



University of Essex

International College

**ACCOMMODATION GUIDE
SPRING 2020**





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LIFE IN ESSEX

The University of Essex International College is close to Colchester, a historic town in the vibrant English county of Essex. There's lots on offer for students: scenic countryside, charming villages and miles of pretty coastline. Essex is also an easy train journey from the excitement of London, but with a much lower cost of living.

Experience Essex

Shopping

Essex is a great place to go shopping, with traditional food and clothes markets and bustling high streets selling everything you could need! There are major retail parks to explore, and Essex's towns are great places to find everything from designer brands to arty boutiques. Plus, with London so close, you will have one of the world's best shopping destinations on your doorstep.

History

Essex has a rich and fascinating history for you to explore. In fact, Colchester is the oldest Roman town in Britain. Even now, it still retains the feel of a medieval market town, and the rest of Essex also has plenty of sites of historical interest to see: you can visit impressive castles, fascinating museums and even a hidden nuclear bunker!

Sport

Sports such as football, rugby, tennis and cricket are very popular in the UK. You'll have lots of opportunities to get involved, and the University of Essex itself has a great range of sports facilities that you can use. For exercise that's a little more relaxed, Colchester is home to many lovely routes for walking and cycling, including the Wivenhoe Trail.

Food

If you start to miss food from your home country while you're living in the UK, don't worry! Essex is a multicultural county, and you will find great variety, from Indian curries to Chinese dim sum and more. Of course, you can also try traditional British food at Essex's many restaurants and pubs, and its coastline is the perfect place to eat fresh fish and chips.

Events

Throughout the year, there is a wide range of fairs, festivals and events that you can discover in Essex. From seeing the world's biggest music artists at V Festival, to the Brightlingsea Food and Drink Festival in Colchester, there's so much going on!

Outside Essex

While Essex has a lot to offer, you will also have a great chance to explore the rest of the UK. London, with its many museums, galleries and events, is just a short train ride away, as are Oxford and Cambridge. You can also see some of the UK's areas of outstanding natural beauty, or even take a trip to continental Europe from Stansted or Southend Airport.

GETTING AROUND

🚆 Trains

The nearest train station to the University's Colchester campus is Hythe (Essex), which is a 20-minute walk away. There are frequent train services between Colchester and London.

🚌 Buses

The University of Essex has its own bus stop, and there are frequent bus services to and from the centre of Colchester. You can also use local bus services to explore more of the Essex region. As a student, you can travel cheaply with a student bus pass.

🚖 Taxis

Taxis are an easy way to get around, though they are more expensive than buses are. A taxi ride from campus to Colchester town centre usually takes 10 to 20 minutes.

Now that you know more about the local area, read on to see what accommodation options are available to you.

YOUR NEW HOME

From convenient locations to fantastic facilities, our student residences have everything you need to feel at home as soon as you arrive in the UK.

Conveniently located

The residences are all located on the campus grounds, within easy reach of the College and city centre, and are close to supermarkets, restaurants and cafés.

Well equipped

All bedrooms include a comfortable bed, study desk, chair and a private or shared bathroom. Kitchens are clean and fully equipped with a fridge-freezer, cooker and microwave.

Multicultural

In your new home, you'll have the chance to meet and make friends with people from all over the world. It's a really great opportunity to learn more about different countries, cultures and languages.

Private and clean

Relax in your own bedroom with a private or shared bathroom. There is also a laundry room for you to wash your clothes and there is a weekly cleaning service of communal areas.

Campus amenities

On the University of Essex campus, you can make use of facilities such as a cinema, medical centre, weekly market, restaurants and shops, including one that's open 24/7.

Social spaces

Some residences offer communal areas. These are equipped with a variety of exciting entertainment facilities, which are an ideal way for you to spend time with your new friends.

Independent living

Our accommodation is designed for independent student life. You will be responsible for cooking your own meals, and for cleaning your own room, kitchen and clothes. There's no need to worry, as everyone is in the same situation.

