

Adapted rooms policy

The University of Leicester endeavours to make reasonable adjustments to support individuals who, due to disability, a long-term medical condition or sensory or physical impairment require adapted accommodation or a particular location to help them participate fully and enjoy a fulfilling university experience.

We are committed to:

- equal opportunities;
- making residencies accessible to all;
- welcoming and supporting students who have a particular need or disability.

Prospective students and current students should contact our AccessAbility Service to discuss their accommodation requirements and should be aware that medical evidence is required to support all accommodation requests for adapted rooms. The requirements are listed below:

- contain a diagnosis of the disability or medical condition stated on your application;
- evidence should be no more than one year old;
- signed by a doctor or other medical professional;
- printed on headed paper.

We can't accept medical evidence that:

- has been provided by a family member;
- is submitted as an electronic document, like Microsoft Word.

We have a limited number of adapted and accessible rooms so students should apply as early as possible for their accommodation and contact AccessAbility Services (accessible@le.ac.uk) to discuss arrangements so that any reasonable adjustments can be implemented before a student arrives. Below is a breakdown of the application process for both prospective and current students.

Request for adapted accommodation

The deadline for completion of applications to guarantee accommodation in your first year of study at the University is 1st September though we encourage the application to be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

When completing your request for accommodation, please think carefully about how your accommodation can help you manage your illness or disability. The following are examples of indicative adjustments and equipment that could be added to the details of your request.

- Accommodation near to the main campus
- Accessible parking near the accommodation
- Ground floor accommodation
- Accommodation with a lift
- Wheelchair accessible accommodation
- Wheelchair/scooter storage space
- Automatic doors to the flat and room
- Hoist (either fixed or mobile)
- An ensuite bathroom
- Adapted bathroom/toilet (shower seat, grab rails, height adjusted facilities)
- Alarm pull cords in the bedroom and/or the bathroom
- A kitchen with height adjustable facilities
- Deaf Guard pillow
- Flashing fire alarm
- A fridge in the room

- Space for specialised furniture
- A carer's living space – charged at normal rent for the contract period chosen
- Facilities for a guide/assistance dog registered with an organisation such as Guide Dogs UK or Assistance Dogs International

The adapted rooms usually have a larger bathroom than other rooms. Further information can be found on our accommodation webpages, such as on bed sizes. Special facilities requested, such as a vibrating pillow for those with impaired hearing, will be issued to residents who require them for health and safety purposes.

We will try to match individuals to suitable accommodation but if further adaptations are required these can be arranged. However, we ask students to visit or engage in fuller discussions in advance so that the University can make reasonable adjustments in a timely and appropriate manner. If you decide not to engage with us at an early stage, we cannot guarantee that your requirements will be met by the time you begin your course.

Bringing your specialist furniture or equipment with you

Should a student wish to bring specialist equipment or furniture with them, an occupational therapist assessment report should be provided to AccessAbility. This will help ensure that we can provide the student with the best adapted room to meet their needs.

Room subsidy

Students who might incur additional costs for en-suite, studio or flat accommodation as a direct result of a disability may be eligible for a subsidy towards these costs on disability grounds. The subsidy is offered by the University of Leicester and is only applicable to students who will be resident in a residence where the University issues the contract (i.e. residences in The Village or The City, this will not cover private accommodation).

- Students can apply for the rent subsidy if they require an en-suite, studio or flat in University contracted accommodation due to their disability and/or health needs
- If you are supported by a resident carer for personal care assistance you will be able to apply for the subsidy for their accommodation as well as your own

The subsidy will not automatically be awarded to students with a disclosed disabilities who are in an en-suite, studio or flat in University contracted accommodation; instead you will need to apply annually via AccessAbility if you meet the criteria. After your first year, the reassessment will form part of the process to support your accommodation application as a returning student.

The subsidy will be calculated annually and will be credited to your account on a termly basis (in line with the rent payment dates).

For 2023/24 the subsidy will reduce the required room rate to the average weekly cost of a Single Bedroom with Washbasin.

Academic year	Weekly rate	Nightly rate
2023/2024	£112.00	£16.00

If your application is received after the start of the contract period then the subsidy will apply on a pro-rotta basis, starting from the date you requested the assessment.

Criteria

You are eligible to apply if you meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. A requirement for an en-suite, studio or flat in University contracted accommodation as a result of a physical disability i.e. mobility difficulty/wheelchair user, where specific accessibility requirements prevent you from sharing bathroom facilities with others.
2. A requirement for an en-suite, studio or flat in University contracted accommodation as a result of a sensory disability e.g. visual impairment, that prevents you from maintaining independence when sharing bathroom facilities because other students impact on the accessibility or usability of the shared space.
3. A requirement for an en-suite, studio or flat in University contracted accommodation as a result of an unseen condition such as a mental health disability, autism spectrum condition or a medical condition that prevents you from using shared bathroom facilities without a substantial impact on your wellbeing and ability to carry out self-care activities.
4. A requirement for an additional room to be used by a carer or support worker. Please note all of our bed space are single occupancy (except where a flat has multiple bedrooms).
5. Exceptional cases where a requirement for an en-suite, studio or flat accommodation is considered appropriate by Senior Student Support Services staff, based on evidence of ongoing difficulties that substantially impact on your ability to use shared bathroom facilities.

Personal convenience or preference do not form part of the criteria and will not be considered.

Travel to campus

Designated parking spaces are available at most residences for disabled persons, parking permits are charged at an annual rate. If you require a disabled parking at the academic campus please refer to the University of Leicester Parking Policy.

The University shuttle bus service provides regular buses, during term time, from The Village to the main academic campus. This service supports wheel chair access. In some circumstances we will be able to provide the yearly bus pass free of charge, this will be agreed with the University AccessAbility Service.

Application Process

We have a specific process for you to follow should you wish to be considered for this subsidy by the University. If you meet the criteria and wish to apply, please contact the [AccessAbility team](#) and ask for support with accommodation in line with the adapted room policy. Wellbeing Services will then review your application alongside any supporting evidence and advise you of their decision.

Once the application has been confirmed by the AccessAbility team you will be able to apply for accommodation using the University of Leicester accommodation portal and will receive an

accommodation offer based on your assessment.

The deadline for completion of applications to guarantee accommodation in your first year of study at the University is 1st September though we encourage the application to be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

If you have any general enquiries relating to accommodation please contact the Accommodation Team on accommodation@le.ac.uk or +44 (0)116 252 2428.