

Accommodation Application Guidance 2026-2027

Index

1. Overview
2. Who can apply
 - o New students
 - o Returning students
3. Eligibility Criteria
 - o New students
 - o Returning students
4. Guaranteed accommodation
 - o New students
 - o Clearing applicants
 - o Returning students
5. Additional application information
6. Application process
 - o Returning students
 - o New students
7. Other useful information
8. Short-course students

1. Overview

This guidance outlines the full accommodation application process for 2026-2027, including who can apply, the criteria used to assess applications, details of accommodation guarantees, accommodation deadlines and what students should do if their circumstances change.

2. Who can apply – Canterbury and Medway

New students on full-time courses

- New undergraduate (UG) students (first-choice and insurance) with conditional or unconditional offers
- New postgraduate (PG) students with conditional or unconditional offers
- Students in a Foundation Year or progressing from a Foundation Year into Year 1
- UG and PG students on short courses
- Students who have deferred their entry (UG or PG)
- Clearing applicants

Returning students

- Full-time UG and PG students returning to full-time study

3. Eligibility Criteria – Canterbury and Medway

The University sets eligibility criteria to ensure rooms are allocated fairly, and to students who meet the requirements of their course and tenancy agreement. These criteria help the Accommodation Office manage demand, comply with safety regulations, and ensure housing is allocated appropriately based on study level and location.

New students

To be eligible for accommodation, new students must:

- Receive and accept an unconditional offer of a place on a course of study
- Be studying full-time and remain full-time while in university accommodation
- Apply for accommodation on the campus where their course is delivered
 - Canterbury campus accommodation is for Canterbury students
 - Pier Quays accommodation is for Medway students (Canterbury students may also apply)

Returning students

To be eligible for accommodation, returning students must:

- Be studying full-time during their accommodation period
- Have settled all outstanding fees by:
 - 12 June 2026 (UG)
 - 1 July 2026 (PG)
- Have no adverse disciplinary record
- Apply using the correct student ID and study-level profile
 - Apply to the campus where their studies take place (Canterbury students may also apply for Pier Quays)

All students must ensure they meet the eligibility requirements before applying. If new information arises that affects eligibility, the University may retract accommodation guarantees or offers.

If we decide to exercise this right, we will notify you of this in writing. To avoid any misunderstandings about your legal obligations under the terms and conditions of the accommodation agreement, please contact the Accommodation Office to discuss your circumstances.

4. Guaranteed accommodation - Canterbury and Medway

The University offers accommodation guarantees to provide clarity and reassurance to full-time new and returning students. These guarantees depend on meeting specific deadlines and eligibility criteria. Guarantees help ensure that students who apply on time can plan for the academic year with confidence, but late applications may be limited by room availability.

New students (if they applied for accommodation by 30 June each year)

- First-year UG students
- Students in or progressing from a Foundation Year
- New PG students (must meet the conditions of their offer of a place on a course by 30 June)

- UG and PG short-course students (3, 6, or 9 months), starting in September. Accommodation application deadlines for January or April/May entry will vary and will be stipulated on our website
 - Canterbury-based PG short-course students are allocated to Darwin Houses only
- Students who have deferred their entry

Clearing applicants

- Full-time students accepting an unconditional offer by 16 August 2026 are guaranteed accommodation.
- Applicants accepting after this date will still receive a guaranteed room either on campus or nearby.

Returning students

- Full-time returning UG and PG students (Canterbury) are guaranteed on-campus accommodation if they apply by 23 January 2026.
- Returning UG and PG students applying for Pier Quays (Medway) are guaranteed if they apply by 23 January 2026 via the [MyAccommodation Portal](#).

Late applicants will be considered, but accommodation choices may be limited.

5. Additional application information

Students with medical or disability-related accommodation needs should apply as early as possible and by the relevant deadline to ensure appropriate adjustments or equipment can be arranged.

Returning students with medical/disability needs must apply by 23 January 2026 for guaranteed accommodation. Please note, your room allocation may change from year to year depending on room availability.