Safe and secure

You can feel safe in your new home with secure access doors, 24-hour security cameras, as well as on-site help to solve any problems.

Bills included

All bills (electricity, gas and water) and internet (broadband and WiFi) are included in the accommodation price.

A helping hand

To make your move that little bit easier, we've created a free student starter pack, which provides many of the basic items you'll need to settle into your new home. This is an extra benefit that you will not find in privately rented accommodation (see below for a detailed list of what is typically included in the pack).

STUDENT STARTER PACK

Bedding

- Duvet with duvet cover
- Pillow with pillow case
- Fitted sheet

Cooking equipment

- Stainless steel frying pan
- Stainless steel saucepan
- Slotted flat turner
- Nylon ladle
- Vegetable peeler
- Plastic colander
- Solid nylon spoon
- Slotted nylon spoon
- Tin opener

Tableware

- Cutlery (fork and spoon)*
- Dinner plate
- Side plate
- Cereal bowl
- Mug
- Glass tumbler

Other

- Toilet roll
- Small hand towel
- Welcome toiletries pack (with miniature bath and shower gel, moisturising hand and body lotion, shampoo / conditioner, and soap)

Please note: actual contents of the student starter pack may vary.
* For legal reasons the College is not permitted to provide knives of any kind to students.

FREE SPORTS MEMBERSHIP

A great way to socialise, have fun and enjoy healthy activities along with your studies.

When you book your accommodation with Kaplan, you will receive a free Essex Sport Silver Student membership at the Colchester campus that will give you access to excellent facilities, including the brand new, state-of-the-art Essex Sport Arena, a cutting-edge gym, a choice of over 300 fitness classes each month, and an extensive range of sports.

Please note:

- The Essex Sport membership is a service provided by the University of Essex and is subject to its terms and conditions. Find more on www.essex.ac.uk/sport/membership/student-membership
- The Essex Sports Silver Student membership at the Colchester campus is valid through to August 2020.



The Meadows

ACCOMMODATION HIGHLIGHTS

- On-campus location
- Common room for social activities
- On-site 'grab-and-go' café

Location

Based on the Colchester campus, close to the University's Business School, and a 15 to 20-minute walk to the College.

Accommodation

Private bedrooms in a shared flat of up to 10 students. All rooms have a small double bed, desk, chair bookshelves, storage and bin.

Bathroom

Fully equipped private (en suite) bathrooms with toilet, shower and wash basin.

Kitchen

Fully equipped shared kitchen with fridge-freezer, cooker, microwave, oven, kettle, ironing board and storage units.

Social life

There is an on-site common room, and a number of social events are hosted by the Residence Life team.

Other facilities

Nearby laundry room, and secure bicycle storage and car park.

Internet

Free broadband and WiFi.

Cleaning

The kitchens are cleaned weekly and the rubbish is collected from the kitchens daily.

Security

Secure door entry to buildings, flats and rooms and on-campus patrol officers overnight.

See page 14 for full details of prices and accommodation contract lengths.

YOUR ROOM AT THE MEADOWS

Premium en suite

Accommodation setup	Shared flat of up to 10 people
Room size	Approximately 12.5m ²
Room details	Private room with a small double bed, desk, chair, bookshelves, storage and bin
Bathroom facilities	Private bathroom
Kitchen facilities	Self-catering with shared kitchen
Social facilities	Number of events hosted by Residence Life team and Meadows common room
Sports membership	Free Sport Silver Membership at Colchester with access to sport facilities, gym, fitness classes and an extensive range of sports.
Internet access	Free broadband and WiFi
Journey time to the International College	15 to 20-minute walk
Security	Secure fob access entrances to buildings and flats/rooms; patrol officers on campus during evenings and weekends
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Weekly cleaning service for communal areas during term times■ On-site shop■ Common room■ Grab and go café■ On-site laundry room■ Bicycle storage
Available to	All students aged 16 years and over

ACCOMMODATION DATES AND PRICES

The tables below show the standard payment structure for accommodation in Spring 2020. You can pay any amount in your first payment, from the minimum £1,000, to the total accommodation price.

