



There are several different deadlines for replying to university offers, depending on when you submitted your application and when UCAS received offers and decisions by universities.

If you received any offers by March 31, you must respond to offers by **1 May**.

Student Accommodation

Student Accommodation is a hot topic at the moment. Which? University have some great advice on all the options available to students.

Wherever you choose to live will have a big impact on your wallet. The Accommodation Costs Survey 2018 conducted by Unipol and the National Union of Students (NUS) – found that the average rental bill took up 73% of the maximum student loan.

Plus, making the wrong housing decision can put a damper on your uni experience.



Here are some quick pros and cons of the main housing options available to students, including tips to pick the right one for you:

University halls

Most first year students are allocated a place in university-managed accommodation or 'halls', which certainly has its advantages.

In terms of making friends, living with other students is a great way to get to know people you may end up becoming good friends with (and even living with next year). Note, some university-managed halls might not be on campus, but located in the local city or town instead.

You're also conveniently located, so you don't have to worry about commuting in daily for lectures, group work or to use the library (as well as for the more fun stuff like societies, clubs and activities put on by your student union).

If you're going to be living away from home for the first time, halls can also be good preparation for living in the private-rented sector as you have many of the benefits of independence, but without needing to think about the complications of utility bills or landlords. You're also



likely to be well supported by the housing office or university itself if anything goes wrong.

Pros:

- Social scene: a good chance to meet lots of students in one place
- It's the 'halfway' house option: easing you gently in to living away from home
- You're not alone: extra support will be available from your university if you need it.

Cons:

- Being thrown in at the deep end: you don't get to choose who you live with
- No guarantees: you might not get a place in your preferred accommodation
- Living near to lots of students: get used to putting up with noise and mess!

Private student halls

A second option in some areas is to go for a room in a purpose-built student living complex, an option that is growing in popularity; Unipol and the NUS found that private halls made up half of student bed spaces in the UK.

The set-up is similar to halls managed by universities – you have your own room and you share communal areas like a kitchen or TV room – but it's owned by a private company. Studio apartments may be available too (though these are usually pricier). Private hall providers are quite common in big cities like London or Manchester, which have several universities based there.

If you're considering this option, make sure you do some research into what you'll be getting for your money i.e. bills that are included (including any upfront costs you'll need to account for) and facilities on site.



Private halls can be a great way to expand your social circles, as you may find students from other universities in the same building. When browsing providers, check what communal spaces are available plus any regular activities or events for residents to meet and socialise.

Your university will have an approved list of private accommodation providers, and may even have a more formal partnership in place with one already (especially if they don't have enough places in their own halls to meet demand).

Pros:

- Built for students: so the same advantages as students in university halls apply



- Mod cons: handy perks such as wi-fi can be part of the package
- Location, location: you'll be close to all the student action (not necessarily limited to just your university).

Cons:

- Extra costs: factor in any up-front or additional costs, while studio rentals will be pricier
- Unnecessary perks: some private halls have plush extras (e.g. saunas, cinema rooms), which look cool but you may never actually use
- Same student pitfalls apply: noise, not choosing who you live with, mess and so on.

Private accommodation

Others may prefer not to live in halls of any kind and move straight into the private rented sector, where you rent a house or flat with a group from a landlord or letting agent.

Sometimes it'll be your choice. Other times, it might not be – not all universities are able to guarantee a place in halls of residence for all first-year students (it's a good question to ask at an open day) – so you could be among those who miss out, especially if you've come through Clearing or are late with your application.

Living in a privately rented property can be appealing as it enables you to decide exactly where you live and who with. While it can be tricky to find



those in a similar position and organise viewings if you haven't moved to university yet, your housing office can assist you with this e.g. matching you up with others, recommending approved lists of landlords or student-friendly letting agents etc.

Most students move into privately rented accommodation after first year anyway

Pros:

- Independence: you're in charge of where and with whom you're living
- Local area: whereas your university's halls might all be on campus, private housing options actually in town can make you feel part of the local community more
- Flexibility: the private rental market is packed with different living options to suit you.

Cons:

- Further out: you may find yourself outside the main campus
- Managing bills: you'll need to budget, especially if you've never lived away from home before
- Dealing with admin: you'll be dealing direct with a landlord or letting agent.

Living at Home

This works well for many students as it can significantly cut your costs (and is the one option that doesn't involve packing up all your worldly goods and relocating). This could make all the difference depending on how much you receive in student finance and your overall budget.

You might be concerned that this will have an impact on your ability to meet other students; but while it might require a little more effort and planning, you're sure to meet plenty of people, both in and out of your lectures. Sports clubs, societies and students' union events are a great place to start.

