

Accommodation

**A GUIDE TO
YOUR NEW
HOME AT
UNIVERSITY
SQUARE**



University of Essex



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WELCOME

Firstly, a warm welcome to you and thank you for choosing Essex. We look forward to your arrival and do hope you enjoy your stay with us.



- ↑ House 5
- House 4 →
- House 6 →

About us

We provide high quality student housing and endeavour to give you a comfortable and secure home whilst at Essex.

This pack provides information and useful contact details to help you settle in and make the most of your new surroundings.

Our staff are trained professionals who offer assistance and advice with accommodation related issues. We are always willing to provide support, especially to those who are living away from home for the first time.

Keep this guide in a safe place and refer to it when you need it.

An electronic version of this document is available at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/current_students/default.aspx

Quality standards

We are a member of Universities UK and comply with the Student Accommodation Code of Practice (SAC) for the management of student housing.

The SAC sets out the main elements of good management practice of student housing within the UK.

The code protects your rights to:

- A healthy, safe environment;
- Timely repairs and maintenance;
- A clean, pleasant living environment;
- A formal, contractual relationship with your landlord;
- Access to health and wellbeing services;
- A living environment free from anti-social behaviour.

Further information is available at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/residences or you can read the full code on the SAC website, www.thesac.org.uk

Terms and Conditions of Residence

With your letter of allocation you will have received a copy of the Terms and Conditions of Residence and Code of Student Conduct in Residential Accommodation. The Terms and Conditions document gives full details of the contractual obligations between the University and yourself in relation to your accommodation agreement.

Both documents are available from www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/policies/default.aspx

Management Structure of the University

Detailed information of the management structure of the University is available at www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/

How to find us

The accommodation team is based at reception in University Square.

Opening times

The reception desk is open 24 hours a day. Outside office hours security staff are available at reception to help with any queries.

Contact us

University Square reception
Queens Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 1BF
T 01702 328400
E scacom@essex.ac.uk
www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation
f www.facebook.com/UniSquare?ref=hl
t @AccommEssex

Useful contact details

Students Union

T 01702 328233
E su@essex.ac.uk
www.essexstudent.com/southend

Student Support

The Forum
TF.2.23
T 01702 328351
E ssso@essex.ac.uk

Nightline

T 01206 872020 / 2022
E nlhelp@essex.ac.uk

Emergency support

T 01702 328408 or 07920 821678

Glide

T 0333 123 0115
E studentsupport@glide.co.uk
t @GlideStudentHelp

Computer Services Helpdesk

T 01702 328341

Student Services Hub (SSH-SC)

Second Floor, The Forum, Southend Campus
T 01702 328444
E askthehub-sc@essex.ac.uk

Student Services Hub (Colchester)

1st Floor, Silberrad Student Centre, Colchester Campus
T 01206 874000
E askthehub@essex.ac.uk

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Keycards

When you arrive, you will receive a keycard which gives you entry into your flat and your room.

Lost keycards

Look after your keycard. If you lose it you will have to pay a £15 fee for a replacement.

If you lose your keycard, take your student registration card to reception to get a replacement.

When you receive your replacement card, you will be invoiced £15 which must be paid within seven days. You can pay at the Income Office at The Forum, room TF.2.23.

If you find your original keycard and return it to us, we will refund the £15 fee.

If your keycard is broken, please take the pieces to reception for a free replacement.

Locked out

Don't worry. Contact reception and we will arrange for you to be let back in. Outside office hours a security guard is available to let you back in.

Internet access

Internet access, including Wi-Fi, is provided free of charge in all of our rooms. Switch on your computer, connect to Glide and then follow the on-screen instructions to register.

Glide offers a range of additional services; file backup, web security, music and gaming.

Some of these services are free of charge and some can be purchased through the Glide portal. More information can be found at my.glidestudent.co.uk/support.

If you have any difficulties accessing the network once you are registered please follow the fault-finding flow chart on the following page. If, after having done so you still cannot access the network, contact:

Glide

T 0333 123 0115

📧 @GlideStudentHelp

E studentsupport@glide.co.uk

Glide are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

If you are deaf or hearing impaired, contact Glide via email or Twitter.

Recycling and rubbish

We are committed to reducing the impact of our carbon emissions on the environment, and take every opportunity to reduce waste and use resources wisely.

General waste and mixed recycling facilities are available in the flat kitchens and these are emptied daily.

Please do not put recyclable items in the general rubbish.

