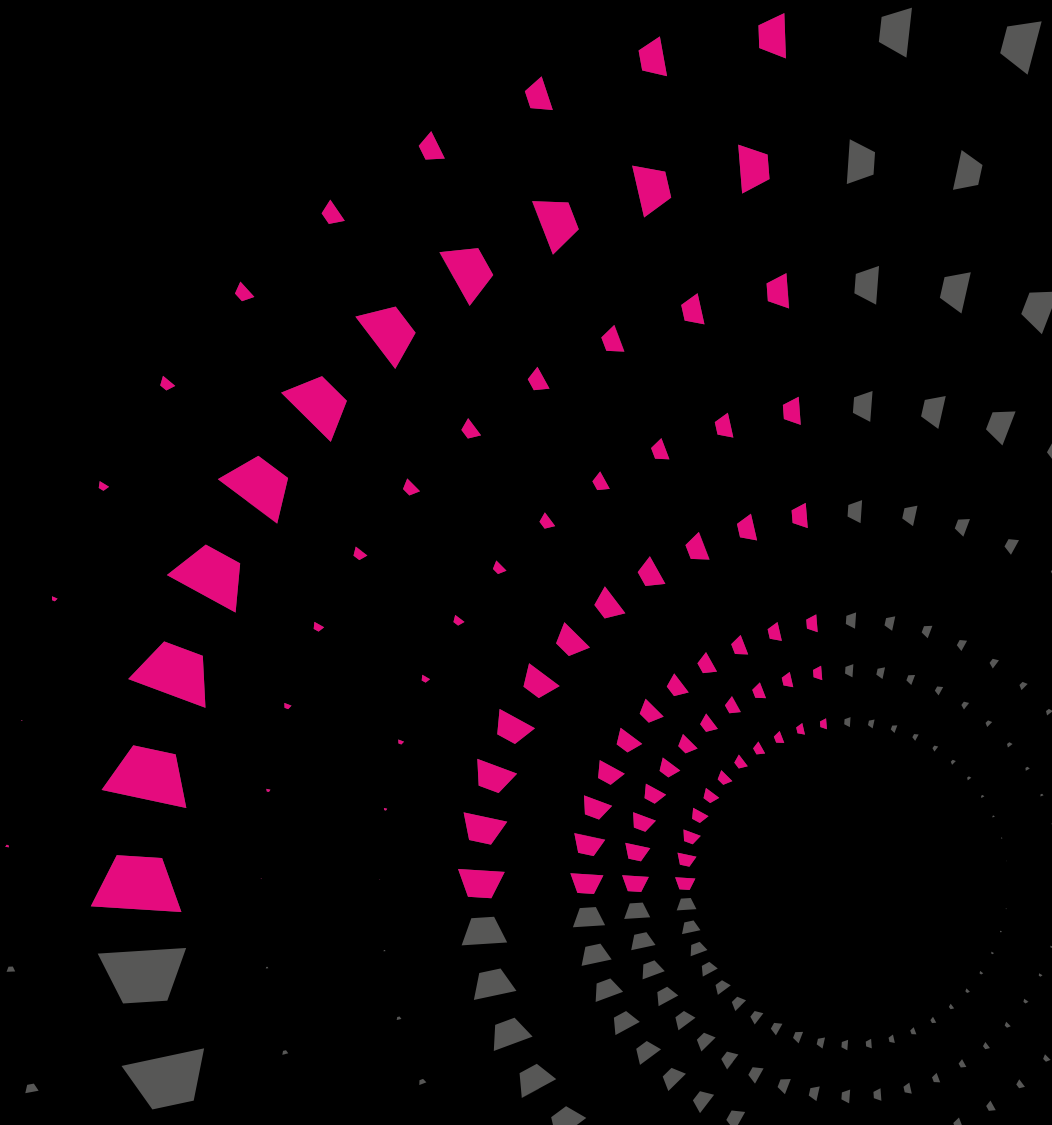
SCREEN AND
FILM SCHOOL
Birmingham

Accommodation Guide



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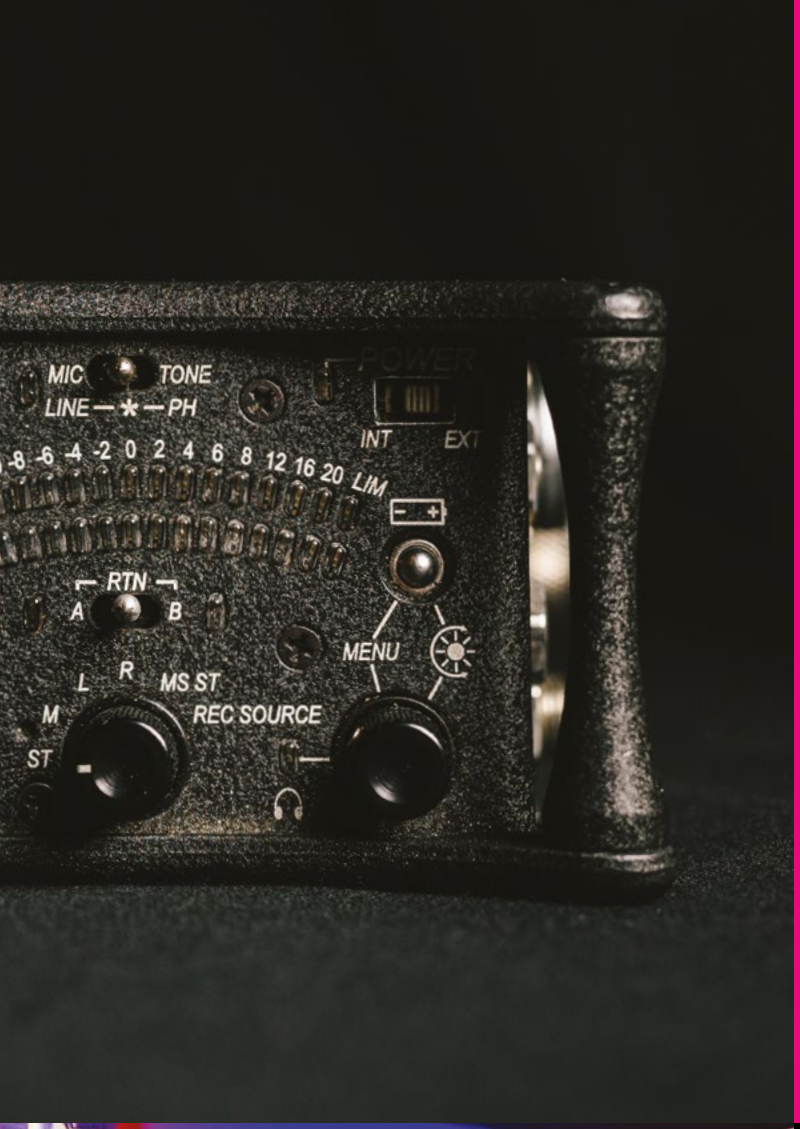
Accommodation