Pros:

- Hassle-free: no moving, no upheaval
- The old cliché: someone else taking care of cooking, cleaning, laundry...?
- Cheap: should save you money overall.

Cons:

- Away from studentville: you'll need alternative ways to meet people
- Someone else's roof: that means someone else's rules.

I'm a first year without a place in halls – how do I find housemates?

While nearly all universities aim to house first-year students on campus, if you secure your place at the last minute (i.e. through Clearing), there may not be any places left in halls. This means you may have to find a place in a house-share right off the bat.

Don't feel like you're alone if this ends up being you. The number of students going through Clearing has grown each year; so the chances are there will indeed be others in the same position.

Getting to know potential housemates online or making an impromptu trip to view properties a few weeks before term begins may not be ideal, but it might be your only choice. In reality it's no different to how things would work if you had a place in halls, as you would still be living with strangers; the only difference here is that you need to find a property together (which your university can help with).



<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/student-accommodation/how-to-pick-the-right-student-accommodation-for-you>



The Aviatrix Project

They have seven amazing flying scholarships for 2019:

THE AVIATRIX
project

- – **BWPA Flying Start** (£1000) for new, inexperienced pilots to gain their first qualifications.
- – **BWPA Flying High** (£1000) for licensed pilots who wish to gain further qualifications, take part in significant competitions, or undertake other suitable activities to help them further their personal flying aims.
- Both these scholarships are available for any type of flying, from ballooning through microlights to helicopters, and all points between.



For these scholarships, applicants must have at least a PPL(A) or (H) and be capable of obtaining a Class 1 medical. Further details of what is included and qualifying criteria will be included in the application forms when they become available. Applicants who have already started their studies are not eligible for these ground school scholarships.

– Two BWPA Easy PPL Ground School Scholarships for new and inexperienced pilots towards gaining their PPL(A) ground school qualifications.

To be eligible for these scholarships, applicants must have fewer than 10 hours total logged flying time towards gaining their PPL(A). Applicants must not have attempted any of the CAA Theoretical Knowledge exams, and must be at least 16.

Applications

Applications for scholarships and taster flights open on Friday 15 March and close on Monday 6 May 2019. Winners will be notified in time for the 2019 summer flying season. Applicants may apply for more than one scholarship, provided they satisfy the relevant criteria for each application.

They encourage all current and potential women pilots to consider joining the BWPA (if not already a member) and applying for a scholarship; joining the BWPA directly supports our scholarship and outreach programmes now and into the future. BWPA membership is not restricted to UK citizens or residents.

Taster flights

They are offering taster flights for girls aged 14-17 in association with the British Women Pilots Association. There will be 12 'taster flights' from Old Buckenham Airfield, Norfolk. Six will be for women over the age of 16 years; and six will be administered through **The Aviatrix Project** for young people aged 14-17.

Further 'taster flights' for women aged 16-25 years will be sponsored by **Total UK**; details of these will be released soon.

<http://bwpa.co.uk/2019-scholarships/>



Do you fancy a fantastic career with Sky?

They want to be the industry leader for inclusion. So they're committed to levelling the playing field for women in Home Service. That means being bold. Thinking differently. Challenging the status quo.

You may have never considered a career with them before but if you are looking for an apprenticeship that gives you all the training and support you need plus some fantastic benefits such as free Sky TV, free iPad, free van, great pension and amazing career opportunities.

Come along to one of their female only Discovery days to find out how they deliver the best customer service and why it is the perfect place for you!

You don't have to be a technical whizz, all they're looking for is enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and passion for customer service. Why not bring along your BFF to share the experience.

Apply for one their Discovery Days today (no previous experience needed):

They service and install Sky in thousands of customers homes all over the UK, giving them a brilliant service every time, bringing all their content and sports to life. The job gives you freedom to be yourself, where no two days are the same and meeting different people every day. How great is that!

Date: Tuesday 16th April

Timings: 10- 1pm

Location: Sky Campus, Osterley, West London, TW7 5QD

Who: We're looking for you - Anyone 17+ (with a clean driving licence)

What to expect:

- **Introduction to Sky** - meet our friendly Sky team



- **Activity** - You'll get to see what it's like to be a Home Service Engineer at Sky.
- **Networking**- You'll hear from existing apprentices and our field managers, see the equipment used to help our apprentices provide the best customer service and get some useful application hints and tips to help you successfully apply for our opportunities

They're running all of their events out of term time to make it easier for you to attend.

Spaces are limited, so please apply as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Any questions please email earlycareers@sky.uk



EDT Master Class - How to prepare yourself for job hunting

The process of getting your first professional job can be time consuming, intensive and daunting. There are many stages you go through before finally getting that job. This workshop is designed to take you through each stage so you are familiar with them and can better prepare for them.