Our Porters will remove rubbish daily, Monday to Friday. There is no rubbish removal at weekends or during bank holidays.

If you live in a studio, you must take your rubbish to the euro bins on level L1 – under the podium, or to one of the rubbish cages.

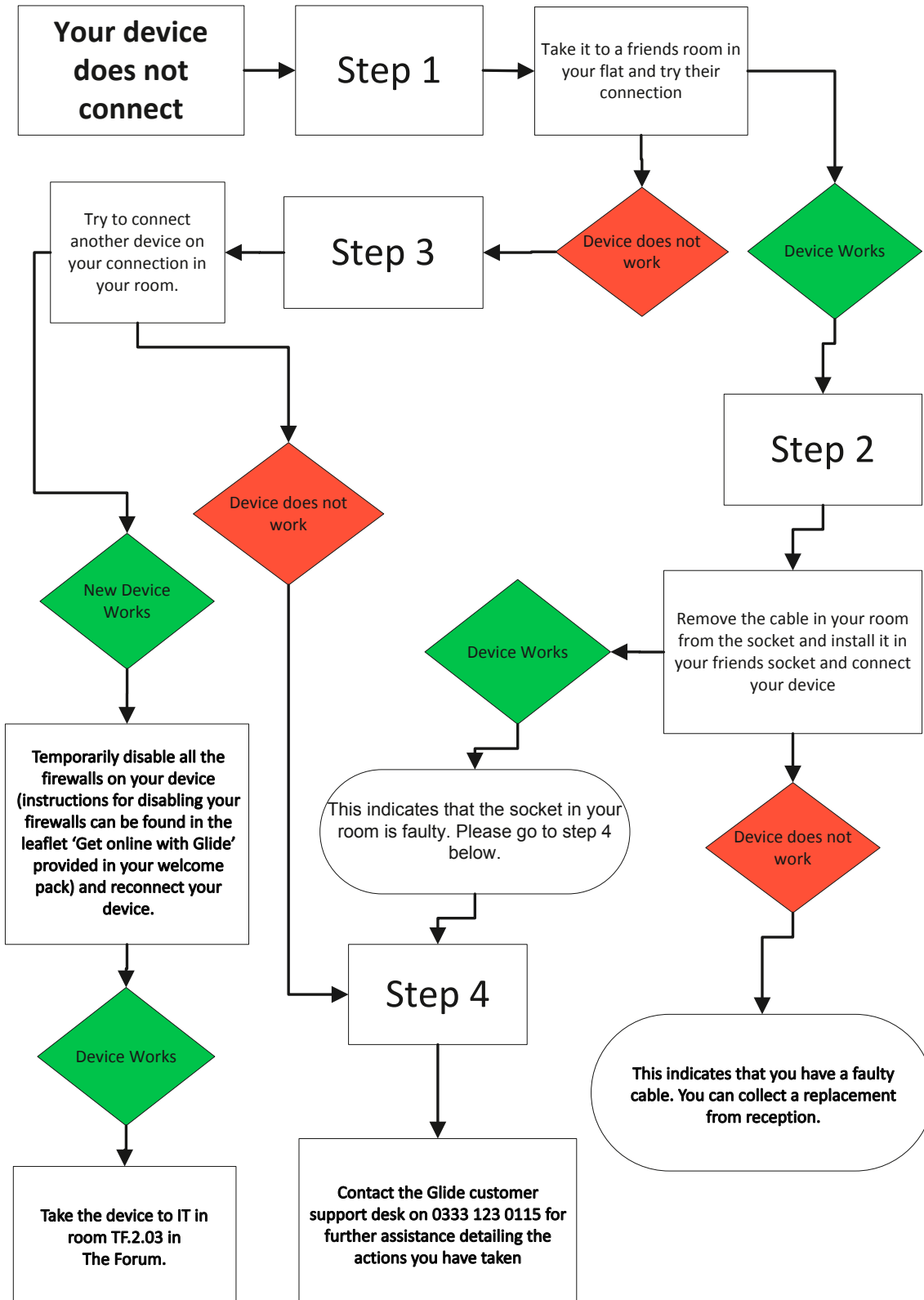
Please ensure when disposing of fat (oil, lard, fat from meat), that you do not pour down either the sink or toilet. The reason for this is that the fat builds up within the pipes and can cause the pipes to burst once blocked. Please securely bag up the fat and dispose of in your rubbish.

Waste reduction

Not producing waste in the first place is a great way to reduce your environmental impact. Wasting food is expensive and bad for the environment.



