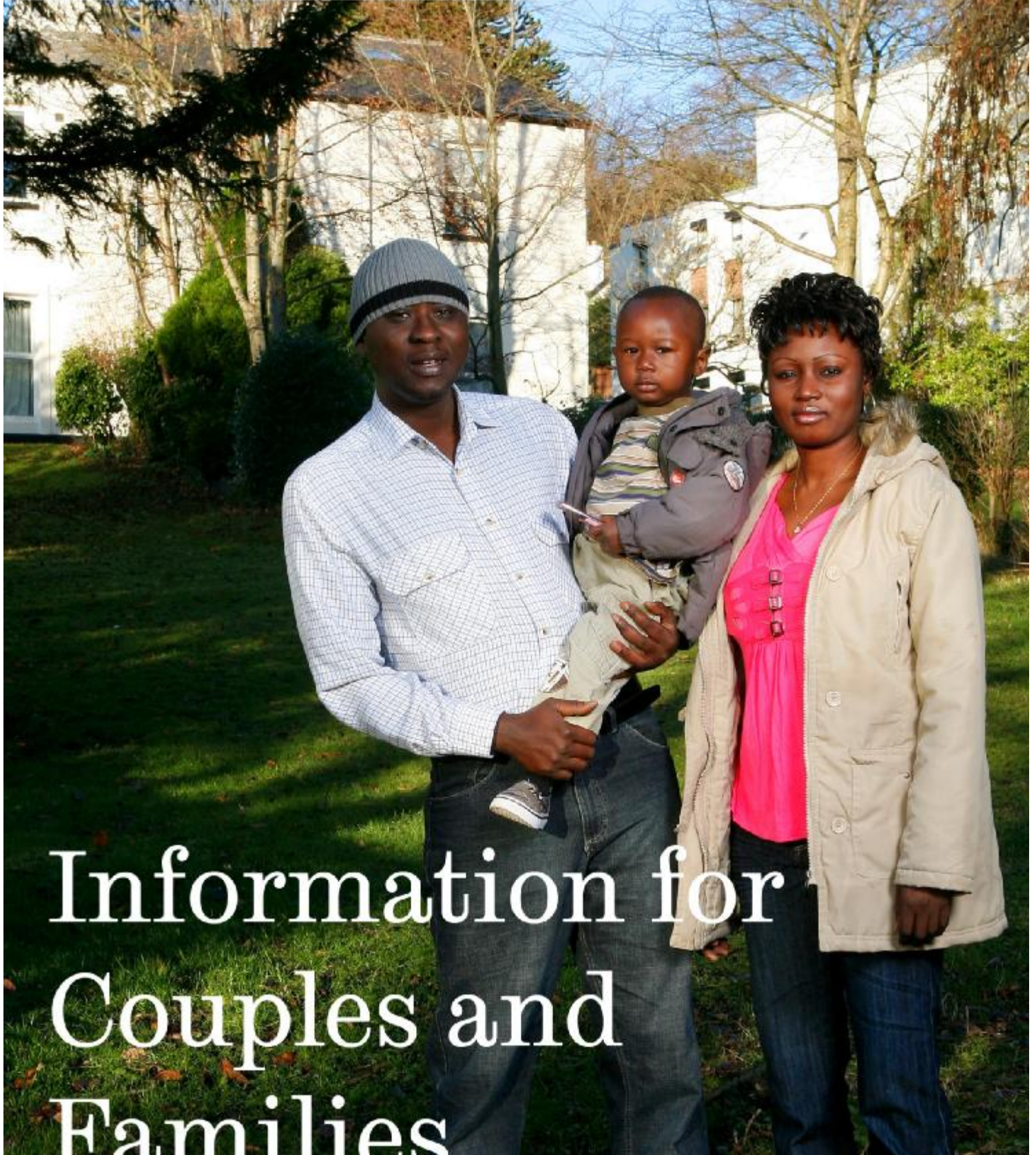




The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Accommodation &
Commercial
Services.



Information for
Couples and
Families

Information for Couples and Families

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Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to study at the University of Sheffield. We recognise that additional factors need to be taken into account when bringing your family to Sheffield and we hope that the following information will be useful both before, and after, your arrival. This booklet primarily contains advice and information about the choice and availability of suitable accommodation. There is also information about schools and childcare provision, and about the various activities that are available for partners.

Application Process for Couples and Families

Couples and families can apply for University accommodation once they have accepted their offer of a place to study at the University of Sheffield. If you are a Postgraduate student you will also need to return your confirmation slip. Your application is then processed once you have met all the conditions. The completion of an application form does not guarantee that a place in University couple/family accommodation will be available to you for your arrival or during your time at the University as demand sometimes exceeds supply.