It will take you through;

- Understanding and developing your CV to maximise your chance of getting an interview
- Preparing yourself for the interview, what to expect and how to conduct yourself
- Psychometric testing, what it is, why it is used and how you can prepare for them
- The Assessment Centre, how they work and how you can stand out from the crowd

This full day workshop:

Thursday 18th April 2019
Central London
9.30am – 3.30pm

It is being offered to any student that registers with the EDT Year in Industry programme for a Reduced rate of £60* (*Your workshop place is confirmed on receipt of payment)

For more information and to book your place on this limited availability workshop, contact Nicola Harris on:-
N.Harris@etrust.org.uk

CMS Solicitor Apprenticeship Presentation Evening



Law . Tax

In September 2019, CMS will be launching their Level 7 Solicitor Apprenticeship Programme.

They're recruiting school and college leavers as solicitor apprentices to join their offices either in London, Bristol or Manchester. On completion of this exciting six-year programme you will be a fully qualified solicitor.

They are providing a fantastic opportunity for a new generation of talented school leavers to join their award-winning firm. You'll complete all formal and informal training requirements to complete the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE) Parts 1 & 2, which will enable you to qualify as a solicitor at the end of the six-year programme. Throughout your apprenticeship, you'll gain experience across a full range of practice groups such as Banking & Finance, Real Estate, Corporate and Dispute Resolution.



To sign up for one of their information evenings, please click visit their website <https://graduates.cms-cmno.com/events>



HIC is one of the largest employers in Bishop's Stortford, due to continued growth they are expanding and have vacancies in a number of positions. If any students are heading towards their final year at school and are looking for a successful established company with big plans for the future HIC could be the answer.

Herts Insurance Consultants are a successful, well-established car insurance broker who have over 25 years' experience trading in Hertfordshire.



With first-rate starting salaries up to £20k, promotional prospects and benefits including:

- Great working atmosphere
- Dress down days
- Full training will be given - experience is not necessary
- Discounted car insurance
- 25 days annual leave plus bank holidays (after 12 months service increasing to 30 days)
- Life assurance scheme
- Up to £500 performance monthly bonuses
- Monthly Office wide competitions with high street vouchers
- Grade 5 staff earn £26,966 per annum and get a day off paid on their birthday!

As we are one of the leading educational facilities locally, they would love to get you started on a long term career path.

If you are interested then please email their CV to jobs@hertsinsurance.com quoting code **StMary1** so they can fast track your application.

If you need information on the roles they have on offer these can be found at www.hertsinsurance.com/careers

To find out what it's like to work at HIC go along to one of their events:

Open evening: **11th April, 5-9pm**

Open day: **13th April, 10-2pm**

2 The Causeway, Bishops Stortford



Following a successful Open Day on Saturday 30th March 2019 **Weston Homes** are pleased to announce that their Apprenticeship Applications are now open for their September 2019 intake.



Apprenticeships

Their Apprenticeship Programmes provide those either leaving education or looking for a career change with structured development opportunities which include:

- Sponsored accredited qualifications
- Practical experience in your chosen career
- Coaching and mentoring
- Personal development training and projects
- Full employment benefits and salary

From Architecture and Construction to Surveying, Sales, Finance and much more, they are very proud of the diverse and exciting career and qualification pathways they offer at Weston Homes.

Whether you're looking to join them as a graduate, have GCSE's, a BTec, HNC/D or A-Levels and want to continue your development without the pressure of student loans – they have the right opportunity for you.

Apply now for the September 2019 intake

They are recruiting for the following opportunities starting in September 2019

Management Trainee x 2
Trainee Accountant x 1
Trainee Architectural Designer x 2
Trainee Architectural Technician x 4
Trainee Buyer x 2
Trainee Customer Service Coordinator x1
Trainee Estimator x 2
Trainee Geo Environmental Technician x 1
Trainee Site Manager x 6
Trainee Surveyor x 2
Trainee Sustainability Consultant x 1

The Recruitment Process

The closing date for applications is 21st April 2019.

Candidates will be contacted via email regardless of outcome by the 10th May 2019.



Successful candidates will be invited to Assessment Centre / Interview on 29th, 30th or 31st May. *(Please note that if you are unable to attend any of the available dates then we will not be able to consider your application on this occasion).*

Following the Assessment Centre candidates will be contacted via email regardless of outcome by the 1st July 2019.

Successful candidates will receive offers by 26th July 2019.

Start dates for successful candidates will start their Apprenticeship / Trainee Programme on 3rd September 2019.

For further information please see the links below:

<https://www.weston-homes.com/careers/apprenticeships/>

If you have any questions or queries relating to careers please contact the careers leader Kate Ward on wardk@haileyburyturnford.com