

# **ALICE'S STORY**

**Alice tells us about her experience of living in student halls when she was a first year.**

I lived in University halls for first year (a townhouse sharing with 12 people), and then in a shared house for the remaining years. Living on campus in first year was really fun, I was so close to friends in other halls, where different societies met up on campus, and it was also a short walk to lectures (extra time in bed...)

After first year, you might decide to live in town and make use of the 24/7 bus. But if you live locally, you might consider commuting. I've had many friends who did this, some in first year who then moved into student houses, or some in final year when their timetable had more gaps. Don't worry about the social aspect, my friend that commuted often stayed with us if she had early morning lectures, and still made good friends on her course and at societies.

If cooking isn't your strength, then catered accommodation might be the right choice for you. You get a weekly budget on your campus card (the student card issued to you during your first week), which can be used in certain catering outlets throughout the university. Whilst I've never been catered, friends that had said how sociable it was, going to eat with your new-found friends in your halls and not having to worry about weekly shopping. These catering outlets are open to everyone though, so if you fancy a meal cooked for you during a busy day on campus then they're the place to be!

It's a big step moving away from home for the first time, I certainly felt this, but there is plenty of support available to you wherever you live. Halls have 24hr security, with security staff patrolling during late evening, so there's no reason to feel unsafe. Halls Hotline will be your lifesaver when your shower breaks or the toaster gives up the ghost, the maintenance team are on hand to fix or replace necessary items. Your hall warden and warden assistants, who really helped me during my first year, will be doing spot checks throughout the year and are there to talk through any concerns. As well as accommodation specific support, the student welfare team, your personal tutor and the support centres within the university are all there to help you settle in or chat to someone if you have any worries.