



SCREEN AND
FILM SCHOOL

Birmingham

2023/24

Accommodation Guide



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Accommodation

One essential thing you must ensure you have arranged prior to your studies at Screen and Film School 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 Screen and Film School Birmingham, which means you must find housing privately, but we have various resources available to help with every step of the process.

Birmingham has a large amount of 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.



Walkthrough Steps

If you're starting to consider your accommodation choices, we're always here to help and it might just be easier than you think to find your perfect student house.

Follow the below steps and if you still have any questions, please contact our Admissions Team on 0121 817 8923 or email admissions@screenfilmschool.ac.uk.



Once you have applied via UCAS and received an offer, you can confirm that Screen and Film School are your first choice on UCAS



Try to find time to explore the amazing city you will soon be studying and living in (Birmingham, Brighton or Manchester) and familiarise yourself with the different areas



Now you need to consider your finances. You should start your student finance application right away if you are applying for a tuition fee or maintenance loan. If you are an international student, we can guide you through this process too



At this point, you should start looking at your accommodation choices



We will send you our helpful Accommodation Guide via email, which is full of further details and will help you decide if you prefer to live in a shared house or private halls of residence



You can now join the Screen and Film School House Hunting Facebook group and begin looking for your new housemates (we will invite you to join this group)



Now is the time to speak to the letting agents that we work with and to begin exploring their available properties



Or you can contact the independent halls of residence that we recommend for information on what they can offer



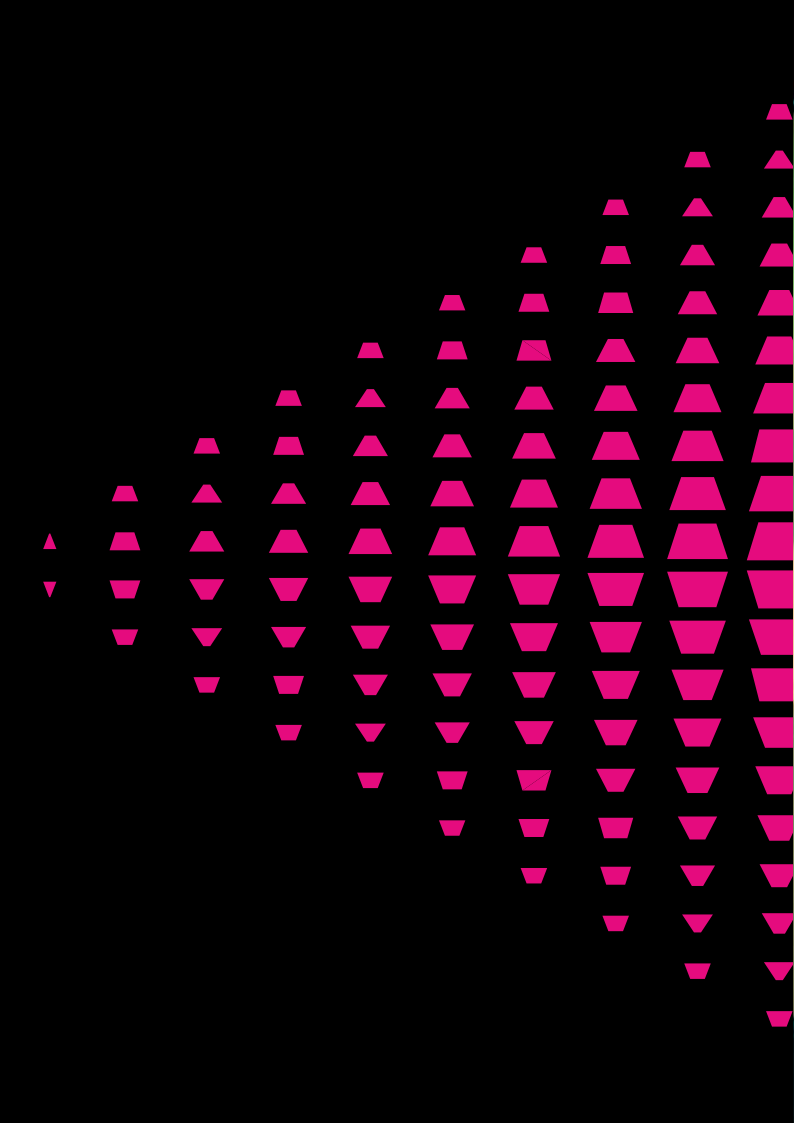
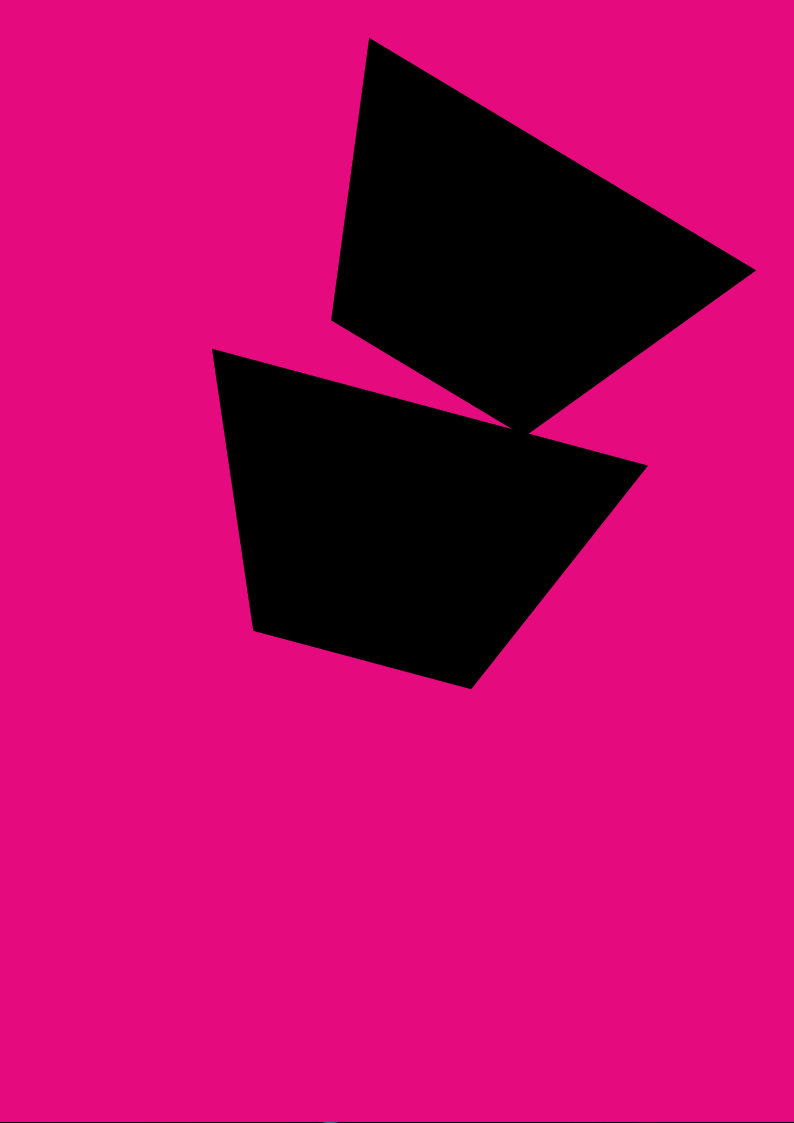
It's always best to view your chosen property before paying a deposit if you can



