

Accommodation

There are different accommodation options available to students. These choices range from living at home with your parents, to boarding with family friends, renting privately, living on campus at residences or living in a share house. Consider carefully the costs involved and whether the accommodation option suits your needs.

On campus accommodation

All UWS campuses offer residential student accommodation. Costs and availability of accommodation vary according to the campus and/or the type of facilities. For further information and enquiries about the Bankstown, Nirimba, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury and Penrith campuses view residences.uws.edu.au. For information about accommodation on the Parramatta campus, visit uwsvillage.com.au.

Off campus options

There are various off campus options including:

- private arrangement - living with friends, partner or family, with certain conditions (e.g. in exchange for help around the house or contributing to expenses)
- boarding - living in someone else's house, paying rent to use a room and certain facilities
- share house - living with a group of people, sharing rent, bills and facilities
- private rental - applying for accommodation and signing a lease agreement
- social housing (community or public housing) - discounted long term housing and emergency or crisis housing assistance through Housing NSW

Make sure you are aware of the costs involved including bills, costs in connecting utilities, setting up your place with furniture and electrical items. Upfront costs can also include rent in advance (a maximum of two weeks) and a bond (maximum four weeks rent) as a security deposit.

There are processes and applications involved in gaining a rental property. For information about leases and tenancy agreements see www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

Where to look for rental accommodation?

- UWS Living Local website - people in the community advertise accommodation close to UWS campuses. This service is operated by the UWS Student Welfare Service www.uws.edu.au/livinglocal
- local newspapers
- real estate offices - advertised at individual offices or internet sites including www.realestate.com.au or www.domain.com.au
- Sydney Gumtree - free advertising site listing share accommodation and private options www.gumtree.com.au
- share accommodation - www.shareaccommodation.org
www.flatmates.com.au
<http://au.easyroommate.com>
- UWS noticeboards

Getting help

- Housing NSW - those experiencing severe financial hardship may be eligible for assistance. This may mean getting financial assistance with your bond or rent or being put on a waiting list for discounted accommodation. Assistance is also available to those who need emergency housing including those escaping a domestically violent relationship or those at risk of homelessness www.housing.nsw.gov.au
- Centrelink - you may be eligible for rent assistance if you are in a private rental www.centrelink.gov.au
- Tenants NSW - for advice about tenancy disputes or issues www.tenants.org.au
- UWS Student Welfare Service - offers advice or possible emergency financial assistance www.uws.edu.au/welfareservice
- Money Stuff - information about renting and the application process www.moneystuff.net.au