

A guide to accommodation options
at Goldsmiths for 2011-12

Accommodation at Goldsmiths



Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Goldsmiths, University of London has signed up to the Universities UK Code of Practice for University-Managed Student Accommodation. See www.universitiesuk.ac.uk for details.



We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. Please contact the Admissions Office **+44 (0)20 7078 5300**, e-mail admissions@gold.ac.uk or visit www.gold.ac.uk/disability.

Accommodation Application Process



Accommodation at Goldsmiths

With just over 1,000 places in Goldsmiths accommodation within walking distance of the campus (most less than five minutes away), Goldsmiths offers a choice of good quality, reasonably priced accommodation, with rents comparable to similar universities in London.

Introduction

At Goldsmiths, we realise that choosing where to live will be one of the most significant decisions you will have to make at university. We hope that this booklet will answer your important questions about accommodation at Goldsmiths.

What are the options?

Goldsmiths' Accommodation Office can help you with the main accommodation options open to our students. We deal with all applications to live in a Goldsmiths hall of residence and those applications for intercollegiate halls (catered halls in central London, owned by the University of London). Because halls are not for everyone we work closely with the University of London Housing Services (ULHS) to make sure that it's relatively easy to find good quality accommodation in South East London. We also work with Hosts International to provide accommodation to singles, couples and families on both a short and long term basis. See page 24 for details.

What's New Cross like?

New Cross is a multicultural community in South East London. It's close to major road and rail links into Central London, so it's busy! You may take time to adjust if you are not used to the City environment, so allow yourself a few weeks to get used to your surroundings. Advantages of living in New Cross include relatively low costs, the availability of different types of food and local facilities, and quick transport links to Central London and the rest of the UK and northern Europe.

What if I already live in London?

Allocations are made according to the date your application is received in the accommodation office (ie generally when your academic offer is unconditional and has been firmly accepted by you) followed by the distance you have to travel to the University. We house those students who live outside of the London Zones (1-9) first. We encourage all London students to apply for accommodation, however it is unlikely we will be able to house you until after the start of term. We will have a limited number of places available throughout the first term but we are most likely to be able to house you from the beginning of the second term (January).

What if I have a disability?

Goldsmiths has rooms in its halls of residence which are, or can be, adapted for students with physical or sensory disabilities. We work closely with every student and the disability team in providing adjustments to assist with the student's specific requirements. This includes equipment to assist with hearing and sight, as well as severe physical disabilities. Please contact us directly to discuss your needs and arrange a visit if necessary.

For general enquiries or assistance concerning special requirements, contact the Disability Co-ordinator, e-mail disability@gold.ac.uk or tel +44 (0)20 7919 2292. For specific accommodation enquiries or assistance, e-mail accommodation@gold.ac.uk or tel +44 (0)20 7919 7130.





Goldsmiths halls

Goldsmiths has eight halls of residence, all within 20 minutes' walk of the College's Main Building (the Richard Hoggart Building) – with most around five minutes' walk away.

Please note that accommodation in halls is not guaranteed and that nearly all of our accommodation is for single occupancy only. However we do have a very limited number of double/twin studios suitable for a couple.

Where are the halls located?

The map on page 26 of this booklet shows the location of halls in relation to Goldsmiths' campus.

What are the halls like?

There are just over 1,000 places in studio, cluster flats, converted period houses, and purpose-built residences; over 850 rooms have their own en suite facilities: with showers, washbasins and toilets.

We have three types of hall set-up:

- flat (apartment) layout with 4 to 8 people sharing.
- corridor layout with 10 to 25 rooms on a corridor or
- studio flat (self-contained)

'Standard' halls, found within corridor layouts, have shared toilet and bathroom facilities as well as shared kitchen/dining areas. Although some standard rooms are furnished with a wash basin please note that not all rooms have this facility. Those students that are allocated such rooms will receive a slightly discounted rent. 'En suite' halls, in both flat and corridor layouts, have their own small, separate shower room containing toilet, wash hand basin and shower with a shared kitchen/dining area. Studio flats are self contained with own personal kitchenette, shower, toilet and washbasin.

We try to ensure that the environment of our halls is appropriate for studying, so there are rules and regulations which we expect residents to follow (details of such regulations will be sent if you are successfully allocated a place in hall). Goldsmiths also has Health and Safety and constitutional obligations which do not apply to normal landlords. This means that we regularly require access to rooms, where possible notice is provided but we are unable to provide specific timeslots. If you are used to independent living and are not used to being flexible in your living practices, you should consider whether a hall of residence is appropriate for you.

What services can I expect in halls?

