



**Institute
of Music**

Your guide to student accommodation in Plymouth

Welcome to Plymouth! Whether you're arriving in the city for the first time or already familiar with it, finding the right place to live is an essential part of your student journey.

At dBs Institute of Music Plymouth, we know that choosing accommodation- especially if it's your first time away from home-can feel overwhelming. That's why we've put together this guide to help you explore your options, understand the process, and find a space that suits your lifestyle, preferences, and budget.



Why choose Plymouth?

Plymouth is a coastal gem packed with character, community, and natural beauty. With its mix of ocean views, green parks, and buzzing student scene, it's an ideal setting for creative minds and laid-back lifestyles.

Home to two universities and specialist institutions like dBs Institute of Music, Plymouth offers a vibrant student community, a strong music and arts culture, and a more affordable cost of living compared to many other UK cities.

Whether you love paddleboarding at the Hoe, watching live gigs, or relaxing in independent cafés, there's something for everyone. But with demand rising each year, it's wise to start your accommodation search early.

Our [Student's Guide to Plymouth](#) includes tips and favourite local spots to help you settle in with ease.



What kind of accommodation is available?

As dBs Institute of Music doesn't have its own halls of residence, students are encouraged to explore private accommodation options. Here's a breakdown of what's available:

Private Student Halls (PBSAs)

Purpose-built and professionally managed, these are similar to traditional university halls but run by private providers. They usually offer:

- En-suite rooms or studio flats
- On-site facilities (laundry, gyms, social areas)
- All-inclusive bills (utilities, WiFi, insurance)
- Secure buildings with 24/7 support

Best for: Students who want convenience, community, and less admin.

Shared Houses and Flats

Many students choose to live in a shared house or flat with friends or other students. This option typically offers:

- A private bedroom
- Shared kitchen, living space, and bathroom
- Lower costs (especially if bills are shared)
- Flexibility in location and price range

Best for: Independent living, more space, and affordability.

Studios or One-Bedroom Flats

Self-contained spaces that include your own kitchen and bathroom. These offer maximum privacy and independence.

Best for: Mature students, couples, or those who value privacy.

Homestays or Lodger Rooms

A less common but affordable option. Some students choose to live with a local family or as a lodger in someone's home.

Best for: Short-term stays, immersive experiences, or international students.

Set your budget

Before you start house-hunting, it's important to understand how much you can realistically afford each month. Setting a clear budget will help you narrow down your accommodation options and avoid unexpected costs later on.

Here's what to include in your monthly budget:

Rent

Often your biggest expense. Prices vary depending on the area and type of accommodation.

Bills

If not included in your rent, remember to factor in gas, electricity, water, WiFi.

Food & Essentials

Think groceries, toiletries, cleaning products, and any other day-to-day living costs.

Transport

Include bus/tram passes, occasional train fares, or cycling costs.

Social Life

Nights out, coffee runs, society memberships, streaming subscriptions-budget for fun!

Emergency Fund

Set aside a little each month for unexpected expenses like medical costs or urgent travel.

We have some really useful guides on our blog '[dBs Insider](#)' including some useful advice on [how to manage your finances whilst studying](#) with dBs Institute of Music.

Where should you live in Plymouth?

Plymouth has several student-friendly neighbourhoods with different vibes.

Here's a quick guide to some top picks:

City Centre – Close & Convenient

Perfect if you want everything within walking distance.

- Minutes from dBs Plymouth
- Surrounded by shops, nightlife, and public transport
- Loads of student halls and apartments

Best for: Students who want to be right in the action.

Mutley – Social & Affordable

One of Plymouth's most popular student areas.

- Lots of large student houses and flatshares
- Buzzing with cafes, takeaways, and pubs
- Easy walk or quick bus to campus

Best for: Social butterflies and budget-conscious students.

Greenbank – Central & Residential

A quieter alternative close to both the city and campus.

- Affordable shared housing
- Mostly residential with a friendly vibe
- Popular with second-year and third-year students

Best for: A balance of peace and proximity.

Lipson – Budget-Friendly & Relaxed

A bit further out, but cheaper and quieter.

- Great value houses and flats
- Residential, with green spaces nearby
- Walkable to town (about 20 minutes)

Best for: Students who want more space for less.

Stoke & Devonport – Local & Laid-back

Further west, these areas offer a more local lifestyle.

- • Cheaper rents and larger properties
- • Regular buses into town
- • A calmer pace of life

Best for: Mature students or those who prefer quieter surroundings.

Pro Tip: Think about your daily routine - how long do you want your commute to be? Do you prefer peace and quiet, or lively social settings? Picking the right neighbourhood can make a big difference to your uni experience.





Getting to campus

dBs Plymouth is located in the city centre, making it easy to get to by foot, bike, or public transport.

By Train

If you're travelling from outside the city:

- **Plymouth Train Station is a short walk or quick bus from the dBs campus**
- **Connections available to Cornwall, Exeter, and beyond**

Pro Tip: Get a 16–25 Railcard or a student rail pass to save up to 1/3 on fares.