One essential thing you must ensure you have arranged prior to your studies at SFS Birmingham is your accommodation. Your living arrangement can be an important factor in your success as a student.

We do not have halls of residence at SFS Birmingham, which means you must find housing privately, but we have various resources available to help with every step of the process.

Birmingham hosts various possibilities for accommodation such as flats, shared houses, and private halls. However, as Birmingham is a university city there is a heavy demand for student accommodation. We advise you to look as early as possible to find a place that suits your needs.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Private Student Accommodation

UNITE STUDENT PROPERTIES
Unite Students has 13 student halls available in Birmingham; Athena Studios, Staniforth House, Jennens Court and Staniforth House. Prices starts from £99 per week. Each room comes with a bathroom and either a personal or shared kitchen. The residences are close to SFS Birmingham.

For further information, go to
www.unitestudents.com/birmingham

MY STUDENT HALLS
My Student Halls has 23 properties on its listings ranging from £185 to £220 per week. They offer great value student housing with a wide range of studio and en-suite rooms available. The residences are close to SFS Birmingham. For further information, please visit **www.mystudenthalls.com/student-accommodation/birmingham**

IQ STUDENT ACCOMMODATION
Penworks House is a popular choice of student accommodation, close to transport links around the city. Local amenities are just a short walk from the property, and useful services like laundry, bike storage and free WiFi are available on site. Regular social events are also organised at Penworks House, making it easy to meet its other students. Prices start from £145 per week.
www.iqstudentaccommodation.com/birmingham/penworks-house

CRM
CRM opened on Bristol Street in September 2013, which provides some of Birmingham's most exclusive student accommodation. Located with easy access to the city centre and SFS Birmingham. Each room comes with an en-suite,
parking and on-site laundry. With prices starting from £99 per week its real value for money. For further information, please visit **www.crm-students.com/student-accommodation/birmingham**

FRESH STUDENT LIVING
The exclusive Onyx building combines both; apartments with either en-suite bedrooms or rooms sharing a bathroom.

A wide variety of accommodation is available for people on all budgets, with rooms from £145 per week. Also, only a short bus ride away from SFS Birmingham and the bustling city centre. For further information, please visit **www.freshstudentliving.co.uk/location/birmingham**

Alternatively, there are many letting agencies and private landlords based in Birmingham. If you are going through a letting agent you will be expected to pay a holding fee, agency fees, a deposit and usually one month's rent up front, plus provide a guarantor. Ensure that the letting agent you use is following the code of practice of the National Association of Estate Agents.

Websites that list locally available accommodation can also be found here:

accommodationforstudents.com
fish4lettings.co.uk
findaproperty.com
latesthomes.co.uk
property.men.vivastreet.co.uk
ineedaplace.co.uk
rightmove.co.uk
zoopla.co.uk

Please be aware that the agents listed have not been visited or vetted in any way by SFS Birmingham and you should therefore use them at your own risk. Ask what charges you will have to pay before you enter into an agreement with them. If you do have any concerns about the agency, contact the National Association of Estate Agents at www.naea.co.uk

House Shares

You could also find a number of existing house shares in Birmingham where you could join an established group of people. These can be found on the following websites:
www.gumtree.co.uk/birmingham
www.accommodationforstudents.com
www.spareroom.co.uk

RENT AND BILLS
Below are some guidelines for the average price of accommodation in Birmingham.

Accommodation	Price per month
Student Halls	£250 - 300 (inc. bills)
House/Flat Share	£350 - 450 (not inc. bills, 2 or more)

As a full time student, you are not liable to pay council tax if you are house sharing with other students. The local Council Tax Office will be notified of students who are exempt after enrolment. However, you can also request a letter to confirm your student status from SFS Admissions.

Students are responsible for setting up and paying for their utility bills, including water, electric, gas and internet access.

FINDING HOUSEMATES
Facebook is a good way to link up with people who are already at Screen and Film School or who are starting at the same time as you. Some students set up groups prior to starting Screen and Film School in order to find housemates. Using this facility is a great way to post in formation about yourself, the type of housing you are looking for and any rooms that you or others may know of which are available for rent.

It's the perfect place for students to acquaint themselves with their fellow course friends and find appropriate housemates. Look for group names such as 'Screen and Film School'.

House Viewings

TIPS FOR VIEWING PROPERTIES
We recommend viewing a property at least twice. You'll be more likely to notice problems the second time around.