Administrative staff: each hall has administrative staff on site or in a nearby building who can help during the day. Receptionists at Loring Management Centre can answer your general enquiries about all halls. Loring Management Centre is also where the Accommodation Services team (Accommodation Office and Halls Finance) and Residential Services team (Maintenance, Housekeeping etc) are located. Both Surrey House and Raymont Hall have a member of staff on site.

Bedding: bed linen is not provided, but you can buy a bed pack containing a duvet (comforter), pillow, two sheets, two pillowcases and one duvet (comforter) cover. There are details of how to order these in the accommodation offer pack sent to successful applicants in the summer.

Car parking: there is no parking on campus for students, except those with valid disabled badges.

Cleaning: all halls have a cleaning and refuse removal service. Kitchens and communal areas are cleaned, and refuse removed, regularly during the week (except on national holidays or College closure days).

Residents are expected to keep halls in a tidy state for domestic staff to be able to clean effectively, and are responsible for cleaning their own rooms throughout the year, and where appropriate en suite bathrooms. For Mcmillan studios, residents are responsible for the removal of their rubbish.

Internet: most halls have the facility to connect to the internet. This ranges from direct room access, wireless common rooms or personal telephone lines (private contracts would be required). Please be aware that where internet is available in rooms it is hard wired and requires a cable (available for purchase at Loring Hall Management Centre). Batavia Mews does not currently have University installed internet access but personal internet contracts can be arranged by students.

Kitchen equipment: a kettle, microwave oven, iron and ironing board are provided for your use. We suggest that you only bring basic items with you, as you may find storage space limited. To reduce waste at the end of the year, we encourage you to share equipment and to always re-use and recycle where possible.

Maintenance: the Residential Services team work closely with the College's Estates team to provide a maintenance service to residents. If you report a maintenance fault before 1pm on a standard working day, within two working days it will be fixed or reported to the relevant Estates tradesmen or contractors for further action.

Resident Assistants (RAs): these are mainly postgraduate students who work outside standard administrative staff working hours to provide support for students with any problems they may have: from emergency maintenance issues, dealing with anti-social behaviour to academic concerns.

Security: outside standard administrative staff working hours, the College has security officers near the entrance of certain halls, or regularly patrolling the halls and grounds. They will answer any urgent queries, or help with emergencies by calling emergency services, out-of-hours tradesmen or duty managers.

Single rooms: most rooms in halls are for one occupant. We do have a limited number of couples and twin studio flats available.



How much will it cost?

Goldsmiths hall fees are competitive with other Universities in London and local private sector hall providers. The fees for halls for 2011-12 have not yet been set, so we have shown the costs of halls for 2010-11. You can expect costs to increase by approximately 5% on these figures.

Please note that once you have committed to a hall place, you are financially responsible for that place until the end of the agreement period (generally 40 weeks for undergraduates and 50 weeks for postgraduates) unless you withdraw from your course or a suitable replacement is found, generally by you. You will need to consult the Accommodation Administrator when undertaking this process. Please remember that the contract is with you, the resident, even if you are receiving financial help from elsewhere.

Gas, water and electricity costs are included in these fees.

Hall 2009-10	McMillan Student Village	Batavia Mews	Chesterman House	Dean House	Loring Hall	Raymont Hall	Surrey House	Surrey House Annexe
Weekly Rent*	£161-£202	£91.50	£124	£124	£124	£113	£96.15	£124
Contract Length	40-42 weeks	40-50	40	50	40	40-50	40	40
Type of Hall	Studio	Standard	En suite	En suite	En suite	En suite	Standard	En suite
Hall Layout	Studio	Corridor	Cluster	Cluster	Cluster	Corridor	Corridor	Cluster
Distance from Campus	20 mins	5 mins	5 mins	5 mins	5 mins	20 mins	5 mins	5 mins

*Please note that variable rates apply for Study Abroad students if your period of study is on a short-term basis (ie one or two terms only). Please visit www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/accommodation for the latest information on current accommodation fees.

Is financial help available?

Goldsmiths' Student Residential Hardship Bursary is designed to offer assistance with accommodation costs (by discounted fees of up to 20%) to students from low-income families. The Bursary does not need to be repaid, and is only available to UK and EU students living in Goldsmiths halls*. Bursaries are not given to help pay for private rented accommodation. For further information, please contact the Student Funding and Information Office, tel +44 (0)20 7919 7757, e-mail student-supp@gold.ac.uk.

***Please note that application forms will only be available to students who are fully enrolled on course.**





Applying

How and when can I apply for halls?

Prior to Easter before the year in which you will be starting at Goldsmiths, the Admissions or International office will send information, via e-mail, to all students who have an academic offer. Please complete and return the application form as soon as possible. The Admissions Office or International Office, as appropriate, will then hold the application form until your academic offer is unconditional and you have firmly accepted your academic place.