By Bus

Plymouth Citybus and Stagecoach run regular routes through all major student areas:

- **Mutley, Greenbank, Lipson, and Stoke all have strong bus links**
- **Student bus passes are available for unlimited travel**
- **Use apps like "Plymouth Bus" for real-time updates**

Cycling & Walking

Plymouth is a cycle-friendly city with loads of bike lanes and walking routes.

- **Many student areas are within a 10–25 minute walk**
- **Plenty of safe routes and pedestrian zones**
- **Cycle lanes and bike storage available**

Pro Tip: Walking or biking can often be faster (and cheaper!) than driving or using the bus.

Support from our accommodation partners

Finding the right place to live is easier with a little expert help - that's why we've partnered with two trusted student accommodation platforms to guide and support you throughout your search.



In partnership with



Looking for all-in-one student living? Amber makes it easy to find the right private student halls for your budget and lifestyle.

What Amber offers:

- **Dedicated Accommodation Tool** to support dBs Students in securing accommodation
- **A wide selection of verified, high-quality student properties**
- **24/7 personalised support**, from search to move-in
- **Help with booking, contracts, and paperwork**
- **Friendly, multilingual support staff** ready to assist you

hybr

Prefer a house or flat share? Hybr specialises in helping students find great private accommodation options across Bristol.

What Hybr offers:

- **Exclusive properties available only to dBs students**
- **One-to-one support** with property searches, viewings, and applications
- **A housemate-matching service** to help you find compatible flatmates
- **Bills-inclusive options** to simplify budgeting
- **Guidance on guarantors, contracts, and tenant rights**

Whether you're looking for a private studio or a shared house with new friends, **Amber** and **Hybr** are here to make the process stress-free and student-friendly.

Join the dBs accommodation Discord hub

Start building your community before you even move in! Our dedicated dBs Discord server is the perfect space to connect, ask questions, and get support as you prepare for student life in Bristol.

What is Discord?

Discord is a free social platform that allows you to communicate through instant messaging, video, voice and share media.

Here's what you can do in the hub:

- Chat with current students and alumni to hear first-hand experiences
- Ask real-time questions about housing, moving in, or student life
- Get the latest updates from our Admissions Team and housing partners
- Join virtual Q&As, info sessions, and social events
- Find potential housemates and share accommodation tips or recommendations

Whether you're feeling excited, nervous, or just curious-you're not alone. The Discord Hub is here to support you every step of the way.



Applicants who are holding on an offer to study with dBs will be invited to join the dBs Institute of Music Applicant Hub on Discord.



Important Information

Know your rights

Signing a tenancy agreement is a big step-so it's important to understand what you're agreeing to. Here's what to look out for:

- **Tenancy Agreements**

Most student rentals are Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs). This legal contract outlines your rights and responsibilities, including rent, duration, and terms for ending the tenancy.

- **Deposit Protection**

By law, your landlord must protect your deposit in a government-approved scheme and provide you with details of where it's held within 30 days of payment.

- **Repairs & Maintenance**

Your landlord is responsible for keeping the property safe and in good condition. You have the right to request repairs-and they must respond within a reasonable time.

- **Notice Periods**

Both you and your landlord must follow legal notice periods when ending the tenancy. These are usually outlined in your contract-always read the small print.

- **Rent Increases**

Your landlord can't raise your rent without proper notice. In most cases, they must give at least one month's written notice if you're on a rolling contract.

- **Protection from Discrimination & Harassment**

You have the right to live in your home without facing discrimination, unfair treatment, or harassment based on race, gender, religion, disability, or other protected characteristics.

Need Help or Advice?

If you're unsure about anything, don't hesitate to reach out to:

- **Citizens Advice** – for free, impartial legal guidance
- **Hybr or Amber** – our trusted accommodation partners who offer expert support with tenancy agreements and housing questions

Register

Register to vote

Living in Bristol? You're eligible to register to vote in local and national elections. It's quick, free and helps you have a voice in your community.

Head to: gov.uk/register-to-vote

As a student in Bristol, exercising your right to vote allows you to have a say in local and national elections, influencing policies and decisions that directly impact your community and future.

Make sure to register to vote as soon as you are eligible, and stay informed about upcoming elections and voting deadlines. Your voice matters, and by participating in the electoral process, you can make a meaningful impact on issues that matter to you and your community.

Register with a local GP

It is important to sign up to a doctors' surgery (GP) as soon as possible when you move to your new accommodation. Take some time to find your [nearest GP surgery](#).

Useful resources

Property Search Engines

Note: We strongly advise vigilance and care when exploring renting through the third-party websites listed below. Ensure to be aware of scams and not to transfer funds when there is doubt as to the legitimacy of a transaction or listing.

You can find either full houses/flats, or rooms to let within a shared house via most of these websites. Be cautious when meeting people to view properties.

Make sure to check that the property you are interested in is available to students. Many will state in the property description but if it is not clear, check with the landlord/estate agent first.

[Rightmove](#)

[Zoopla](#)

[OnTheMarket](#)

[OpenRent](#)

[AccommodationForStudents](#)

[Gumtree](#)

[SpareRoom](#)