

Switching Universities

My first uni, my second, and the UCAS and student finance process



My first university: Royal Holloway



Beautiful campus, strong history with the suffragettes (Emily Wilding Davison library, for example).

Multiple campus cats, including TeePee, featured below. She was part of my academic department.



My firm choice university, and I was accepted. My first choice accommodation was accepted too.

About a twenty minute walk from Egham train station, so wasn't too difficult to get back to Faversham.



Accommodation

Cost: £192 per week



Pros:

- My own space
- My own bathroom
- Potential new friends
- Decorate in my own way

Cons:

- No hot water
- Loud flatmates
- Wifi didn't reach my block
- Fire alarms
- Little to no storage
- Stealing



Your Accommodation

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hall | Runnymede 2 Hall |
| Bedroom Type | Single Room |
| Catering | Not Catered |
| Additional Living Preference | None Selected |
| Contract Length | 2 weeks |
| Allocation Dates | 19/09/2025 to 04/10/2025 |
| Total Cost | £3,096.20 |

The middle bit:

- Leaving accommodation:

Had to just inform my accommodation officer that I was leaving, and I had to pay until the end of the month

- Leaving the actual uni:

Only had to fill out a microsoft form to say I wanted to leave, and then they said they'd be in contact regarding UCAS and student finance

- Clearing process:

Pretty easy. Simple phone call with the new university, and the old one has to 'release' you into clearing

- Student Finance:

The student finance process took a very long time, involving having to cancel my previous application, and creating a new one through the University of Kent

My second uni: University of Kent

One of the main differences is commuting to university instead of living on campus.

I much prefer commuting, as it separates my home life and my educational life.

University of Kent does not have a campus cat (unfortunately passed away), but it does mean I can spend more time with my own cats.

I am able to have a job whilst at uni.

I don't spend as much time on campus, resulting in fewer friends on my course, having fewer interactions with lecturers, not having the uni accommodation experience.



Price breakdown

Accommodating:

Room: -£192 pw

Shopping: -£30 pw

Student Finance: +£6583 per year

~ £127 pw

Per month:

+ 508

- 786

- 120

+ £508 in student finance

- £906 in just room and shopping

Commuting:

Rent: -£25 pw

CAR: fuel: -£50 pw; Road tax: £26 pm;

Insurance: £995 per year; permit: £26 p year

Student Finance: +£4716 per year

~ £91 pw

Job: + ~ £200 pw

Per month:

+ 364

+ 1000

- 100

- 310

+ £1364 in student finance and earning

- £410 in rent and car maintenance