Please note that we are unable to guarantee accommodation. We allocate places depending on the date the application is received in the Accommodation Office (ie generally only after your course offer is unconditional and has been firmly accepted) followed by the distance you have to travel to the College.

To stand the best chance of gaining accommodation please make sure you have firmly accepted your offer at Goldsmiths and your accommodation application form is emailed to the admissions/international office by 7 June 2011. As a general rule, applications received after 31 July for postgraduates and mid-August for undergraduates will be placed on our waiting list, as we have usually allocated all available places.

We understand that students are anxious to hear whether they have successfully been allocated a hall place. We endeavour to communicate with such students and provide regular updates. If you are not successfully allocated a place, guidance and information regarding private sector accommodation will be available on our website.

The Accommodation Office starts to send out accommodation offers in June using the e-mail address that you have given on your application form. To confirm that you want to accept the place, please immediately return the accommodation agreements, deposit payment, two passport sized photographs of yourself and provide information regarding your termly payments (details are in the accommodation offer pack you will be sent).

How are hall places allocated?

We give priority to undergraduate first year students and those postgraduates attending College for the first time. We generally house undergraduate and postgraduate students separately, depending on availability and demand. Students of similar ages are placed together where possible. In all halls, there is a mix of UK, EU and International students.



Other information

What else do I need to know?

Guests: you may have a guest staying in your room for no longer than three nights in any seven. The Accommodation Office holds a list of alternative accommodation for guests; none of these are endorsed by the College so you might like to visit before booking. Guests will be expected to sign in.

Insurance: you will need to extend your parents' home insurance policy, have extensive travel insurance, or take out a separate insurance policy on arrival to cover the contents of your room. We cannot give out room numbers until the day of arrival, so you will need to arrange your insurance once you have arrived. We have information available during move in weekend to help you do this.

Leaving hall part way through the year: if you decide to leave before the end date on your accommodation agreement, you will have to pay for the room unless you withdraw from course or a suitable replacement is found for your room, generally by you. Accommodation agreements are usually for a period of 40 weeks for undergraduates and 50 weeks for postgraduates, though some courses with non-standard dates also have different accommodation dates. Postgraduates cannot be released from their accommodation agreement in order to go home to 'write up' or carry out research. Please consider this when applying for accommodation: a six-month short assured tenancy in the private sector may suit you better.

Moving rooms: rooms are allocated as described on page 15, unless you have indicated specific disability requirements in advance. If you do not like your room, you can apply to move rooms after the fifth taught week of the Autumn term (around early November). There are no exceptions to this, as it is our priority to allocate places to those who are living in temporary accommodation or a long distance from College. We charge an administrative fee of £50 for a room move.

Smoking: All of our halls are now non-smoking; this includes all communal areas and each individual study bedroom. The only exception to this is MacMillan where smoking is permitted in the studio flats.

Things to bring: we advise that you bring (or buy shortly after arriving) bedding (mattresses are 90cm x 190cm), a desk lamp (some rooms do have a lamp built in above the desk), a small amount of kitchen equipment (see page 10), and clothing for different types of weather. UK students should note that it is hard to fit much more than you can comfortably fit into a family car into the space that you have. If you need a van, you're bringing too much!



Summary

Is financial help available?	Yes, there are bursaries for students from low income families, contact the Student Funding and Information Office for more information.
How and when can I apply for halls?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – You will be e-mailed by the International Office or Admissions Office prior to Easter with an application form and information on halls. – Complete and return the form via email – Form held by the above offices until academic offers are unconditional and firmly accepted – Accommodation offers made from June onwards – See page 15
How are hall places allocated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We allocate places depending on the date the application is received in the Accommodation Office followed by the distance you have to travel to the college – Postgraduates and undergraduates, generally housed separately where possible – Similar age groups together – Mixed courses and nationalities
What else do you need to know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bring bedding, desk lamp, small amount of kitchen equipment, clothing for all weathers – Take out insurance after you have arrived – You can have a guest in your room for a maximum of three nights in any seven – Excluding Macmillan Studios there is no smoking in any areas of hall buildings including bedrooms; only in grounds – You will not be able to move rooms until early November – You can't move out during the year unless you withdraw from course or find a suitable replacement

What's New Cross like?	Busy and multicultural
What if I already live in London?	Apply, but note that London applicants are generally placed on a waiting list until a suitable place becomes available. This may be during the first term but is more likely to be at the beginning of the second (January).
What if I have a disability?	We work with each student individually to meet specific requirement/adaptations
What services can I expect in halls?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Administrative staff, 9am-5pm weekdays – Domestic staff, 9am-noon weekdays – Maintenance staff, 9am-5pm weekdays – Resident Assistants and Security staff, out of office hours – Most Halls have the facility to connect to the internet (see page 10) – Kettles, microwaves, irons and ironing boards – Single, double or twin occupancy – No car parking
How much will it cost?	Rents range between £91.50-£202 (2010-11). (This includes gas, water and electricity costs)
What are the halls like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Corridor or flat/apartment layout – Standard with all facilities shared – En suite (with a shower, toilet and wash hand basin) with shared kitchen/dining facilities – Studio (with own kitchenette, shower, toilet and wash basin) – Rules and regulations support an appropriate environment for study



Alternatives to halls

We understand that halls are not for everyone and we work hard to provide alternatives. We are also aware that as we are not able to guarantee rooms some students may be looking for short term solutions whilst waiting for a halls place to become available.

