasgow and Edinburgh, with rents of £67 and £60 per week, are 25% and 12% 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, the price of accommodation will increasingly be a potential compensating cost consideration in future students’ selection of which universities they will attend. We may well see students choosing universities based on the cost of accommodation rather than curricular availability or academic reputation.”

Accommodation for Students has 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 80,000 unique student visitors a month.

Accommodation for Students' website offers sophisticated facilities for both students and landlords. Students, via a user-friendly GUI and powerful search engine, can specify property requirements from the widest accommodation criteria available, right down to the provision of satellite TV. Private landlords have their own admin suite that allows them to upload and edit properties directly. Uniquely, they can

measure their performance in terms of student hits, enquiries, viewings etc – and the service is free.

About Accommodation for Students

Accommodation for Students Ltd. was founded by William Berry and Simon Thompson, ex-students from Manchester, in June 2000. The site went live in test phase in June 2001, prior to its full launch in January 2002.

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
- New Millennium Silver Award
"Accommodation for Students has been awarded the Silver Award. Good luck in the future and keep helping the students in the UK ", Corey Huffman, CEO, New Millennium's Award Programme
- EyeCatcher Bronze Award – 21st October 2001
83% score on Design, Creativity, Coding and Originality
- Best Of The Web 2001 Bronze Award
"I enjoyed surfing your site, and I am sure everybody else will too", Eric Nielsen, NEOVISION, Inc
- Critical Mass Award
"Congratulations! Your site definitely qualifies for the "Critical Mass Award". A very nice site, excellent design, tasteful original graphics, and you have provided visitors with content that is informative, entertaining, well-presented and easy to access. A worthy enterprise and a positive contribution to the Web", Bill Darling, Critical Mass
- Golden Web Award 2001–2002
"Congratulations on having your site selected to receive the 2001–2002 Golden Web Award!"
- Ranked joint Number 1 in the Student Accommodation Advice website review of student accommodation sites.

- ENDS -

Appendix 1 - UK Average Student Rent Analysis (45 Cities)

City	AverageRent (£ per week)	Index
Aberdeen	54	100
Beds	61	113
Birmingham	49	91
Bournemouth	57	106
Bradford	41	76
Brighton	60	112

Bristol	60	112
Cardiff	56	104
Cheltenham	52	97
Coventry	46	86
Crewe	35	65
Derby	45	84
Dundee	41	76
Durham	63	117
Eastbourne, East Sussex	69	128
Edinburgh	60	112
Exeter	58	108
Glasgow	67	125
Huddersfield	56	104
Hull	37	69
Lancaster	48	89
Leamington Spa	49	91
Leeds	58	108
Leicester	43	80
Lincoln	39	72
Liverpool	42	78
London	102	190
Luton	57	106
Manchester	49	91
Middlesbrough	34	63
Middlesex	88	164
Newcastle	51	95
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	55	103
Nottingham	49	91
Oxford	79	147
Plymouth	50	93
Preston	46	86
Reading	69	128
Salford	42	78
Sheffield	45	84
Southampton	58	108
Sunderland	45	84
Swansea	42	78
Winchester	65	121
York	52	97

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