You can contact your local Applicant Experience Manager to seek advice at any time - they're here to help you and they know their city inside out!



Then it's just a matter of time until you make the all-important decision and receive the keys for your new home



Partnered Halls Of Residence

STUDENT.COM

Here at Screen and Film School Birmingham, we have partnered with **Student.com** to provide you with access and support in any student hall company throughout Birmingham.

Student.com is the world's leading marketplace for student housing, helping students find their perfect home.

Student.com has been ten years in the making and the team has already helped thousands of students find their home. They have the widest and most carefully selected range of rooms were built for and are managed specifically for students. This gives students the power to explore and compare a variety of rooms across different neighbourhoods so that they can make the right choice. They can guarantee:

- Price match promise
- 4.6* Trustpilot Rating
- 24-hour service from a global expert bookings team which speaks 12 languages

Screen and Film School students can claim a £100 Uber voucher if they book through Student.com.

Referral Link - www.student.com/uk/birmingham/u/screen-and-film-school-birmingham?utm_source=screen-film-birmingham&utm_medium=partnership&utm_campaign=partnership

Student.com is dedicated to introducing you to your fellow filmmakers. On your application, please mention that you are a Screen and Film School Birmingham student or utilise the House Hunting Facebook group to ensure you can be paired with your peers.

Additionally, Student Roost has made an exclusive offer for Screen and Film School students only. When booking a room at either **The Heights** or **The Old Fire Station** - students will benefit from a free bedding and kitchen pack.

If you are interested please get in touch with your Applicant Experience Manager Lucy at: lucycarey@screenfilmschool.ac.uk



Partnered Letting Agents

KING & CO PROPERTIES

King & Co are an independent, family run business with many decades of experience letting to students in the local area.