Private rented accommodation

Goldsmiths' Accommodation Office works closely with the University of London Housing Services (ULHS) to provide a private rented accommodation resource. There is an enormous amount of information about living in the private sector on the ULHS website, including advice and reminders of things to think about when looking for accommodation in London. www.housing.lon.ac.uk

Through the ULHS website, you can search for properties on their database in all areas of London including South East London. There is the security of knowing that everyone on that database has agreed to abide by a code of practice set by the ULHS.

There are properties which you can rent directly from the landlord or rooms which you can rent where the landlord lives within the building. There are also properties which are managed by the ULHS or their registered estate agencies.

Find a flatmate

You might know that you don't want to live in halls but you may not have anyone else to live with. If this is your situation and you would like to find other Goldsmiths students in a similar position our Students Union run events in the summer to help you. They also run a 'marketplace' on their web site which advertises spare rooms in the local area, mostly sharing with other Goldsmiths students. For more information please visit www.goldsmithssu.org

The ULHS website also has a searchable database to find a flatmate if you would prefer the independence of living in the private rented sector but don't know anyone in London to do this with.

Home stay and short stay

If you are looking for a more supported, family environment, we work closely with Hosts International (www.hosts-international.com) to provide accommodation with local families. Although open to all, this option is particularly popular with our non-UK students as it gives an excellent opportunity to experience British family life. These stays mostly include breakfast and an evening meal and are available from £150 per week for a single room. With this option there is no designated contract length so you can stay for as little as 2 weeks which is also useful if you are waiting for a halls place to become available or simply visiting the area before you commence your studies.

Hosts international also offer a number of self catering rooms in shared houses, close to Goldsmiths and bookable on a weekly basis. For further information please visit the website above.

Contact us

Family accommodation

If you are moving to London with your family, we would strongly advise you to travel to London alone in the first instance to find suitable accommodation before your family joins you. Unfortunately, we do not have any provision on campus but the ULHS, Hosts International and Intercollegiate halls all have options. Please contact the accommodation office and we can help you to explore these.

Catered halls (Intercollegiate)

If you would like to have all of your meals provided for you as part of your halls experience you might consider living in an Intercollegiate hall of residence. These halls are based in Central London and house between 200 and 400+ students who are studying at all of the University of London Colleges, not just Goldsmiths. Prices range from £166.60 to £200.00 per week depending on halls and facilities (2010-11 costs). Most of the places are for individual students with some shared rooms; two halls have facilities for couples and families. If you would like information about InterCollegiate halls, please visit www.gold.ac.uk/accommodation

Goldsmiths and InterCollegiate hall accommodation

Accommodation Office

Goldsmiths, University of London
Loring Management Centre
St James
New Cross
London
SE14 6AD
UK

Telephone +44 (0)20 7919 7130
Fax +44 (0)20 7919 7269
E-mail accommodation@gold.ac.uk

Find current information about all accommodation options at www.gold.ac.uk/accommodation

Private Rented Accommodation

University of London Housing Services (ULHS)

University of London Union Building
4th Floor
Malet Street
London
WC1E 7HY

Telephone +44 (0)20 7862 8880
Fax +44 (0)20 7862 8084
E-mail housing@lon.ac.uk
www.housing.lon.ac.uk

The halls



McMillan Student Village

Dean House

Batavia Mews

Chesterman House

Goldsmiths

Loring Hall

Surrey House Hall

To Raymont Hall

Disclaimer

The information in this booklet was correct in January 2011. Whilst it is as far as possible accurate at the date of publication, and Goldsmiths will attempt to inform applicants of any substantial changes in the information contained in it, Goldsmiths does not intend by publication of the booklet to create any contractual or other legal relation with applicants, accepted students, their advisers or any other person. Goldsmiths is unable to accept liability for the cancellation of proposed programmes of study prior to their scheduled start; in the event of such cancellation, and where possible, Goldsmiths will take reasonable steps to transfer students affected by the cancellation to similar or related programmes of study. Please see the Terms and Conditions in the Undergraduate Prospectus.

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