We are unable to guarantee accessible or adapted accommodation for students who are registered for a year in industry/professional practice, or for those who later decide not to pursue a year in industry/professional practice and request accommodation on campus after the application deadline

The [Accessibility Handbook](#) offers further information for University of Kent students who require additional support.

6. Application process

Returning students

- Returning students will receive information about registering early interest in November/December 2025.
- Early-access registration closes 8 January 2026.
- Application pages open:
 - 20 January 2026 for early-access registrants.
 - 21 January 2026 for all other applicants.
- The first 1,800 applications will be accepted. The application deadline is 23 January 2026.
- Applicants will be notified of their initial outcome on 28 January 2026.
- Applicant can make changes to their room preference up until 16 February 2026, via the [MyAccommodation portal](#), without affecting their initial application date.
- We will start sending out offers of accommodation in April 2026 or before.

Your initial application outcome will be determined using the information available to us at the time of review. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they meet the accommodation eligibility criteria.

New students

- Students receive an automated confirmation email after submitting an application.
- Offers are sent once the applicant holds and has accepted an unconditional offer of a place.
- New PG students must meet the conditions of their offer and apply by 30 June 2026.
- Rooms for new UG students will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis by the date of application in the following priority:
 1. Firm-choice students

2. Insurance-choice students

3. Clearing applicants

New UG students will be emailed their accommodation offer as soon as they receive and accept an unconditional offer of a place; for most applicants, this will be after their A-level results.

7. Other useful information

This section provides additional context to help students understand how room allocation works and why certain decisions are made. Some allocations depend on student needs, building layout, or availability of specialist equipment. These factors can influence room type, location, or whether a returning student can remain in the same room.

- Students cannot be guaranteed the same room each year; significant/specific adaptations have been made to their accommodation to support students' successful living on campus.
- Room allocations for returning students with disabilities are based on specific facility needs. This may result in a delay in confirming exact room allocation until the end of the recruitment cycle at the end of August or at the beginning of September.
- Part-time students are not eligible for campus accommodation. Please contact the Kent Students' Union to receive appropriate accommodation advice. Alternatively, explore off-campus information [here](#).
- Where provisions have been made to remove built-in furniture to accommodate an ergonomic desk, students will need to apply for the same room in subsequent years. This may mean that students could be sharing a corridor with students who may not be returning UG students. Please note, this does not mean that the same room will be guaranteed in each year of study.
- Students who have been provided with an ergonomic mattress will need to apply for rooms with compatible layouts or bed sizes for their subsequent years on campus.
- Late equipment requests may not be completed before arrival.
- In the 2025 cycle, most returning students who applied in the first three days were successful.
- Students who do not receive application information or a confirmation email must proactively [contact the Accommodation Office](#).

- Family accommodation is not available; students should consult the [Living Off Campus](#) webpage.
- Students progressing from a UG study to a PG study are classed as new PG students. Students applying for accommodation before their student profile updates with their new course information might default to an application route for UG returning students and apply for the incorrect type of accommodation.
- Returning students pursuing a year abroad or a year in industry can apply for accommodation; however, they should not accept an accommodation agreement until they are sure they will want to live on campus for that year and will not be released from their legally binding accommodation agreement once it has been accepted. Students should contact the Accommodation Office for specific advice about their situation.
- While we will always do our best to help, we cannot guarantee accessible or adapted accommodation for students undertaking a year in industry or professional practice, or for those who change their plans and apply for on-campus accommodation after the application deadline.

8. Short-course students

- Short-course PG students are allocated rooms in Darwin Houses only.
- Students must clearly state accommodation needs within their application.

The Terms and Conditions for the 2026/2027 Accommodation Agreement will be published on the <https://student.kent.ac.uk/life/living-on-campus#documents> webpage prior to the release of accommodation offers.

If you have any questions, please contact the Accommodation Office. They are the only authorised team that can advise on applications, agreements, and cancellations.