



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

Student Services

## **Campus Accommodation – Disability Provision**

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

St Mary's welcomes applicants with disabilities and will make every effort to accommodate those who, due to the nature of their disability or medical condition, would not be able to attend unless they were offered University accommodation. However, demand for campus accommodation may exceed the number of rooms available in St Mary's Halls of Residence and only applicants with substantial requirements will be considered a priority.

### **Priority Applications**

If you would like your accommodation application to be considered on these grounds, you should contact the Disability and Dyslexia Service, at [disability@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:disability@stmarys.ac.uk) as early as possible.

In order to be considered you will be required to provide to the Disability and Dyslexia Service, **medical evidence** and a **supporting letter** from you, outlining your disability or medical condition and how the University accommodation can best support you.

A disability practitioner will assess your individual needs based on the evidence and the information you provide and will consider the following criteria:

- Whether you have a severe mobility difficulty;
- Whether you are visually or hearing impaired to the extent that impacts severely on your everyday life;
- Whether you have a chronic medical condition that requires you to live on campus;
- Whether you have a non-specified disability or medical condition that causes you severe difficulties.

### **Non-Priority Applications**

Please note, that requests from applicants with medical conditions that are not considered substantial, will be offered a suitable place in Halls of Residence subject to availability and in accordance with the Accommodation Allocation Policy.

### **Types of Accommodation**

A number of rooms in University Halls of Residence have been adapted to meet a range of requirements. Examples of adaptations include:

- Wheelchair accessible rooms
- Larger rooms for students who require extra space
- Silent Alerts
- Flashing alarms
- Provision for guide dogs

If further adaptations are required and where reasonable, the University will try to provide these if sufficient notice is given. Provisions are also available for students who, due to their disability or

medical condition, require accommodation on the ground floor, with an en-suite or with a fridge to store medication.

The Accommodation Office will work closely with the Disability and Dyslexia Service to ensure that the most suitable accommodation is allocated to both priority and non-priority applicants.

### **All Applicants – Priority and Non-Priority**

It is important that all applicants with a disability or medical condition advise us at the earliest opportunity so we can discuss your needs and advise you on the availability of suitable facilities; applicants must indicate their requirements when making an online application for accommodation and may also be required to speak to the Disability and Dyslexia Service and to provide medical evidence.

You will be required to complete the following sections of the online booking form if you have any additional requirements:

- 1) Do you have a disability/medical condition?    Answer **Yes**
- 2) Indicate the nature of your disability/ medical condition
- 3) Provide details of any additional requirement you need in your accommodation

It is essential that your requirements are specified during the application process as well as your halls preference, to enable us to allocate appropriate accommodation. Applicants are not always successfully offered their preferred type of accommodation, but if the University knows in advance that you require a certain type of room due to a disability or medical condition, we can take this into consideration.

The Accommodation Office may not be able to make a new offer of appropriate accommodation if an applicant either:

- a) fails to disclose this information during their application for accommodation;
- b) discloses information about a disability or medical condition after they have been allocated accommodation, which they feel does not meet their medical needs;
- c) discloses information about a disability or medical condition after they have been placed on the waiting list for accommodation.

### **Returning students**

Returning students with a substantial disability or medical condition, who would find it difficult to find suitable private accommodation and/or would be disadvantaged by not living in Halls of Residence, are likely to be offered University accommodation for the duration of their course. This includes students with:

- Mobility difficulties, chronic health issues or who are severely visually/hearing impaired who need to live a close proximity to campus;
- Students who require specialist adaptations that generally would not be available in private accommodation;
- Other students according to their individual requirements.

If you feel that you will require accommodation for the duration of your course, this should be discussed with the Disability and Dyslexia Service as part of your initial accommodation

application. However, if this requirement was not identified at this time, or if you feel that you have a new or increased medical requirement, please discuss this with the Disability and Dyslexia Service as early as possible.