• Take someone with you or let someone else know exactly where you are when you vis it a property, just to err on the side of caution.

• It's also a good idea to visit the area at night. If you do this, please ensure you stick to the point above and take someone with you.

• Make sure you and all your other housemates view the property. Don't take someone else's word that the property is right for you.

• Compare a range of different landlords and properties.

• Take your time and don't let landlords pressure you - there is a surplus of good properties in the area and you will find somewhere you like.

• When you go to view, take notes and photos and use our checklist to make sure you don't miss anything.

• Get informed - knowing your rights will help you view properties more critically and put you in a stronger negotiating position.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN VIEWING A PROPERTY
We have checklists and tools to help when you' re viewing properties. Use the checklist below to make sure you ask the right questions and look into all the key areas:

• Does the place look well maintained?

• Will you be warm enough in winter?

• Will it be safe and secure?

• Does it have the space and facilities you need (i.e washing machine, heating, fridge/freezer)?

• Are the current tenants happy with the landlord?

• Is the property affordable and good value?

• Is the area suitable for your needs?

Location

Where should I be looking?

Screen and Film School Birmingham is located in a central position

There is an abundance of student accommodation within a fairly short distance of the building, and plenty of house and flat shares run by private landlords in other popular student areas.

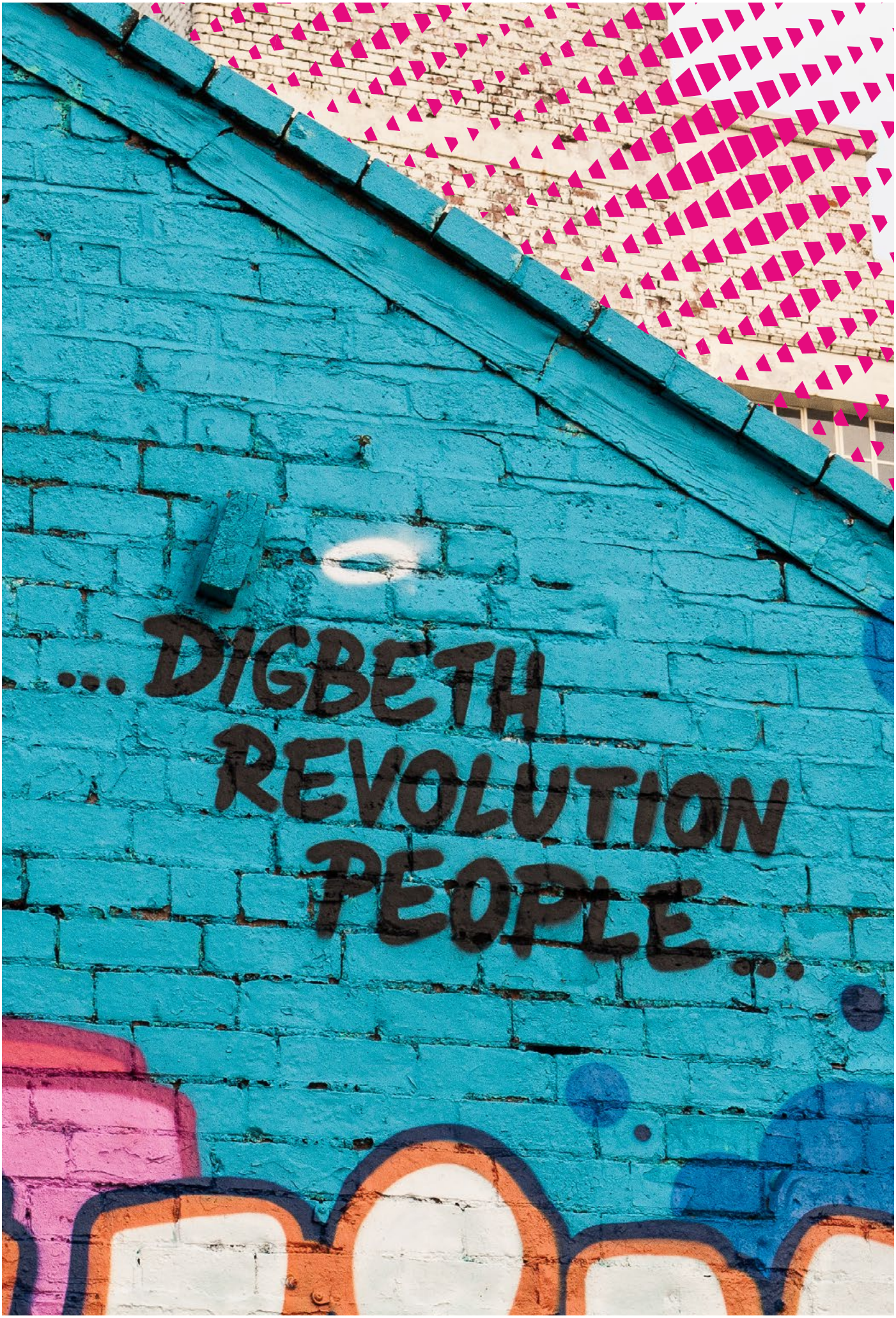
Please take into consideration the cost of travelling and the time it takes to get to the Institute from where you choose to live.

The following areas in particular are a good place to look for shared student accommodation:

- Birmingham City Centre
- Selly Oak
- Moseley and Kingsheath
- Edgbaston

Birmingham is well connected through public transport services; frequent buses that run all through the night, rail and cycle lanes make it easy to get around.

Please note there are no parking facilities available at SFS Birmingham.


...DIGBETH
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PEOPLE...

Transport

SFS Birmingham is well connected to the rest of the city via public transport.

