International Students

Accommodation options

Before you arrive in Tasmania

You need to start thinking about accommodation as early as possible because it will become harder to find a place as your course start date gets closer.

• When deciding on the kind of accommodation you want, ask yourself:
  • How much can you afford to spend on rent, food, bills, and transport?
  • How close to the University do you want to live?
  • How long do you want to stay in one place?
  • Do you want to live with other people?
  • Can you find accommodation by yourself?
  • How flexible are you with these points?

Your accommodation will affect your ability to study, rest, relax, as well as your safety, so you should get as much information as possible before deciding. If you are not sure about something, ask.

What accommodation options are available?

The University of Tasmania provides a range of accommodation options that are available on and around the University of Tasmania campuses. A description of each accommodation option, including photos, costs and inclusions are available at the Student Living website: [utas.edu.au/student-living/future-residents/options](utas.edu.au/student-living/future-residents/options)

Homestay accommodation is a great option if you wish to gain an experience of living with a local family. Homestay is available for all students, including students under 18 years of age. For information and application please visit: [utas.edu.au/accomm/future-residents/options/hobart/homestay](utas.edu.au/accomm/future-residents/options/hobart/homestay)

Jane Franklin Hall (Hobart students only) is fully catered and supported student accommodation with a free bus to the University. For information and application please visit: [jane.edu.au/home-jane](jane.edu.au/home-jane)

There is high demand for most of these places, and applications need to be submitted several months before the start of each semester.

Students with families

The University does not currently provide an accommodation option for families. If your family will be living with you in Australia the most suitable accommodation will be a property in the private rental market. When deciding on a suitable property you will need to consider:

• Is the property suitable? For example, landlords or estate agents would often consider a one-bedroom apartment or a room in a shared house not appropriate for a family with children.
  • Will the property be sunny in winter?
  • Is there enough room to hang washing out to dry (especially in winter)?
  • Do you want space on the property for children to play outside?
  • Do you need to live close to schools, childcare, or other services such as shops?

There is more to consider when looking to accommodate a family, so it usually takes longer to find a suitable place. Students with families

> [utas.edu.au/students](utas.edu.au/students)
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need to allow for this in their travel plans and temporary accommodation arrangements.

Temporary accommodation

If you choose not to live in University accommodation or have not received a place in University accommodation before you arrive, you will need a temporary place to stay as soon as you arrive in Tasmania. The University is not able to arrange temporary accommodation for students, so you must arrange this before you leave your home country.

A number of backpacker hostels offer affordable temporary accommodation in and around Hobart and Launceston. Other options are motels and hotels but these are more expensive.

Some suggested temporary accommodation options are listed on the airport pick request page: utas.edu.au/students/international-students/airport-pickup-request

It will take some time to find longer term accommodation (often several weeks). We recommend students book at least 7 days accommodation to start with, to allow time to apply and find longer term accommodation.

Longer term accommodation options - private and shared rental accommodation

Many students choose to stay in private rental accommodation, often shared with other students.

Shared rental accommodation options are advertised on notice boards around the University, especially the Tasmanian University Union (TUU) building and on the following websites:

- UTAS Housing forum on Facebook facebook.com/groups/396952247551650/
- gumtree.com.au
- flatmates.com.au
- Private rental accommodation is advertised by local Real Estate Agents or online at realestate.com.au/rent and domain.com.au

It is very important that you do not sign a rental lease or contract until after you have viewed the property and are happy with it. Once you have arrived, check the property is clean and safe. Ask the landlord or agent to fix any problems before you pay money or sign an agreement.

Applying for private rental accommodation

To apply for a property in the private rental market you will need to prepare an application in advance.

You will be asked to fill out an application form and you will need to show evidence of your identity and ability to pay the rent regularly.

Agents will also ask for contact details of people who can provide rental or personal references for you (For example, previous landlords or employers, but not relatives). If you are an international student, new to Australia, you can obtain an enrolment confirmation letter from an International Student Adviser. However, they cannot provide you with a personal reference.

Many applications are not successful because not enough information is included, so include as much evidence as you can.

Before signing a rental lease or contract, you must read it carefully to make sure you understand what you are committing to. Rental contracts have very strict conditions about moving out before the end of the contract period. This is called ‘breaking the lease’, and usually you will still need to pay rent for the full period unless another tenant moves in.

Rental deposit (bond)

If you rent a private house or apartment, or share a rented house with other students, you will usually be asked to pay a deposit before you move in. This is called bond, and it is usually the same amount as two to four weeks’ rent. The bond is used after you leave the property to cover the cost of any damage you may have caused while living there. If you have not caused any damage, the bond is returned to you.

In Tasmania, you must not pay the bond directly to your landlord. All bond is managed by a government office (the Rental Deposits Authority), and it must only be paid to this office or to a real estate agent. You must receive an official receipt. It is illegal for a landlord or another tenant to ask you to pay the bond directly to them. Visit cbos.tas.gov.au/topics/housing/renting for more information on bonds and renting.

Who can help me if I have problems with my accommodation?

The first person to talk to is your International Student Adviser. Depending on the kind of accommodation you have arranged, they can help you find the best way to resolve the situation, or help you contact other support services such as the Tenants’ Union of Tasmania (tutas.org.au) and the Tasmanian University Union tuu.com.au/assistance/housing-and-rental-resources/

Visa condition

All student visa holders must let the University know their residential address in Australia. As soon as you have started living in a property, or have moved to a new address, you should update your address details using eStudent.