King & Co believe in offering tenants a friendly no pressure approach to letting. They present a vast selection of high-quality properties to suit all requirements and budgets.

They also have a fresh, highly effective approach to letting and the only agent to have never charged an Admin Fee to students is a fact they are very proud of.

672 Bristol Road
Selly Oak
Birmingham
B29 6BJ

www.kingandcoproperties.com

SLC PROPERTY GROUP

With over 20 years experience in student accommodation in Birmingham and the surrounding areas, The Student Letting Company is well qualified to satisfy your accommodation requirements, from single students to multiple occupancy in the Edgbaston, Five Ways, Harborne, Aston, Selly Oak, Smethwick and Perry Barr areas, providing excellent access to Screen and Film School.

1 Holy Well Close
Edgbaston, Birmingham
B16 8TB

www.studentlettingco.co.uk



Recommended Letting Agencies

UNITE STUDENT PROPERTIES

Unite Students has 13 student halls available in Birmingham. Prices start from £99 per week. Each room comes with a bathroom and either a personal or shared kitchen. The residences are close to Screen and Film School 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 Screen and Film School Birmingham.

For further information, please visit www.mystudenthalls.com/student-accommodation/birmingham

CRM

CRM opened on Bristol Street in September 2013, and they provide some of Birmingham's most exclusive student accommodation. Located with easy access to the city centre and Screen and Film School Birmingham. Each room comes with an en-suite, parking and on-site laundry.

With prices starting from £99 per week it is 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 across all budgets, with rooms from £145 per week. All only a short bus ride away from Screen and Film School 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/landladies 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
latesthomes.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 Screen and Film School Birmingham. 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.propertymark.co.uk

House Shares

You can 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 Screen and Film School 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 information 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 visit 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/landladies and properties.
- Take your time and don't let landlords/landladies 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/landlady?
- 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/landladies in other popular student areas.

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

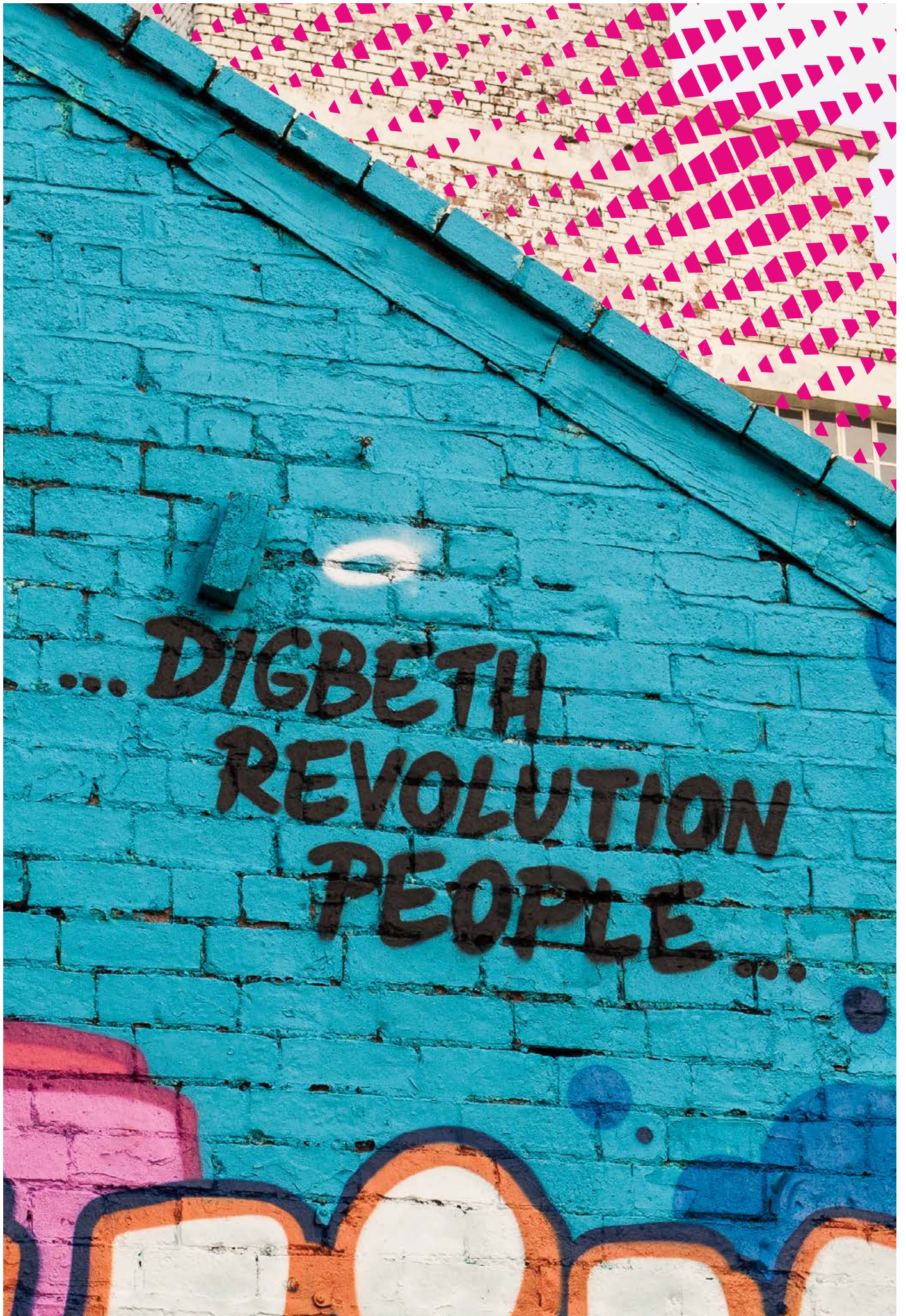
The following areas in particular are a good place to look for shared student accommodation:

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

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

Please note there are no parking facilities available at Screen and Film School Birmingham.





... DIGBETH
REVOLUTION
PEOPLE ...

Transport

Screen and Film School Birmingham is well connected to the rest of the city via public transport.

TRAIN

Birmingham has eight local railways that cross the city and make moving between venues and attractions easy. 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 buses to all suburbs and areas of Birmingham making Birmingham brilliant for easy, affordable travel. Night buses 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 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.

Frequently Asked Questions

Most landlords/landladies/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/landlady 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 2023 to June 30th 2024.

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/landlady 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/landlady/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/LANGLADY 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)
- Taking care of the property
- Using the property in a responsible way
- Paying the rent as agreed
- Keeping to the terms and conditions of the agreement

WHAT RIGHTS DO BOTH THE LANDLORD/LANGLADY AND TENANT HAVE?

The landlord/landlady 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/landlady.

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/landlady 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 use 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/landlady/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/landladies are kept safe and that tenants get 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/landladies, 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/landladies 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/landlady will give you copies of the forms and time to check them through.

Ask the landlord/landlady 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. NI 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?

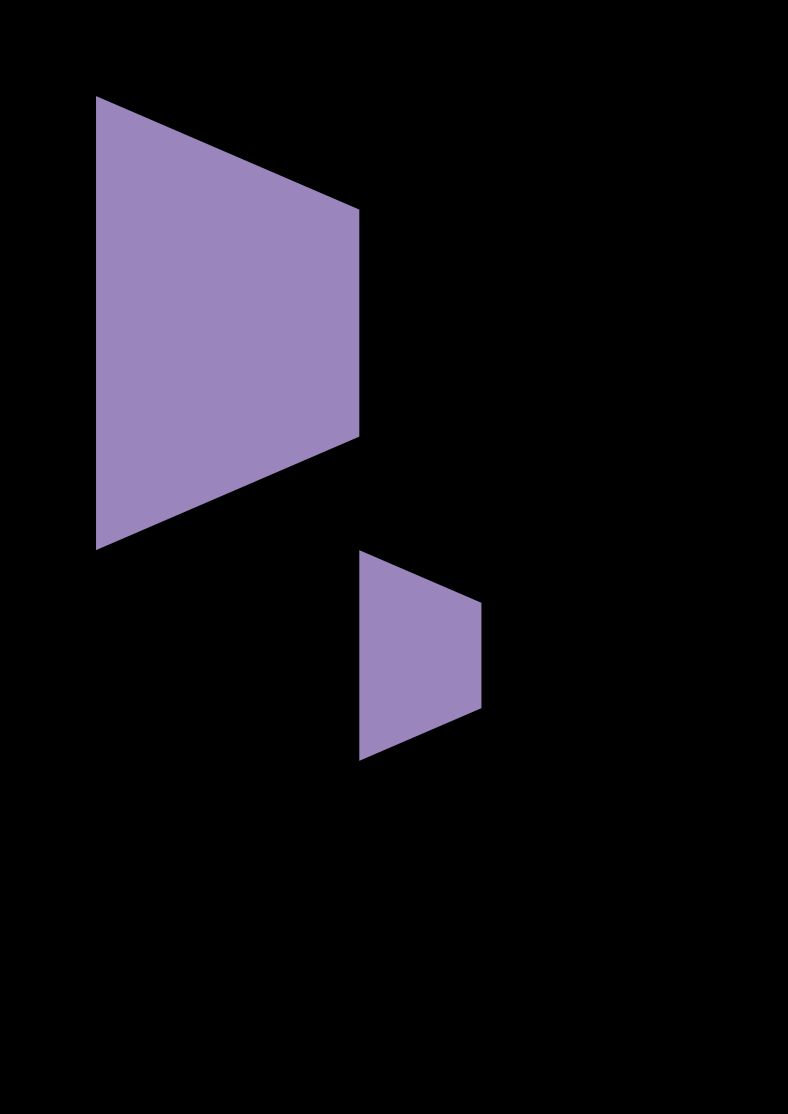
It may be possible for you to come to an arrangement for the early return of the deposit but the landlord/landlady/agent will obviously want to inspect the house and check all rent is paid.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY THE FINAL UTILITY BILLS; CAN WE LEAVE OUR DEPOSIT OR THE LANDLORD/LANLADY/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 landlord/landlady/agent. Your deposit will be protected as part of the Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme and therefore cannot be used by the landlord/landlady/agent.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Team on 0121 817 8923 or admissions@screenfilmschool.ac.uk



