



Adapted Campus Accommodation Provision

To be read in conjunction with the St Mary's Accommodation Allocation Policy

St Mary's welcomes applicants of all abilities and provides inclusive accommodation. St Mary's offers a range of accommodation to suit individual needs.

Adapted Accommodation Applications

If you have specific requirements that need to be considered on your accommodation application, you must contact the Student Wellbeing Service at wellbeing@stmarys.ac.uk as early as possible to arrange an assessment with an advisor.

In addition, you are required to provide the Wellbeing Service **medical evidence** from a medical professional, along with a **supporting statement** from you outlining how University accommodation can best support your ability to attend and succeed at St Mary's University.

A Wellbeing Disability Advisor will arrange an assessment to discuss your individual needs based on the evidence and supporting statement you provided and will consider the following criteria:

- Accessibility requirements;
- Types of adaptations to a room or portable equipment required;
- Suitability of campus accommodation;
- Ability to attend University without adapted accommodation.

Please note that requests from applicants that are not deemed to meet the above criteria will be considered for a place in University accommodation based on the general criteria within the Accommodation Allocation Policy, subject to availability

Applicants must ensure that they provide supporting documentation to the Student Wellbeing Service in a timely manner to ensure that these requirements are considered before an offer of accommodation is made.

Where a student expresses a preferred hall or room type which is not essential to meet their needs, the Wellbeing Service will note this as a preference and not a priority.

Types of Accommodation

A number of rooms in University accommodation have been adapted to meet a range of requirements.

Examples of adaptations include:

- Wheelchair accessible rooms
- Larger rooms for students who require extra space for equipment

- Rooms with a bath
- Silent Alerts
- Flashing alarms
- Emergency Pull Cords
- Provision for assistance dogs
- Separate accommodation and facilities for a live-in Carer

If further adaptations are required that are not already available, where reasonable, the University will endeavour to make additional adaptations to existing bedrooms if sufficient notice is given. In such cases where an appropriate room is not immediately available, the University will discuss possible options with applicants on an individual basis. If it is found that there is insufficient time for adaptation works to be completed, to mitigate unnecessary risk to a residents' health and safety, the University may recommend the applicant defer their place until suitable accommodation can be made available.

Provisions can be made available for students who, due to a disability, require accommodation on the ground floor, require an en-suite bathroom, need a personal fridge to store medication or a specialist bin medical waste. We are not currently able to provide self-catered accommodation and offers in Halls are on the basis of a fully catered room package.

The Accommodation Service will work closely with the Wellbeing Service to ensure that the most suitable accommodation available is offered.

Application Process

It is important that all applicants with a disability advise us at the earliest opportunity so we can discuss support needs and advise on the availability of suitable facilities; applicants must indicate their requirements when making an online application for accommodation, in addition to contacting the Wellbeing Service.

It is essential that your requirements are made clear during the application process to guide the Accommodation service in allocating appropriate accommodation. Applicants are not always offered their preferred hall or type of accommodation, but if the Accommodation Service is aware in advance that you require a certain type of room due to a disability, this will be taken into consideration.

If a student discloses information about a disability after they have been made an offer of accommodation and been allocated accommodation which they feel does not meet their needs, they will be placed on the accommodation waiting list for an alternative room. Even if a recommendation for specific accommodation for a student on the waiting list, the offer will be issued subject to availability and we cannot guarantee an offer in a specific hall or room type.

Continuing students

Returning students with a disability, who would find it difficult to live in private accommodation, may be offered accommodation for the duration of their course. If you feel that you require accommodation for the duration of your course, this must be discussed with the Wellbeing Service as part of your initial accommodation application. However, if this requirement was not identified during your initial assessment with the Wellbeing Service, or if your circumstances have changed, please refer to your advisor as early as possible.

The availability for University accommodation in subsequent years of study will be subject to annual review.

Assistance with rent on medical grounds

Students with a disability requiring a specific type of accommodation, may be eligible to receive a rent subsidy if they meet the following criteria;

- You are undertaking a full-time undergraduate study
- You are considered as having a disability under the Equality Act 2010
- You have been assessed by the Wellbeing Service as requiring adapted accommodation

The subsidy is not automatically be awarded, but must be agreed during your annual assessment with an advisor and agreed in writing on your Accommodation Referral Form.

Requests for rent subsidy will not be considered without supporting information, which must be submitted before the start of each academic year. The Wellbeing and Accommodation Service will review any requests submitted for rent subsidy and the outcome of any requests will be put in writing to you.

The subsidy amount will be granted as a credit, applied equally against accommodation instalments. The credit amount is determined by the difference between the price of an en-suite room and of a standard single room with shared bathroom facilities.

Note: A rent subsidy is only considered for University-owned accommodation and is not available for accommodation offered through partner accommodation providers.

Confidentiality and Disclosure

Please be aware that any information provided in relation to a disability disclosed on the online accommodation application, or in support of a student application for accommodation, will be treated as confidential. However, any details relating to your health and safety needs may be shared with the following parties for operational and Health and Safety reasons;

- The Wellbeing, Accommodation and Residence Life Services (including Resident Mentors)
- St Mary's University Security and Health & Safety departments
- If allocated to Privately Managed University accommodation, the Hall Manager and relevant staff from the accommodation provider will also be notified

In some circumstances it may also be necessary to inform other University departments to ensure appropriate equipment or adaptations are provided, such as Housekeeping, Estates/ Facilities, Catering or Finance.

Additional information

Please note that we are not able to pay for, or re-imburse any costs incurred to obtain medical evidence or supporting statements.