



# Accommodation GUIDE

Everything you need  
to know to find your  
ideal home!



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Let's begin !



# BEFORE YOU START



## 1 Start searching early !

**As soon as you know your destination** and even before it is assigned to you, search and compare all available verified options online.

You have sites like [Erasmus Play](#) at your disposal to compare prices and options.

## 2 Know your budget

It is essential to **know in advance your budget and the costs you will have to cover each month** of the year, so that you can choose accommodation that you can afford as it will be your **main source of expenses**.

### The first month you will have to pay:

- the first month's rent,
- the deposit,
- the booking fee, if applicable.

### The rest of the year:

- your monthly rent,
- electricity / gas and internet bills if they are not included in the rent,
- other costs not related to accommodation: studies, transport, food expenses, entertainment, etc.

Don't forget you can ask for the Erasmus grant!



[How to apply ?](#)

Even if grants are a great help to get off on the right foot, it is advisable to carefully **anticipate** your budget, as it can **vary a lot depending on the destination**.



3

### Understand the rental process

Renting in most European countries is very similar: you **agree on the monthly payment** with the landlord and **sign a rental contract**. You pay the first month and a deposit. Through this simple process in many countries the accommodation is now rented to you.



**Additionally, in countries like France and Germany** you will need a Guarantor (a person who earns 3 times the price of your rent and guarantees to pay for you in case you are unable to pay). Some accommodation platforms or some companies can stand in as Guarantor for you for free or for a low subscription price.

In Germany, the landlords might even want to interview you and ask to prove that you are a student.

## EXPERT TIPS



**Location:** know where your university/faculty is located and check the most convenient neighbourhoods for students to live in.



For your first search, **don't apply too many filters** as this would greatly limit the offers that will be shown.



**Beware of SCAMS!** Don't trust anything that is too good to be true, very cheap prices for incredible location and nice accommodation.



Use google maps to check how far the accommodation is from your place of studies.



Be sceptical of landlords asking you to send money to their account or through Western Union. **Always try to use a safe platform to book.**



Try your best to **visit the accommodation** in person or know that it is **verified** before making any payments.

# WHICH TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION IS RIGHT FOR YOU ?



## SHARED APARTMENT

- Cheap
- Social life
- Shared chores
- Easy friendship



## PRIVATE STUDIO

- Independent
- Expensive
- Less social life
- Few options



## STUDENT RESIDENCE

- Expensive
- Social life
- Strict rules
- Support



## HOMESTAY

- Cultural lessons
- Less freedom
- Strict rules
- Less social life



Analyse each housing option with its advantages and disadvantages to choose the most suitable type of housing for your lifestyle and needs.

You can also read our blog article about it : [Student flat or hall of residence: which is the best option?](#)

## IMPORTANT CRITERIAS



### Interior vs Exterior light

Do you want to have direct sunlight or to use artificial light every day?



### Furniture & Appliances

You are only going to stay for some months. Having it furnished is the best option as not to spend more money.



### Transport

How far is it from your place of study/the city centre ? Is there good public transport connections? Is it a good neighbourhood?



### Quiet vs Active Areas

Is it a good neighbourhood or is it an active one where you can not get a good night sleep?





## UNDERSTAND YOUR CONTRACT

### 1 Monthly rent

Ask the landlord if the monthly rent is going to be the same every month. As it might vary from month to month.

### 2 Housing expenses

Are the utility bills (internet, water, electricity) included in the monthly price or will you have to pay for it at the end of each month? If so, how much can it be approximately?

### 3 Duration of contract

Does the lease match the period of your stay? If not, make sure you can leave the accommodation before the date indicated, and find out how long the notice period is.

### 4 Rules and regulations

Know the rules of the accommodation that you should abide.

### 5 Deposit & Commissions

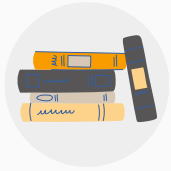
Depending on who you are renting with, you might have to pay a booking fee or administration one time fee. Know the amount too.

#### What's a deposit?

The deposit is a **guarantee** which will be **given back** to you after your stay if you leave the accommodation in the **same condition as it was when you entered**.

The deposit is usually 1 or 2 times the first month rent.

## TIPS FOR LIVING WITH FLATMATES



**Choose flatmates with a similar lifestyle to yours:** Choose someone who is similar to you in terms of order, schedules, parties, ...



**Organise the housework:** it is important that you divide up the tasks as soon as possible. Making a common calendar can help!



**Share common expenses:** Some rents don't include common expenses such as internet or heating.



**Respect the privacy of your roommates:** The bedroom is the most important space for privacy in the house.



**Let them know when someone is visiting you:** Try to not bother your flatmates with parties or meetings when they want to study or sleep.



**Make plans together:** To improve your relationship with your flatmates, there is nothing better than making plans together!

You already have a flat and want to find a roommate? Read our [recommendations](#) and learn how to choose the most suitable person!



## ENJOY YOUR STUDIES ABROAD!

It's going to be one of the best years of your life!


Now you have all the tools you need to find your new home and avoid any fraud. If you have any doubts don't hesitate to [contact us](#) !



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