Accommodation option		Accommodation length				First payment (which includes £250 deposit*) on signing agreement	2nd payment (when you arrive)	Total accommodation price
Residence	Room specification	Start date	End date	Number of weeks	Number of terms			
Courses starting in January								
The Meadows	Premium en suite	08/01/20	05/09/20	34	2	£1,000	£5,413	£6,413
Courses starting in March								
The Meadows	Premium en suite	29/02/20	05/09/20	27	4	£1,000	£4,137	£5,137
Courses starting in April								
The Meadows	Premium en suite	18/04/20	05/09/20	20	3.5	£1,000	£2,870	£3,870

Accommodation for students under 18 years of age: where possible, the International College will place students under 18 years old in a single-sex flat with other students under 18. If this option is not available, we will notify the student's parents or legal guardian to offer alternative housing.

* Your £250 deposit will be returned when you move out of your room. Please note, your deposit will not be fully returned if the room is damaged or left in bad condition, or if there are any accommodation penalty charges outstanding.

Please note: the International College reserves the right to change the properties advertised and / or prices quoted. If this happens, alternative options of an equivalent standard will be made available at similar prices. All prices shown are correct at time of publication but are subject to change. Published March 2019.

HOW TO BOOK

Follow the steps below to book your accommodation. See the answers on the following page for more help.

STEP 1

Use the [Accommodation Dates and Prices](#) on the previous page to choose the option that matches your course dates.

STEP 2

When applying to study a pathway course, you can indicate your preferred room type on the application form. We will then record your accommodation preferences and send you further information with your study offer letter.

OR

If you have already completed the pathway course application form, you can complete the online [Accommodation Form](#) to indicate your accommodation preferences, based on the information given in this guide.

STEP 3

Once you have accepted your offer, we will be able to confirm your accommodation option. We will reserve a room for you and send you an Accommodation Agreement. You will then need to complete the following steps in order to secure your booking:

1. Fill in your guarantor details on the Accommodation Agreement
2. Both you (the tenant) and your guarantor will need to read and sign the Accommodation Agreement, and then return it by the accommodation confirmation date, which can be found in the Agreement. A third person must also witness the signatures, and provide their own details on the Agreement.
3. If you have not done so already, you will also need to make a minimum first payment of £1000 to secure the room. This will be credited towards your overall accommodation fees.

STEP 4

When you are ready to come to the UK and have booked a flight, you will need to confirm your arrival details by completing the online [Pre-Arrival Form](#). The College will be able to book and confirm transfers for you, and more details are provided in the Pre-Arrival Guide. Please submit your arrival details at least two weeks before you fly to ensure the College and your accommodation are prepared for your arrival.

ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEE

We can guarantee accommodation to all students who submit their Accommodation Form before the dates below, and have accepted their offer to study.

Accommodation start date	Accommodation guarantee deadline*
January 2020	1 st December 2019
February 2020	1 st January 2020
April 2020	1 st March 2020

* While every effort will be made to allocate your first choice, we cannot guarantee this, and you may be offered another accommodation type or location. If you submit your form after the date listed, we cannot guarantee you accommodation, but will make every effort to find suitable housing for your studies at the International College.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS A 'GUARANTOR'?

A guarantor is someone who will be legally responsible for any accommodation fees you are unable to or fail to pay.

MAY I CHANGE THE LENGTH OF MY ACCOMMODATION?

You may not change your contract after you have booked and signed your Accommodation Agreement.

WHAT IS THE ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT?

The Accommodation Agreement is a contract confirming the details of your accommodation. By signing your Accommodation Agreement you are agreeing, under UK law, to pay for your accommodation for the full length of the accommodation contract.

