

Adapted Accommodation Process

St Mary's University is committed to making reasonable adjustments to support students who, as a result of a disability or long-term medical condition, require adapted accommodation, or specific room types to enable them to live independently.

Adapted accommodation can offer a variety of support, such as more space and adjustments for wheelchair users or vibrating pillows for those with impaired hearing etc.

Prospective and current students who require support with their accommodation as a result of a disability or long-term medical condition should contact the Wellbeing Service by emailing wellbeing@stmarys.ac.uk to discuss their accommodation needs. Students will be referred to a disability or mental health advisor who will support them with their requests. Please note that supporting medical evidence will need to be provided.

We aim to match individuals to suitable accommodation however as there are a limited number of adapted and accessible rooms, students are encouraged to reach out to the Wellbeing Service and apply for accommodation as soon as possible. Rooms are allocated on a first come, first served basis and the following outlines more information on the adapted accommodation process.

Accommodation Referral Forms (ARFs) completed

Students who have disabilities or long-term medical conditions who get in touch with the Wellbeing Service will be referred to a disability or mental health advisor for their accommodation request to be reviewed and if confirmed, an ARF to be completed. If an ARF is not required or able to be provided, students will be referred to the Accommodation Service for support and information on applying for accommodation.

- ARFs will only be completed if student provides medical evidence of a disability or long-term medical condition
- Students with an ARF still need to complete an accommodation application via the accommodation portal
- ARFs communicate the recommendations as detailed by a disability or mental health advisor for what is needed in halls based on medical evidence, they do not guarantee or detail an accommodation allocation

Allocation

- The Accommodation Service review all ARF submissions and match requirements to rooms available on a first come, first served basis
- ARF students are included in priority housing categories

Changes

- If a student feels their room allocation does not meet their needs, then they should seek advice from the accommodation team. If there have been changes to their disability then they should seek advice from their advisor who can follow-up, if necessary, request and/or review further evidence and make any changes as needed.

Cost adjustments

Students who have to reside in en-suite accommodation due to a disability or long-term medical condition can apply for a cost adjustment. Cost adjustments are assessed on a case by case basis and are only available to students in University managed accommodation and does not apply to those in private accommodation.

The cost adjustment is not automatically applied to all students with disclosed disabilities living in University managed, en-suite accommodation and students must request a cost adjustment in writing to accommodation@stmarys.ac.uk and be engaging with the Wellbeing Service. For example, if a student must be in an en-suite room because of their disability or long-term health condition but cannot afford it.

If a cost adjustment is approved, this means that a student residing in en-suite accommodation due to a disability or long-term medical condition may have the cost of the room reduced.

Requests for a cost adjustment need to be made and discussed by mid-July before the student's year of entry, and no later than 1st September.

Meal plan

- If a student cannot be on the meal plan due to a disability e.g. a severe allergy or an eating disorder self-catered accommodation can be considered if available.

Environment

- Although a request to be placed away from social areas due to disability needs, due to the communal nature of halls of residence, we cannot guarantee an absence of environmental noise.

For any questions, please email wellbeing@stmarys.ac.uk