You can apply online at:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation/propective/apply/index.html

Types of Accommodation

University accommodation

The University of Sheffield has a number of properties available for student couples and families. University accommodation contracts are for a whole year and are usually renewable annually until you complete your studies. A shorter contract may be available during your final year of study if you are expected to complete before the end of the usual contractual period.

University properties are:

- Self-contained with their own living room, kitchen & bathroom
- Located within 1.5 miles of campus
- In areas close to schools and shops
- On good public transport routes
- Fully furnished with central heating and washing machines or laundry facilities nearby



"I would strongly recommend University accommodation. It is convenient to sort out, the buildings are well maintained and there is always someone around to help if needed."

Omar Camara

Costs

The rent for University family accommodation varies according to the size and capacity of each property. This is reviewed on 01 August each year. The rent is payable in instalments three times per year and this should be taken into account when you make your financial arrangements. Details of the dates on which your rent is due will be provided with your Residence Contract. A deposit of £150 and a payment plan is required when you accept the contract. You will also need to budget for food, clothing and travel whilst you are here, as well as your rent.

Locations

The Endcliffe Village

Located in a pleasant leafy suburb to the west of the city, The Endcliffe Village offers a range of converted Victorian houses and modern apartments and flats. The village community is a great place to settle in and meet new people. The focal point of the village is The Edge, a stylishly furnished complex with excellent facilities including a café, dining room, internet café, launderette, bar and a variety of social spaces. The reception is available 24 hours per day and the Customer Service team are also based here. Situated close to the Botanical Gardens and local shops, Endcliffe is on a good public transport route and is approximately 1.2 miles to campus. The accommodation available for couples and families in The Endcliffe Village is mainly in 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in converted Victorian houses.

1 bedroom apartment

2011/12 costs range from approximately £540 to £706 per month

2 bedroom apartment

2011/12 costs range from approximately £599 to £760 per month

Rent is inclusive of gas, electricity and water and broadband internet

The Ranmoor Village

The Ranmoor Village offers a variety of accommodation for both single, couple and family students set within beautiful landscaped gardens. It is located close to the local area of Broomhill offering a variety of shops all within walking distance. Local schools are nearby and are on a good public transport route. The main campus is approximately 1.5 miles away. The focal point of The Ranmoor Village is The Ridge. The Ridge provides a wide range of facilities including a café, laundrette and social spaces for all residents.

There are 72 studios available in Laddow. Studios are self-contained with a double bed, kitchenette, washing machine and large shower room and are ideal for couples.

Shore Court is a development of 16, 3 bedroom modern apartments which are available for families of 2 adults plus 1 or 2 children with a bathroom, 3 bedrooms and fitted kitchen/living space.

Studio in Laddow Apartments

2011/12 costs approximately £134.96 per week

Shore Court 3 bedroom apartment

2011/12 costs approximately £805 per month

Rent is inclusive of gas, electricity, water and broadband internet.

City and Central Campus

There are some 2 and 3 bedroom terraced houses located in the area of Broomhall, which is close to the main University campus and the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The houses are located within walking distance of the city centre and local shops.

2 bedroom houses

2011/12 costs approximately £647 per month

3 bedroom houses

2011/2012 Costs approximately £696 per month

Rent is inclusive of, gas, electricity and water, internet is not included in City and Central family accommodation.

Students who are based at the Northern General Hospital should be aware that the hospital is approximately 4 miles from The Endcliffe and Ranmoor Villages and approximately 2.5 miles from the city centre. There is a good bus link between the Royal Hallamshire Hospital (by the central campus) and the Northern General Hospital.

Find out more and apply

For more information about University accommodation for couples and families visit, www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation/infofor/families.html

To apply for University accommodation visit, www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation/prospective/apply

Private accommodation

propertywithUS are part of the University's Accommodation Office and maintain a register of privately owned properties for students at the University of Sheffield. All accommodation on the register is inspected by University staff to ensure that standards are being maintained. All registered properties are fully furnished.

Find out more about propertywithUS: www.shef.ac.uk/accommodation/privatehousing

To search for available properties, visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/housingfinder

Contact propertywithUS at: propertywithus@sheffield.ac.uk or telephone +44 (0)114 222 6058/6042 for password details.



