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STUDENT RESIDENTIAL COMPLEXES

Single or twin share (two people per room) rooms are offered in a three to six bedroom apartment located inside a secure residential complex. They are accompanied by communal bathrooms, kitchen, dining, and living room.

Strengths:

- Easy to meet other students
- Minimum tasks - more free time

Concerns:

- Possibly noisy due to high density of students
- Stricter rules than share houses
- Generally more expensive

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Residential Colleges normally provide students with a single bedroom with a study desk, shared bathrooms, common rooms and a dining hall.

Meals are usually provided at set times and residents are encouraged to become part of the college community. Students with special dietary requirements should check with the college.

Students are expected to stay for at least one semester. Some college residences provide kitchen facilities so students can choose to cook their own meals.

Useful Contacts

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AUTHORITY (RTA)

The RTA oversees the laws governing rental leases and rental properties in Queensland.

The law provides tenants, landlords, and agents with an understanding of their rights and responsibilities when renting. Their "Pocket guide for tenants" is a great quick and easy read for all new tenants.

Receive advice on:

- What to do when you are starting a tenancy
- Your tenant rights and legal responsibilities
- How to ensure to get your full bond back
- What to do if you have a problem whilst renting

Phone: 1300 366 311

Website: www.rta.qld.gov.au/Renting

QSTARS

QSTARS offers excellent free advice over the phone and useful publications that are available in several languages. Be sure to check out their website to easily understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

Phone: 1300 744 263
9am - 5pm (Mon - Fri)
extended hours until 7pm on
Tuesday and Wednesday

Website: www.qstars.org.au

Email: mail@tenantsqld.org.au

* tenancy advice is not available via email

Accommodation

WHO WE ARE

Finding somewhere to live is probably one of your greatest concerns on arrival. QUT Accommodation Service can assist you in locating accommodation that suits your needs and make arrangements for you to settle in.

The Accommodation Office can liaise with landlords and real estate agents on your behalf. We can provide assistance to students on any tenancy issues.

You can make an appointment to discuss your accommodation needs by calling:
3138 2019 (GP Campus) or
3138 3963 (KG Campus)

You can also email us at accommodation@qut.edu.au.

We can provide extensive support for newly arrived international, and domestic students (rural & regional). If you have recently arrived in Brisbane, Accommodation Services can provide advice and transport for you when inspecting accommodation.

Search for accommodation online at:
<http://qut.studystays.com.au>

TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION

- Rental properties
- Share house / unit
- Homestay
- Student residential complexes
- Residential colleges

ACCOMMODATION SCAM ALERT

When searching for accommodation, you may come across listings that appear suspicious.

While many accommodation listings are genuine, unfortunately from time to time, people come across scams (being conned). We advise you to be cautious when searching to avoid being scammed.

Note: NEVER pay money or give ID details to anyone without first meeting them and seeing the accommodation in person – regardless of how urgent or important it is to secure a place.

Scammers can be males or females of any age and provide all sorts of reasons to rent out the accommodation without you seeing it or them first. They often use enticing photos and low prices to attract you. Always be on the lookout.

If you have any concerns, call, email, or pop in to your closest QUT Accommodation office.

Searching For Accommodation

FIGURING OUT YOUR NEEDS

Finding accommodation is dependent on what is most important to you.

Some questions you should be asking yourself include:

- How flexible is my budget?
- Do I need meals provided?
- Can I share a house with others?
- Does it have to be fully-furnished?
- Is it close to major shopping centres?
- Do I need full security?
- Is it close to campus?

See **Info Sheet: Money Matters** to figure out a workable budget.

Once you know what your preferences are, decide on the type of accommodation that best suits your needs.

Be prepared to be flexible and change your preferences according to the accommodation available at that time.

ASSESSING AVAILABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Accommodation Office can give you a realistic picture of what to expect. Is what you are looking for available immediately, are you prepared to wait, or perhaps change your preferences?

A general tip is to ask as much as you can over the phone before inspecting the property. Ask the most important questions first, such as the length of the lease, followed by utilities, etc.

INSPECTING SUITABLE PLACE AND MAKING A DECISION

Use a checklist when inspecting possible accommodation. Don't be afraid to ask questions and be direct. It is in your interest to know what is involved in starting a tenancy and what your legal obligations are.

BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION

Review all the pros and cons of the properties you are interested in. Don't be afraid to ask any questions, even if you think they are too personal.

Never feel pressured or obligated to move somewhere that you do not think is suitable to your needs.

Always inspect the accommodation thoroughly. Make a check-list of faults as you go through the place. Try to bring another person with you as a witness of these faults.

Once you have made up your mind, we will do our best to help you secure your accommodation. Please don't hesitate to consult us if you have any questions or need help making a decision.

**IF UNSURE, DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING
CHECK WITH US FIRST**

Types Of Accommodation

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Rental Properties are offered as furnished or unfurnished. Other costs may include electricity, gas, water, and telephone.
(See **Info Sheet: Moving In** for more details)

Strengths:

- Quiet study environment
- Greatest independence & personal freedom
- Reduced costs if sharing
- Freedom to choose compatible housemates

Concerns:

- Bond/rental agreements: 6 months minimum
- Provision of furniture / utensils / appliances
- Highest establishment cost
- More household tasks - reduced study time
- Expensive (if renting alone)
- Less external cultural / language interaction

SHARE HOUSE / UNIT

A single bedroom (private) with access to bathrooms, kitchen, living and dining spaces (communal).

Strengths:

- Greater independence in lifestyle & food
- Expand social network
- Reduced weekly costs & greater control over weekly expenses
- Opportunity to increase cultural awareness
- Mutually supportive environment

Concerns:

- Personal difficulties with fellow sharers
- Provision of furniture / utensils / appliances
- High establishment costs
- Diminished "family" support
- Communication / cultural differences

For more information, please go to:
<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/student/student-life/accommodation-and-living-in-brisbane/accommodation>

HOMESTAY

A weekly rent covers all expenses associated with food and shelter, including meals. Students have their own bedroom with study facilities. The homestay provider may be either a single person or a family.

Strengths:

- Secure "family" environment
- Daily needs catered for
- Opportunity to increase cultural awareness and English language skills
- Not restricted to a fixed period
- No other establishment costs

Concerns:

- Communication / cultural differences
- Type of food provided
- Study distractions - noise
- Living with a family - rules & restrictions

For more information, please go to:
<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/international-students/homestay>