

Frequently Asked Questions for NSCD Students

FINDING ACCOMMODATION

Where do most NSCD students live?

Many students choose to live in Chapeltown, Harehills, Woodhouse or Leeds City Centre, all of which offer good access to NSCD.

Where can I find student accommodation?

You can search for student housing through Unipol Student Homes and use student noticeboards to find available rooms and potential housemates.

What is the Unipol Code?

The Unipol Code is an accreditation scheme for student accommodation. It promotes higher standards of management, maintenance and tenant support.

RENT, BILLS AND COSTS

How much rent should I expect to pay?

Rent varies depending on the property, location and whether bills are included. Always compare costs before committing to a tenancy.

Are bills included in the rent?

Not always. Check whether gas, electricity, water and broadband are included before signing an agreement.

How much should I budget for bills?

If bills are not included, remember to budget for utilities, broadband and other household costs.

Do students have to pay Council Tax?

Most full-time students are exempt from paying Council Tax.

Do I need a TV Licence?

You generally need a TV Licence if you watch live television or use BBC iPlayer.

CONTRACTS AND GUARANTORS

What is a tenancy agreement?

A tenancy agreement is a legally binding contract between you and your landlord. It outlines your rights, responsibilities and payment arrangements.

What should I check before signing a contract?

Make sure you understand:

- Rent payments and due dates
- Deposit requirements
- Length of the tenancy
- What is included in the rent
- Your responsibilities as a tenant

Can someone check my tenancy agreement before I sign?

Yes. Unipol offers a contract-checking service and can provide advice if you are unsure about any part of an agreement.

What is a guarantor?

A guarantor is someone who agrees to cover your rent or other charges if you are unable to pay them.

Will I need a guarantor?

Some landlords require a guarantor before offering a tenancy, so check this early in the application process.

What is a Right to Rent check?

Landlords are legally required to confirm that tenants have the right to rent in the UK. You may be asked to provide identification and supporting documents.

VIEWING A PROPERTY

What should I look for during a viewing?

Check:

- The condition of the kitchen and bathrooms
- Heating and hot water

- Signs of damp or mould
- Security features, including locks and smoke alarms
- Storage space
- Local transport links and amenities

Is it safe to rent a property without viewing it?

If you cannot visit in person, request a live virtual viewing and ask to see all rooms and outdoor areas before making a decision.

What questions should I ask during a viewing?

Ask:

- Are bills included?
- Who manages the property?
- How are repairs reported?
- Is a guarantor required?
- What is the total cost of moving in?

DEPOSITS AND INVENTORIES

What is a deposit?

A deposit is money paid at the start of a tenancy and is usually returned at the end, provided there are no deductions for damage or unpaid charges.

What is an inventory?

An inventory is a record of the property's condition when you move in.

How can I protect my deposit?

When you move in:

- Take photographs of every room
- Record any existing damage
- Check the inventory carefully
- Keep copies of all tenancy documents

LIVING IN SHARED ACCOMMODATION

How should household bills be managed?

Agree with your housemates:

- How bills will be split
- Who will manage payments
- How costs will be collected

Clear arrangements from the start can help avoid disagreements.

How can I be a good housemate?

- Respect shared spaces
- Clean up after yourself
- Be considerate of noise
- Communicate openly and respectfully
- Contribute fairly to household responsibilities

REPAIRS AND HOUSING PROBLEMS

Who is responsible for repairs?

Your tenancy agreement should explain who is responsible for repairs and maintenance. Most issues should be reported to the landlord or letting agent.

What should I do if something needs repairing?

Report the problem as soon as possible and keep a record of emails, messages and photographs.

What if my landlord does not resolve the issue?

Seek advice from Unipol, NSCD Student Support or an independent housing advice service.

Who can help if I have concerns about my accommodation?

NSCD Student Support, Unipol and other housing advice services can provide guidance before and during your tenancy.