TRAIN
Birmingham has 8 local railways that cross the city and make moving between venues and attractions easy and simple. Birmingham New Street is the largest and busiest of the three main railway stations in the city centre of Birmingham. It is a central hub of the British railway system and makes travelling throughout the UK a breeze. Having events in the surrounding cities and towns is now easier than ever with the Midland Metro which will whisk you between Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Network West Midlands provides online timetables, fares including day tickets and passes, ticket purchase and route planning. To visit the Centro website, use www.centro.org.uk

BUS AND METRO
There are busses to all suburbs and areas of Birmingham making Birmingham brilliant for easy affordable travel. There is a huge network that links everyone to everything. Night busses that go throughout the evening and early hours to places as far away as Coventry. Getting home from an event is safe, cheap and easy. Network West Midlands has all the timetables and fair information online for easy ticket buying and route planning. More and more local buses have facilities such as low floors for easy access for wheelchair users and pushchairs. www.networkwestmidlands.com

TAXI
Birmingham's well-regulated taxis are especially convenient for those with heavy luggage or returning late from a night out. TOA taxis are Birmingham's black cab operators. They can be hailed in the street or reached at one of the many taxi ranks in the city centre; the main ones are at New Street Station, Stephenson Street and Digbeth Coach Station.

BIKE
With miles of canals and a compact city centre, what better way to explore Birmingham and the wider region than by bicycle? There are cycle lanes or paths on many of the major routes into and across the city that take in some of the city's beautiful parks and waterways en route. National cycle route 5 is runs through Birmingham.

Frequently Asked Questions

Most landlords/agents will ask you to sign a tenancy agreement. This is a legally binding document setting out each party's rights and responsibilities. By signing it, both you and the landlord have certain rights protected in law which can't be overwritten by the contract.

Before you sign, make sure you understand all the clauses, so there can be no nasty surprises after you've signed.

If asked to sign an agreement, it is likely to be an Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement and will normally last for at least six months, after which the tenancy will run on a monthly basis. However, many tenancies run for a fixed term, i.e. July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022.

In this case make sure that you are happy with the length of the contract as it is very unlikely that you will be able to end the tenancy early.

The terms of the agreement must be in plain, intelligible language and not be unfair. For example, the tenant should not be restricted from breaking a fixed term agreement if the landlord is not in the same way, nor should they be subject to unreasonable rent increases or held to unreasonable penalty clauses (for example, extortionate charges for late payment of rent).

Get a tenancy agreement checked first by an informed person such as an advisor from the Citizens Advice Bureau. If the landlord/agent won't let you take the contract away to get it checked first, think twice about signing it. Spend a little extra time in getting your contract checked out to save time, money and stress later in the year.

WHAT IS THE LANDLORD RESPONSIBLE FOR?

- Heating and hot water installation
- Baths, sinks, basins and other sanitary installations
- The structure of the exterior of the property
- Repairs and safety of gas and electrical appliances
- Ensuring that any furniture that he or she supplies meets fire resistant requirements

WHAT IS THE TENANT RESPONSIBLE FOR?

- Water and sewage charges
- Utility bills – gas, electricity, telephone and internet connection (if any)
- To take care of the property
- Use the property in a responsible way
- Pay the rent as agreed
- Keep to the terms and conditions of the agreement

WHAT RIGHTS DO BOTH THE LANDLORD AND TENANT HAVE?

The landlord or his agents have the right to access the property at reasonable times during the day to carry out repairs for which they are responsible for and inspect the condition of the property.

24 hours' written notice to inspect the property must be given. Arrangement for access to the property must be written into the contract.

Tenants have the right to possess and enjoy the property during the tenancy without any interruption from the landlord.

This clause does not limit any of the rights made under this agreement that the tenant has allowed the landlord/ landlady to exercise. Neither does it prevent the landlord from taking lawful steps to enforce these rights if the tenant should break any of the terms of agreement.

WHAT BILLS CAN I EXPECT TO PAY?
Depending on your own personal consumption you can expect to pay £20 - £25 per week for utility bills.

Remember that if solely full time students occupy a property then they are exempt from Council Tax.

WHAT IS A DEPOSIT?
The deposit is generally the equivalent of one month's rent. Your landlord or agent must, under the 2004 Housing Act, protect your deposit within 14 days of receiving it as part of the Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme and provide you with certain information relating to this.

This scheme ensures that deposits paid to the landlords are kept safe and that tenants gets their deposits back at the end of the tenancy, so long as there hasn't been a breach of the tenancy agreement, such as unpaid rent. Remember that the money held as a deposit remains yours at all times and not the landlords, and only by mutual agreement should any money be deducted.

Your deposit, or part of it, will be withheld if you:

- Fail to return ALL keys at the end of the tenancy
- Are responsible for any damage to the property, either wilful or negligent
- Have not cleaned the property adequately
- Have left rubbish which needs removing from the property

CAN I DEDUCT MY DEPOSIT FROM MY LAST MONTH'S RENT?
No, because to do so would be a breach of your contract. It is important that rent and deposits are separate.

WHAT IS A GUARANTOR AND WILL I NEED TO SIGN A GUARANTOR FORM?
A guarantor is someone who signs an agreement to pay for any rent or damages if the tenant fails to pay up. The guarantor will most likely be a parent or guardian.

Some landlords ask for a guarantor but not all do. So there are still plenty of properties to choose from if you don't have someone who will be a guarantor for you, you'll just need to look around.

A guarantor is taking on quite a large responsibility, particularly if you are signing a joint contract. For example, if your housemate hasn't paid their rent, your guarantor could be made to pay.