Birmingham Life

Birmingham is 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 film 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*.

Historically recognised for its industrial legacy as the 'City of a Thousand Trades' due to the vast number of industries and businesses that flocked to the area towards the end of the 19th Century, Birmingham is actually one of the UK's greenest districts, featuring 600 parks and open spaces accumulating to over 8,000 acres.

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.

Birmingham could be the best location scouting choice you ever make for your career.



Film Scene

BIRMINGHAM FILM FESTIVAL

Birmingham Film Festival is a platform for new films and emerging talent. Each year 200 films are screened over a ten 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 HQ. 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.

EVERYMAN CINEMA

Everyman is redefining cinema. Bringing an innovative lifestyle approach to their venues, they create a warm and friendly atmosphere, with an excellent food and drink selection and fantastic customer service. With a wide array of mainstream, independent and classic films, special events, launches and a diverse calendar of live satellite broadcasts, there is something for everyone at Everyman.

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 restaurants chains, 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 mouth-watering 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 chic, 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 classic pub food is more your thing, 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, they have something to suit everyone's palette in and around Birmingham.

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

Nightlife

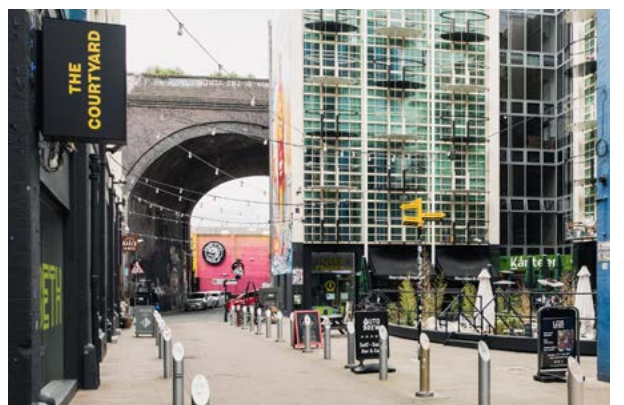
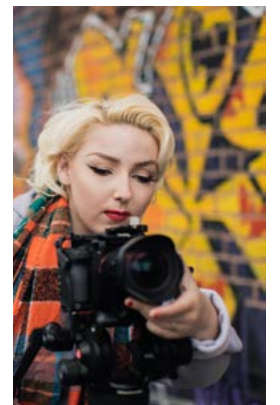
It's hard to get much more diverse than Birmingham's vibrant and bustling nightlife, featuring some of the best bars, pubs, clubs and restaurants the UK has to offer, from popular chains to unique boutique establishments.

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 1940s style cinema evening at **The Electric Cinema**, hilarity at stand-up spot **The Glee Club**, indie vibes 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 neighbourhood 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.

That's not to mention Birmingham Pride, which is held every spring Bank Holiday weekend and attracts over 70,000 visitors each year and offers a variety of day and night time events for everyone to enjoy.

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 just a few minutes' walk, or you can travel around the city by taxi for less than £5.





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Our contact details

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

Tel 0121 817 8923

Email admissions@screenfilmschool.ac.uk

Address Little Anne Street, Digbeth, Deritend B5 5QF