WHAT IS THE FIRST PAYMENT?

The first payment is to secure your accommodation along with the signed accommodation agreement. The £1,000 first payment is then divided into £250 for the security deposit and £750 towards your accommodation fees.

WHAT IS EVIDENCE OF PAYMENT?

Evidence of payment can be a copy of the payment receipt, bank statement, banker's draft or via Flywire.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS THE ACCOMMODATION CONFIRMATION DEADLINE?

You must complete the required steps to secure your booking. If you fail to do so by the accommodation confirmation date, your agreement may be cancelled and your room given to another student to book.

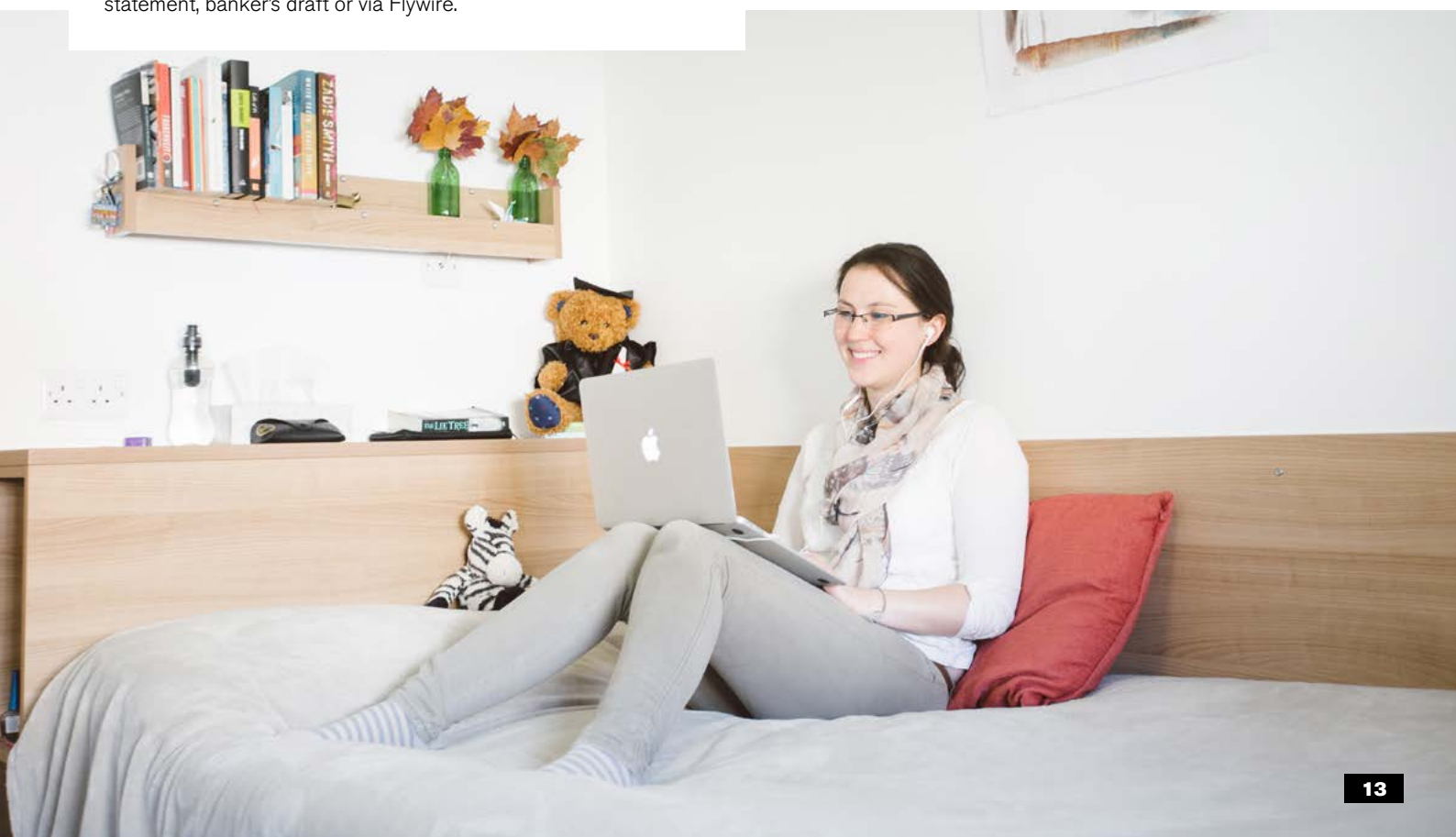
If your Accommodation Agreement is cancelled, and you tell us that you would still like to book college accommodation, you will be offered the next available room. If you decide not to take this room, refund of any fees paid will only be granted in line with Kaplan International Pathways terms and conditions, and may be subject to an administration fee being deducted.

