

# When you live away from home

**Starting university or college can present many challenges to new students, especially if you are living away from home for the first time.**

As well as adjusting to much larger class sizes, you will experience the challenges of meeting the academic expectations of your new lecturers and tutors, and having to be more self-directed in your learning. And when you are living away from home you will need to adapt quickly to independent living, whether you choose to live by yourself or share an apartment with other students. In fact, research indicates that students unhappy with their living arrangements are more likely to not perform well academically.

Do some research on accommodation available close to where you are studying before you leave home. This is very easy to do with a lot of student



housing information on the web. The best way to start is to type in a search term such as "student accommodation Melbourne" (or the city where you are studying). You will immediately see a lot of choices and types of accommodation for students and credible providers

will include useful information about the property's features.

When you are looking at sites listed on the web, read all the information carefully so you are clear about lease terms, booking procedures, inclusions etc.

Choose accommodation that is

specifically designed for students, and preferably is well known and highly regarded by the education institution at which you will be studying. That way you will be confident that the facilities and services provided will meet your needs as a student. And it will help

you make friends more easily.

Book early - the earlier you book the best chance you will have for getting accommodation of your choice - especially now that rental properties in Australian cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are in short supply. And properties located close to where you will be studying, as well as shops and transport will be in even higher demand.

Note that what appears at first to be the cheapest may not be in the long run when you add all the other costs you may need to bear, eg transport costs, traveling time to and from campus, furnishing costs (eg study desks) if the place you choose to live is not fully furnished, internet and phone connection fees.

Choose somewhere which provides facilities and services which make meeting other students and making friends easier. For example places with common lounge areas, and on site staff to help you settle in.



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