Useful information about private accommodation

- It is not possible for the Accommodation Office or any other department/individual in the University to arrange private housing on your behalf prior to arrival.
- We strongly recommend that you do not use an agent, even one from your home country to arrange accommodation before you arrive. Many students report that this leads to great legal and financial difficulties.
- Although we understand that you would like to organise your accommodation before coming to Sheffield, we strongly advise against booking accommodation and/or signing a contract without seeing a property first.
- It is particularly difficult for students coming from overseas to organise renting a flat or house in advance. If you are an international student and are coming to Sheffield with your partner or family, it may take several weeks to find a suitable property. You should therefore consider arranging temporary accommodation. A prolonged stay in this type of accommodation, with or without your partner or family, can be very expensive and we suggest that you consider coming alone until you find permanent accommodation that is suitable for your partner or family. For details of local hotels and guest houses visit:
http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation/temporary_accommodation.html or
www.yorkshiresouth.com/stay
- Private flats and houses are generally rented for a fixed period of at least 9 to 12 months on a contract known as an Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement. This is a legally binding contract and if you want to leave before the end of the contractual period, you will remain responsible for paying the rent, unless someone else takes over the tenancy. It may be possible to renew an Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement for a further 9 to 12 months if required.
- In the UK, most landlords operate a maximum occupancy policy and will only allow one child to occupy each bedroom within a property. You may be refused tenancy if more than one child needs to occupy a bedroom.
- Make sure you are aware of the costs of both the accommodation and living expenses whilst you are in the UK, as you will be signing legally binding contracts. As well as rent, you will also need to budget for food, heating, lighting, water rates, clothing and travel.

The information below should give you an indication of the types of private properties available and how much these are likely to cost:

Flats/Apartments

These are usually self-contained with a double bedroom, a lounge, a kitchen and a bathroom/toilet. Flats with 1 bedroom are generally only suitable for couples. If you have children, 2 bedroom flats are available. If you require 3 bedrooms, the University has some 3 bedroom apartments available at Shore Court in The Ranmoor Village. However, in general, 3 bedroom apartments are not widely available.

Houses

Houses available for families tend to be either terraced (a row of houses joined together) or semi-detached (2 houses joined together). They generally have 2 or 3 bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, bathroom/toilet and a kitchen. Most are suitable for a family with 1 or 2 children. Houses suitable for larger families of more than 3 or 4 children are very limited.

Costs

You may be required to pay a deposit when you sign a contract, usually equivalent to 1 month's rent. This will be refunded at the end of the tenancy, providing that the property is left in good order and there are no outstanding bills.

The following is an approximate guide to private housing rent in Sheffield.

Self-contained furnished flats

Rent from approximately £490 per month

Furnished houses (with 2 or more bedrooms)

Rent from approximately £575 per month

Rents are excluding, gas, electricity, internet and Council Tax. Check with your landlord whether water charges are included.

Fuel (gas and electricity)

The cost of heating will vary according to the size of your property and the individual requirements of your family. Gas central heating is considered to be the most economical form of heating. As a general guide, British Gas advises that the cost of heating a three bedroom gas centrally heated house will average approximately £20 per week. Electricity for lighting, laundry and cooking etc. is extra. Electricity companies advise these are likely to cost an average of £8 per week. If electricity is used for heating, this figure will increase significantly.

Council Tax

Council Tax is based both on the value of the property and the number of adults living there. If 1 adult is a student, there will be a 25% reduction in the bill. If both are students, the property will be exempt from Council Tax. If the partner of an international student is not a British Citizen and is not allowed to work or claim welfare benefits, no Council Tax will be payable on the property. It is possible to pay your Council Tax in 10 monthly instalments throughout the year. The Council Tax for 2010/11 varied from between £984 (Band 'A') to £1,312 (Band 'C') per year for student family accommodation. For further information about Council Tax, visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/council-tax

Furniture and appliances

You should check when viewing your accommodation what furniture and appliances are included before agreeing to rent. Items such as sheets, pillow cases, blankets, duvets (quilts), towels, tea-towels, cutlery, cups, saucers, plates and cooking utensils are not usually provided by the landlord.

Locations

Campus is situated approximately 1 mile from the city centre and is served by a good public transport system. (As many of the properties that are suitable for couples and families in Sheffield are not located close to campus), we advise you not to restrict your search just to this area. Properties here tend to be more expensive and you will have greater choice if you look for accommodation in other locations.

Other ways of finding private accommodation

You can also search for accommodation by:

- Visiting local estate agents
- Checking out the local newspapers 'The Star' and the 'Sheffield Telegraph'. For more information about these, visit, www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk www.thestar.co.uk

WE DO NOT RECOMMEND SIGNING CONTRACTS WITH AGENTS OR LANDLORDS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AND HAVE VIEWED THE PROPERTY.

International Families and Couples

The immigration authorities require that you have enough money to support yourself whilst you are living in the UK.

- Students on courses of less than 6 months are not allowed to bring dependants to UK.
- Students on courses of 9 months or less will need to have all their tuition fees plus proof of an additional £600 for each month of the course.
- For EACH dependant who will be joining you in UK, you must show proof of a further £400 per month, **per dependant** for each month of the course.
- Students on courses of more than 9 months must have the first year's tuition fees plus proof of an additional £5,400.
- For EACH dependant who will be joining you in UK you must show proof of a further £3,600 per dependant.