WHEN CAN I MOVE INTO MY ROOM?

You will be able to move into your room from the start date of your contract, but only if you have already sent your signed Accommodation Agreement and first payment.

CAN I GET A REFUND IF I LEAVE THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE?

If you leave the International College for any reason after starting your course, your accommodation fees will not be refunded.



HOW TO PAY

Read the information below to find out how you can make payments towards your accommodation.

Payment structure

First payment on signing agreement (includes the £250 deposit)	Remaining payments
£1,000 (minimum)	Depending on your accommodation option, pay the remaining amount when you arrive at the International College and before your 2nd term (if applicable)

How can I pay?

Before you arrive, you can make your first payment using one of the methods below:

■ **Bank transfer / credit or debit card to Flywire:**

1. Visit **UEICEssex.flywire.com**
2. Choose your country and the amounts you are paying in Pounds Sterling
3. Choose your payment method and make your payment to Flywire
4. Enter the payer details and those of the student you are paying for
5. Track and confirm your payment by email, SMS or by logging into **UEICEssex.flywire.com**

- **Bank draft in Pounds Sterling** payable to University of Essex International College for the deposit.

- **Electronic Transfer in Pounds Sterling** for the deposit to the following account:

Bank Account Name: Kaplan Essex Limited

Bank Name: HSBC Bank plc

Sort Code: 40-11-60

Bank Account No: 71052233

BIC: HBUKGB4B

IBAN NO: GB26HBUK40116071052233

Bank Address: 60 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4N 4TR

Remember to include evidence of your first payment when you return your signed Accommodation Agreement to reserve your chosen accommodation option. Remember to include your family name and student number (found on your offer letter) as payment reference. When you arrive at the International College, **you can pay your remaining accommodation fees by Flywire.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- The £250 deposit is used to book your accommodation and will be returned to you when you move out of your accommodation.
- Your deposit will not be fully returned if the room is found damaged or left in bad condition, or if there are any penalty charges outstanding.

- If your visa application is unsuccessful, please send a copy of your visa refusal documents (or other evidence) to your Admissions Advisor. A decision will then be made about your eligibility for a refund in line with our terms and conditions.

- If we do not receive the first payment and signed Accommodation Agreement, you will not be able to move into your room.
- Students who are under the age of 18 on arrival in the UK may be asked to pay all their accommodation fees before they arrive.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit the links below or contact us for more information. We look forward to helping you make Essex your new home!

Useful links:

- 🖱️ kaplanpathways.life/essex-housing
- 🖱️ essex.ac.uk
- 🖱️ kaplanpathways.life/essex

Search: ueicessex



#KaplanLife

Contact details

✉️ University of Essex International College
Constable Building
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, CO4 3SQ

For accommodation queries:

Central Accommodation Team

📞 +44 (0)20 8727 3500

@ pathways.accommodation@kaplan.com

For arrival and other queries:

College

@ UEIC.Arrivals@kaplan.com

All information is correct at time of publication and is subject to change.
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