

Representative's Stamp

Choosing Your Accommodation



Selecting the right student accommodation will have a positive influence on your college life and work, making it easier to settle in and get used to your new surroundings. This fact sheet aims to give you an insight into the benefits of student accommodation, from your first year and beyond.

Making the Right Choice of Accommodation in Your First Year of Study

When you start your first year you will have to make the right choice between living in homestay, living in student residential accommodation or living in privately arranged accommodation – apartment, house share etc. For most students, you are far from home or prefer to be independent. Many students decide that residential accommodation is the right option for their first year away from home. This is because you get your independence whilst still having a range of support facilities available.

Residential accommodation makes student living easier in the first year, as it is likely to be the first time you will have lived away from home. You can be self-sufficient without having to worry about things such as gas bills, electric and council tax, as these will all be taken care of and included in your student accommodation price.

You might feel that you want to do everything yourself, but starting at a new college can be stressful and it is best to keep things simple. There will be a lot to learn in a short space of time; the pressure of making new friends, being in new surroundings and new courses will leave little time for domestic duties. That is why choosing student residential accommodation is the best option in your first year.

Help Close At Hand

In your Residence you will have an RA (Residential Advisor) to help you out. These RA's are usually second or third year students who can use their own first year experiences to familiarise you with residential life. The RA's live in your Residence and can help you out with any issues you might have about settling in and finding your way around.

Although student residential accommodation is advised and has many benefits to it, it is worth considering the potential downsides so that you can come to an informed decision about where you are going to live when attending college. The most commonly reported problem with student accommodation is noise.

However, if noise is a problem then your RA can take a look at the problem and try to come to some sort of arrangement with other students. If you are someone who loves their peace and quiet, be prepared for the occasional disturbance – after all student life is also about having fun and enjoying yourself.

Taylor's College can help place you in one of our preferred Residential Colleges in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane or Auckland.

- Close to the College – no travel costs – saving \$30-\$55 per week
- In the City close to shopping and entertainment – 10 mins walk to the College
- You will be living with many different nationalities where English is the common language
- You will have access to on site entertainment such as large screen plasma TV's, games rooms
- 24 hours on site residential staff/security
- Staff available after hours. Swipe Card access to the building
- Independence – with support from the College and Unilodge Staff
- Meals are available – no grocery shopping or cooking
- Less time spent doing domestic chores – All common areas and bathrooms are cleaned daily
- Greater privacy than homestay or shared accommodation
- No extra costs for electricity, gas or water
- Cheaper alternative to private rental when all is considered **
- There will always be other students about to socialise and make friends with
- Residential Manager organises student activities such as movie nights and day trips
- Purpose built facilities designed for academic and social needs – each student room is fully furnished and contains a study area equipped with desk and study lamp
- Short and long term contracts are available

**Expense Comparisons



EXPENSES	UNILODGE HOSTEL	PRIVATE RENTAL	HOMESTAY
Rent	From \$177 per week	From \$150 per week	\$290 per week
Food	\$21.50 per day – prepared, ready to eat	From \$20 per day – for prepared meals	Nil
Utilities	Nil	Approx \$20 per week	Nil
Travel to College	\$0 – 10 min walk	\$30-55 per week – up to an hour travel time	\$30 – 55 per week – up to an hour travel time
Time for domestic chores	1 hour per week	3-6 hours per week including meal preparation	1 hour per week
Total Costs	From \$328 per week	From \$340 per week	From \$320 per week

Conclusion

There are advantages and disadvantages to all types of student accommodation, and where you decide to live really depends upon your individual needs.

For those of you who are new to living on your own, student residential accommodation is the best option in your first year. You will make friends more quickly which will help you to settle into life away from home, and this will make your time at college more fun and productive. Once you feel you have settled into student life, you can always choose private accommodation in your second or third years.

Student accommodation is the best way to get involved in college life and settle in to a new place. You will learn a lot about yourself. Student residential accommodation, is highly recommended to give you the best all-round experience whilst you study.