Do not sign a contract that requires a guarantor form until you and your guarantors have read the form and agreed to sign. If you have already signed a contract but a guarantor refuses to sign, you might not get the keys to the property. A good landlord will give you copies of the forms and time to check them through.

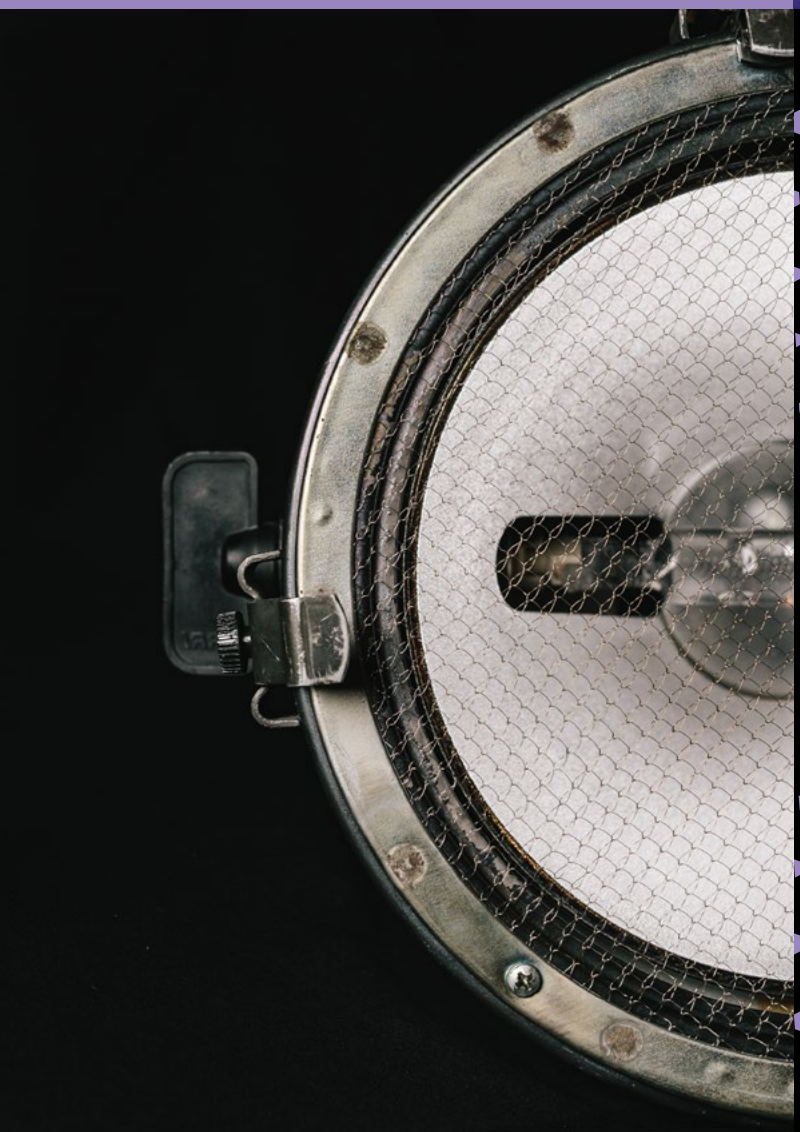
Ask the landlord to accept a limited guarantee from your guarantor e.g. just covering your rent/damages.

Tell your guarantor not to give too much personal information on the form e.g. Nl number, bank details or passport details should not be necessary.

I AM LEAVING THE HOUSE A FEW WEEKS EARLY - CAN I GET MY DEPOSIT BACK EARLY?
It may be possible for you to come to an arrangement for the early return of the deposit but the landlord/agent will obviously want to inspect the house and check all rent is paid.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THE FINAL UTILITY BILLS; CAN WE LEAVE OUR DEPOSIT OR THE LANDLORD/AGENT TO PAY FOR THEM?
No, not if the bills are in the name of the tenants- the utility companies will chase the named persons and not the land lord/agent. Your deposit will be protected as part of the Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme and therefore cannot be used by the landlord or agent.

FURTHER QUESTIONS
If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions team on 01273 602070 or **admissions@screenfilmschool.ac.uk**



Birmingham Life

Birmingham, the city of reinvention, transforming itself from an industrial heritage into a vibrant, young and creative hub for future talent. Statistics show the city is fast becoming the destination of choice for those wishing to escape the expense of London in terms of production and living, but still lead an affordable cosmopolitan lifestyle.

When mentioning Birmingham, the mind instantly goes to the aesthetic of the gritty and iconic award-winning drama 'Peaky Blinders', but Birmingham has also been the filming location for many high-end productions over the past few years, including Steven Spielberg's 'Ready Player One', 'Kingsman: The Golden Circle' as well as 'Line of Duty', 'Hustle', 'Boon', 'Crossroads', 'Dalziel and Pascoe', 'The Game', 'Danny and the Human Zoo', and 'Survivors'.

The city is also the birthplace of many names in the film and television industry such as the infamous Tony Hancock, Julie Walters, Jasper Carrott, Joe Lycett, Theory of Everything star Felicity Jones, silent film star Albert Austin, Director Michael Balcon, and Presenters Emma Willis, Alison Hammond and Toyah Wilcox. Film music composer Stanley Myers was also born here, as was Kenny Baker – that's R2-D2 in Star Wars, twins James and Oliver Phelps, who played the Weasley twins in the Harry Potter films, and Judge John Deed himself, actor Martin Shaw.

Birmingham is a city that has truly risen from the ashes over the past few decades, shaking off a gritty former image and emerging as a cultural hotspot for up and coming talent. Historically recognised for its industrial legacy as the 'City of a Thousand Trades' due to the vast number of industries and business that flocked to the area towards the end of the 19th Century, Birmingham is actually one the UK's greenest districts, featuring 600 parks and open spaces accumulating to over 8,000 acres.