GLIDE INTERNET IN YOUR ROOM WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM CONNECTING.



YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Pest control

Pest infestations occasionally happen and should be reported to reception as soon as possible. The contractor will respond for urgent infestations (such as bed bugs) within 24 hours. Non urgent infestations will be responded to within 72 hours.

Cleaning and maintenance

We provide a cleaning service during the week for the communal areas of all our single accommodation.

Our housekeepers clean surfaces and cooking facilities, such as cookers and microwaves, but they do not clean or wash up personal items including cutlery and cooking pans.

You are expected to keep your room and en suite bathroom clean and tidy, as well as the communal areas of your flat. This is especially important when living with other people.

Ice, snow and leaf clearing

Information regarding the removal of ice, snow and leaves during the winter season is available at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/facilities/default.aspx

Room inspections

We inspect all bedrooms twice yearly. This helps us ensure that the accommodation is being kept in accordance with our terms and conditions, and that the health and safety of all students and staff is maintained.

You will be notified of room inspections via your Essex email address.

Reporting a repair

Report all repairs directly to the reception desk at University Square either face to face or:

T 01702 328400

E scaccom@essex.ac.uk

Post

Post is normally delivered to flat kitchens daily from Monday to Friday. There is no delivery at weekends, on public holidays or between Christmas and the New Year.

Large items and those requiring a signature should be collected from reception. We will contact you if you have been sent an item for collection.

Any post received for you after you have left will be returned to sender.

Utilities

Heating, hot water and electricity are included in your rental charge; but please consider the environment and try and minimise use. As well as keeping the University's carbon footprint low it helps the University lower fuel bills, which keeps rents low.

Heating runs continuously throughout the winter season for your comfort. The temperature in most rooms can be controlled by the thermostat on the heater.

TIP:

Help save energy - remember to turn off lights in empty rooms. Don't leave electrical equipment on standby, this uses a lot of electricity.

The University Sustainability team runs the #LittleChoicesBigChanges campaign, with competitions for saving energy and recycling. The greenest flats on campus will win prizes. Visit www.facebook.com/UoESustainability for more information.

For Health and Safety purposes, as well as allowing heat to flow evenly, do not cover the heaters in the kitchen.

Insurance

Your personal possessions that you keep in your room are covered by Endsleigh Insurance. This does not cover items such as your laptop and your phone when you use them outside your room. You should check that the cover provided meets your needs and you can purchase additional cover if you feel you need it.

How to make a claim:

Visit: www.endsleigh.co.uk/reviewcover

Email: property.claims@endsleigh.co.uk

Call: 0844 472 2507

To review your cover visit www.endsleigh.co.uk/reviewcover

Service Level Agreements

Accommodation Essex has service level agreements in place for buildings maintenance with the University Estates Management Department. Further details are available at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/contact_us/repairs.aspx





LIVING ON CAMPUS

Residence Life

The aim of the Residence Life is to create a community environment where students can live and study. Residence Life is a network of student volunteers and members of staff that live in the residences and are available to offer support to residents and to signpost to a range of support services.

The Resident Assistants (RAs) are there to help you integrate into University life and will organise a range of social activities where you can get to know other students in your accommodation, and familiarise yourself with the local area. They are also there to offer support should you have trouble settling in or are home sick.

The RAs will arrange to meet with you and your flatmates to help you agree on some of the day to day issues that can arise, such as cleaning of communal spaces and quiet times. The RAs are also able to give information and support if you experience anti-social behaviour.

A contact telephone number for the RA in your area can be found on your flat notice board or at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/support/reslife.aspx

For further information on communal living visit www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/support/reslife.aspx

Guests

You cannot request permission for a guest to stay until two weeks after your autumn term contract has started because it is disruptive to the process of students settling in. After then, you are allowed to have one guest for an occasional stay of up to three nights duration. You do need to seek permission by contacting the Student Services Hub. Please let the team know the name and gender of the person staying, as well as their contact details and how long they are staying for. If you want to request for your guest to stay longer than three nights, then speak with the team at the Hub (children under the age of 16 are not permitted to stay in the accommodation).

If you live in a designated single gender flat, you are not permitted to have guests of the opposite sex visit or stay overnight.

Please remember that you are responsible for the behaviour of any guests that stay in your room.

Laundrette

There is a laundrette in University Square and it is located in the common room.