These funds must be in your own account for a **minimum** 28 day period. The last day of this 28 day period cannot be more than 1 month before the date of your student visa application.

If your sponsor is paying all the funds needed, you must show evidence of this.

For full information about the documents that will be accepted as evidence of funding, please visit www.shef.ac.uk/newstudents/international/immigration/conditions.html

You cannot bring your child/children to UK without their other parent unless you have sole responsibility (e.g. the other parent is deceased or you are legally separated/divorced and you have sole responsibility for the child/children).

Further information for international families and couples

Student Support and Guidance are available to provide advice on immigration issues. For more information,

Email: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk

Visit: www.shef.ac.uk/international/welcome/visasandimmigration

The Students' Union Advice Centre is also available to offer advice. For further details visit, www.shef.ac.uk/union/advice

Information on budgeting for international students can be found by visiting, www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international/money.html

Services and Facilities for Children

Pre-school

University Nursery

The University Nursery is available for the children of students – both undergraduates and graduates. For further details,

Tel: + 44 (0) 114 273 9361

Email: nursery@sheffield.ac.uk

Visit: www.shef.ac.uk/union/nursery

Childminders and Nurseries

When you have found accommodation, contact Sheffield Children's Information Services First for details of all childminders and nurseries in your local area,

Tel: +44 (0) 114 275 6699

E-mail: info@sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Web: www.sheffinfoolink.org.uk

Play schemes

Play schemes jointly subsidised by the Students' Union and the University are organised during each half-term holiday (usually in May/June, October and February) and the 6 week summer holiday (July to September). Children aged from 5 to 12 years can attend, and a wide range of activities and events are organised including games, drama workshops, day trips and parties. The cost varies depending upon family income. For more information,

Tel: + 44 (0) 114 273 9361

Email: nursery@sheffield.ac.uk

Visit: www.shef.ac.uk/union/nursery

Schools

Full-time schooling is compulsory for children under 16 years of age. If your child/children are between the ages of 5 and 16 and you are here for 6 months or more, the Local Education Authority (LEA) will provide a place for them, free of charge, in a local school.

Primary Schools (4 + - 11 + years)

For information about Sheffield primary schools and catchment areas,

Tel: +44 (0) 114 273 5766

Email: ed-primary.admissions@sheffield.gov.uk

Visit: www.sheffield.gov.uk/education

Secondary Schools (11-18 years)

For information about Sheffield secondary schools and catchment areas,

Tel: +44 (0) 114 273 5790

Email: ed-secondary.admissions@sheffield.gov.uk

Visit: www.sheffield.gov.uk/education

Other Useful Information

Health Visitors

Every family with children under the age of 5 has access to a Health Visitor who specialises in child care and development that provides support and advice for parents. To find out who your Health Visitor is, contact your family doctor or the University Health Service on,

Tel: + 44 (0) 114 222 2100.

Email: health.service@sheffield.ac.uk

Visit: www.shef.ac.uk/health/uhshomepage.html

International partners' English classes

Run by the English Language Teaching Centre, these classes provide an opportunity for partners of international students to receive free English lessons, with an emphasis on improving spoken English. There are beginners, intermediate and advanced classes for women and one mixed ability class for men. Crèche facilities staffed by experienced workers are available for pre-school children, although they are unable to accept babies under the age of one. For more information about the classes,

Tel: +44 (0) 114 222 1780.

Email: eltc@shf.ac.uk

Visit: www.shf.ac.uk/eltc/index.html

Sheffield University International Women's Club (SUIWC)

Offering a supportive, relaxing environment for female partners of international postgraduates and staff, the club holds talks, demonstrations, discussions, celebrations and outings. Joining the club provides partners with an opportunity to get to know Sheffield and make friends with local people and with women from around the world. There is no fee to join. Children are welcome and toys are available. Meetings usually take place at the Council Chamber, Octagon Centre on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon for further information contact.

Email: suiwc@sheffield.ac.uk

Visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/internationalwomensclub

Families Get-Together
25th September 2011, 2-5pm
Fulwood Room, Level 5, University House.

Families Get-Together is a free event held during Intro Week, providing student parents and their children with a chance to meet in a friendly environment. Throughout the afternoon, staff from Student Services will be on hand to help out and answer any questions you may have and entertainment will be provided. You do not need to book to attend and partners are very welcome. For more information please email: Rebecca.Proctor@sheffield.ac.uk

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this publication, but the University cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The issue of accommodation is continually reviewed and there may well be changes between the date of publication and the time when the student takes up his or her place.

L2/2011-12