It's this multi-cultural eclectic mix of old meets new, nature meets industry, and art meets culture – which draws the crowds to the area, provides a canvas for filmmakers, and makes Birmingham such a fresh and innovative location for budding members of the film and television industry.

In August 2022 Birmingham will also play host to the Commonwealth Games at a cost of over £218m. The events will be precluded a six-month cultural festival across Birmingham and the West Midlands, encouraging visitors from all over the world and opening up the opportunities for coverage for local production teams.

The city also holds over 50 festivals annually, including the Birmingham Film Festival, the Flat Pack Film Festival, the Birmingham International Jazz Festival and the Fierce Art Festival, to name but a few. It's not just an exciting and vibrant scene to enjoy socially – it's an opportunity to meet and work with talented individuals from all aspects of the industry.

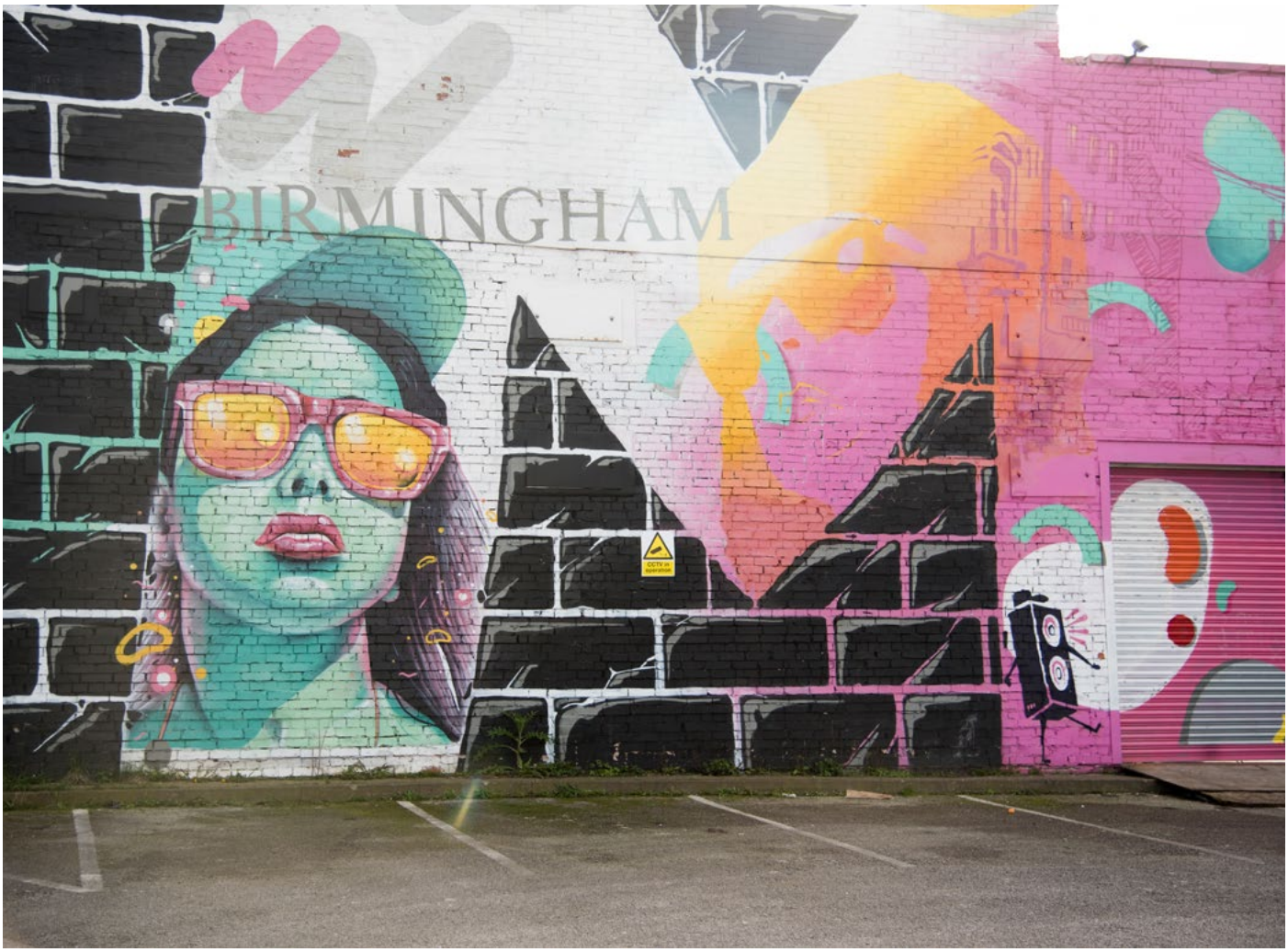
This collaborative and productive spirit and drive is what makes Birmingham stand out, and with 12 universities and over 185,000 students on average, the under 25s make up around 40% of Birmingham's population, as the innovative and driven talent of tomorrow cluster to one of the UK's most up and coming cities in the industry.

An inclusive city, Birmingham Pride began in 2014 and has since awarded over £250k to deserving local community and support groups in the area, also cementing the district's place as a diverse and welcoming city featuring a wealth of culture, galleries, theatres, cinemas and live music venues including the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum, the Ikon Gallery, The Jewellery Quarter, and The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists.

As film and TV productions worldwide look for new locations, space, flexibility, and sound economic sense, Birmingham's position in the global market as a location and source of talent is growing.

Put your career centre stage, Birmingham could be the best location scouting choice you ever make for your career.

BIRMINGHAM


BIRMINGHAM

Film Scene

BIRMINGHAM FILM FESTIVAL
One of Birmingham's most prestigious annual events. The international film festival is a platform for new films and emerging talent. Each year 200 films are screened over a 10-day period, as well as industry Q&A sessions, workshops, seminars, and the chance to network.

FLATPACK FILM FESTIVAL
Every May bank holiday Flatpack appear at venues across Birmingham with the 'magnificently eclectic' Flatpack Festival. The annual festival is complemented by an itinerant year-round program including film-tents at music festivals and rural archive tours. Flatpack is a lead partner in Film Hub Midlands, part of the UK Film Audience Network aimed at developing a thriving film culture in the Midlands.

MILLENNIUM POINT
Home of the Birmingham Film Festival, Millennium Point is located in the city centre close to Moor Street and New Street train stations. The iconic venue hosts a wide range of events each year.

CUSTARD FACTORY
Former site of the Birds Custard Factory, the area has been dynamically regenerated to create Birmingham's buzzing creative and digital district. The hub of Birmingham's creative scene, Custard Factory houses a plethora of boutique shops, restaurants, bars, cafes, and the delightful Mockingbird Bar and Theatre.

FILM BIRMINGHAM
Film Birmingham is Birmingham City Council's Film and Television office. Their aim is to encourage and support filmmakers and the film industry, making filming as easy and efficient as possible throughout Birmingham and the West Midlands by providing a one-stop-shop for production needs.

Eating Out

No cosmopolitan city is complete without a vast array of eateries and restaurants to suit varying tastes, and Birmingham excels in attracting not only popular chains of restaurants, pizzerias and fast food, but a stunning range of fine restaurants in which to lose yourself for a few hours.

Starting life in 2012 as a popular Birmingham burger stall, the Meat Shack, now located on Thorp Street opposite the Hippodrome Theatre, boasts a saliva seducing menu 'Dripping Filthy Goodness' to get the taste buds of the more carnivorous customer tingling.

If dirty burgers aren't your scene and you're looking for something a bit more chić, one of Birmingham's most highly regarded chefs, Aktar Islam, delivers his delicious modern interpretation of Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine at the stylish and sophisticated venue Opheem, earning the esteemed restaurant a Michelin star in the process.

Gaigin Sushi on Bristol Street is renowned for its theatrical approach, and wows diners with their preparation, whilst the art deco style of The Oyster Club is sure to impress as Birmingham's finest seafood restaurant.

If Italian cuisine is more your style, then the family run Laghi's Deli on the fringes of the city centre brings an authentic taste of Northern Italy to Birmingham.

If good old classics pub food is more your style, then it's hard to find better than The Pint Shop and their unique take on 'pub grub'. Whether it's their exhaustive list of beers or flair for a unique twist to their meals, there's something to suit everyone's palette in and around Birmingham.

No matter what your taste, Birmingham proves itself as a city full of flavour.

Nightlife

It's hard to get much more diverse than Birmingham's vibrant and bustling night time scene, featuring some of the best bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants the UK has to offer, from popular chains to unique boutique establishments, a flavour for every taste.

A rich and eclectic mix of live music, comedy and clubbing is available, whether it's a retro and soul night you fancy at The Night Owl, a 1940's style cinema evening at The Electric Cinema, hilarity at stand-up spot The Glee Club, indie vibes at at Snobs, or a mad night out devastating the dance floor at top clubs such as Lab11, The Tunnel Club, The Rainbow Venues, Hare and Hounds, the O2 Academy, The Mill, or Monastery, an actual former Monastery now transformed into a 21st century Birmingham nightspot.

Birmingham is an inclusive city, and the LGBTQI+ community have their very own 'gaybourhood' which is centered along Hurst Street, next to the Chinese Quarter in the city centre. Clubs such as The Nightingale, Bolts and the Village inn are weekly hotspots, whilst Club Kids Birmingham run events hosted by legendary RuPaul's Drag Race stars such as Miz Cracker, Shea Coulee, Thorgy Thor and Bebe Zahara Benet.

There's also Birmingham Pride held every Spring Bank Holiday weekend which attracts over 70,000 visitors each year and offers a variety of day and night time events for everyone to enjoy.

If headline acts are your thing you've come to the right place. Birmingham Genting Arena has featured A listers such as Adele, Metallica, Emelie Sandé and the Killers. The Utility Arena has hosted Ariana Grandé, Harry Styles, Queen, Elton John, Pete Tong and Erasure, whilst the BIC has hosted stars such as Little Mix, Aha, and The Pet Shop Boys.

With such a huge student population the city has become a hub for having a good time, and because everything is so close together it makes getting from place to place a few minutes' walk, or you can travel around the city by taxi for less than a fiver.

Things To See and Do

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is home to the largest collection of pre-Raphaelite artworks in the world, as well as collections of silver, sculpture, ceramics and ancient and social history galleries. The Gas Hall Gallery houses a constantly changing programme of exhibitions. Entrance is free except for certain exhibitions.

One of Europe's leading contemporary art galleries, Ikon is stylish, progressive and recognised for its individuality.

The Ikon exhibits the best international and British art in a changing programme of exhibitions and events. Admission is free. Birmingham Museums has extraordinary venues that provide a fascinating glimpse into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past and showcase world class museum collections.

With over 600 parks and open spaces over 8,000 acres, Birmingham is the ideal place to enjoy nature and get some fresh air. With its beautiful twisting paths, woodlands and orchards, Martineau Gardens is a bubble of tranquillity, whilst historic Winterbourne House and Gardens is the home of stunning landscaping and the perfect retreat on a sunny afternoon.

Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens features 10 acres of walled gardens in the Baroque aesthetic, and includes a holly walk, summer house, and maze. In the middle of town, you'll find the City Centre Gardens located next to the International Convention Centre, filled with exotic-looking plants it's a great location to escape between lectures, or spend a day lazing.

Nearby you'll also find the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, which boasts 15 acres of stunning landscaped gardens, and 4 glasshouses for lovers of the more tropical, from cascading palms and ferns through to Mediterranean citrus and cacti, it's the perfect way to relax.

Film Culture

Over the past few years the Birmingham film industry in the city has grown exponentially, attracting big Hollywood productions and their Directors such as Steven Spielberg who filmed for ‘Ready Player One’ on the streets of the Jewellery Quarter, Digbeth and beneath Spaghetti Junction.

Kingsman: The Golden Circle was filmed around Cornwall Street, ‘Jawbone’ starring Ray Winstone filmed sequences in the Jewellery Quarter and Digbeth, and the classic ‘The Girl with All the Gifts’ featuring Gemma Arterton and Hollywood legend Glenn Close was filmed in the city centre.

Birmingham-born film producer Michael Balcon’s psychological thriller ‘iWitness’, futuristic science fiction film ‘The Call Up’, comedy ‘We are the Freaks’, biopic ‘Stan and Ollie’, and psychological thriller ‘Monochrome’ were also filmed around the area.

Creator of the iconic Birmingham filmed Peaky Blinders series, Steven Knight, is currently working on plans to open a new film studio in Birmingham, opening huge opportunities for those in the vicinity.

The West Midlands Production Fund supports the development of a dynamic and sustainable film and TV drama hub in the area by providing access to finance for start-up small and medium enterprise companies such as production houses, who are actively progressing image content production.

The organisation has previously invested in ‘Line of Duty’, ‘Spooks: The Greater Good’, ‘Dancing on the Edge’, ‘Toast’, and ‘The Call Up’.

Birmingham has many dedicated studios, agencies, and production teams in and around the region, featuring traditional studio space, green screen facilities, audio production, animation and SFX houses, as well as warehouse space to permit large scale set construction.

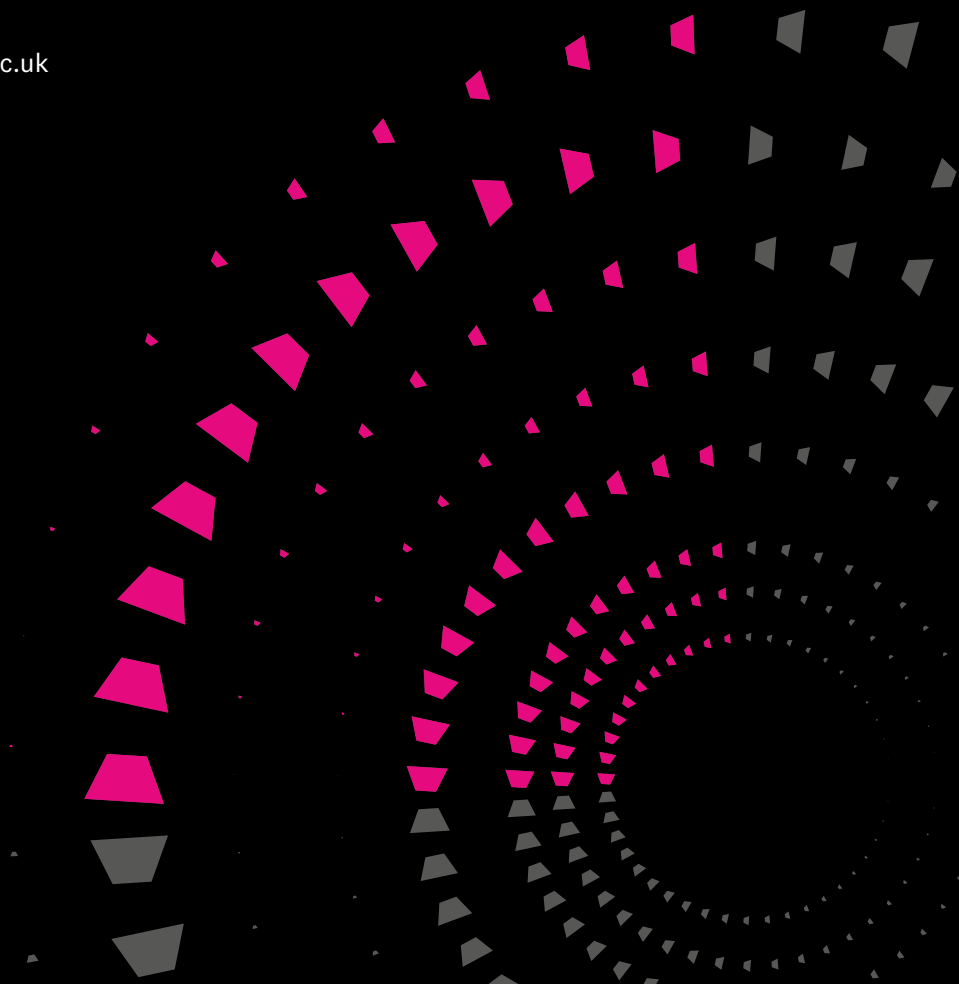
Add in the multitude of film festivals and networks and it’s all here ready to put your career centre stage, all you have to do is say “action”.

SCREEN AND
FILM SCHOOL

Birmingham

If you have any further questions about finding accommodation in Birmingham, please don't hesitate to contact our Admissions Team.

Tel 01273 602070
Email admissions@screenfilmschool.ac.uk



www.screenfilmschool.ac.uk