The laundrette is operated by Circuit. To ensure a consistent level of service, it is **very important** that you report faults directly to Circuit on:

T 01422 820026 or visit www.circuit.co.uk/machine-faults-and-breakdowns/

Laundry cards can be purchased for £2.00 from card machine and you can top-up your card online. A coin operated machine is also available.

Please do not leave your belongings unattended when using the laundrette.

Food and drink

There are plenty of places to eat or drink within the town if you don't want to cook for yourself. You can choose from a range of cafés, restaurants and bars serving food from a variety of international cuisines.

Sport

In Southend we have an exclusive arrangement with Rush Gym, where our students and staff benefit from a great membership arrangement. Check out our Sports pages for more information www.essex.ac.uk/sport/gym/default.aspx

Car parking and bike storage

There is no provision for students living in University Square to park a car. There is a car park underneath the building which is run by National Car Parks (NCP) and further details are available here www.essex.ac.uk/life/southend-campus/how-to-get-here

There is a bike shelter facility available on the podia in the central courtyard.

Please be aware that you park your bike at your own risk so always remember to lock it before you leave.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Fire

Please make sure you are familiar with our fire safety procedures. Fire safety information is available in your room and the kitchens of all flats.

If you discover a fire:

Shout out

Raise the alarm. Alert other people and activate the fire alarm by breaking the glass alarm panel near the exit to the building.

Get out

Follow the fire exit signs and leave the building. Go to the designated assembly points on the podium. Do not go back to collect personal belongings.

Stay out

Do not re-enter the building until a member of staff or the Fire Service inform you it is safe to do so.

Watch our Fire Safety video for tips on how to stay safe
<https://vimeo.com/145121411>

Fire alarms

Interlinked smoke and heat detectors are fitted throughout the accommodation.

Cooking or showering with the door open or using aerosols near the detectors may cause the alarms to be activated.

Fire alarm testing

Fire alarms are tested each week. In University Square fire alarms are tested on **Fridays**, from approximately 12.00pm.

TIP:

Keep yourself safe, don't wear headphones in bed as you may not hear the fire alarm if it goes off.

To avoid a risk of fire, please do not cover the heaters in the kitchen.

Fire doors

For your safety, doors in the residences are fitted with self closing mechanisms. They are designed to prevent the spread of smoke and fire and must not be wedged open.

Cooking

All flat kitchens are fully equipped so you can prepare and cook meals.

You must not cook food in your bedrooms. This is a serious fire risk. Food should only be cooked in the kitchens.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire blankets are available for you to use in an emergency. Please make yourself familiar with how to use one.

Fire extinguishers are provided for trained staff and fire service staff to use. Do not discharge fire extinguishers yourself. There is a possibility of disciplinary action or criminal proceedings for misuse of equipment provided for safety reasons.

Candles

The use of lighted candles, aromatic oil heaters or any other device which has a naked flame, is prohibited in University owned or administered residential accommodation, except with the prior written permission of the Registrar & Secretary.

Candles and other prohibited devices will be removed from residential accommodation by university staff including where these are for display purposes only.

The Registrar & Secretary will give permission only in exceptional circumstances, for example, where candles are to be used for religious purposes and where the lighting of candles is accepted practice for that form of religious worship. The precaution to be adopted for the safe use in these cases will be defined by the University Safety Officer and must be followed. In no circumstances will permission be given for unattended lit candles or devices.

Halogen Lamps

Please note that halogen heaters and lamps are not permitted in accommodation.

Flammable materials

You are not permitted to store any kind of flammable material in your accommodation.

Disciplinary action may be taken for breaches of any of the above conditions.

Personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs)

If you think you might have difficulty exiting a building in an emergency, we can prepare a PEEP for you. This can also be done if you have temporary mobility difficulties such as broken limbs.

To request a PEEP contact:
The University Fire Safety Officer
T 01206 874847
E fire@essex.ac.uk

First aid, accident, emergency or illness

Security staff are trained first aiders. In the event of a serious accident or illness, please call the security staff on the number below and give your location.

Do not contact the emergency services yourself. Security staff will contact them for you and ensure they can access University Square and direct them to the exact site of the emergency without delay.

If you require emergency assistance call:
T 01702 328408 or 07484 929 082

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any area of University provided accommodation. This means you must not smoke in your room or the communal areas or corridors of the accommodation, further information is available at www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/code-conduct.aspx

Smoking shelters have been provided near to residences for you to use.

Smoking within the accommodation will result in disciplinary action.

Electrical safety

If you are an overseas student, you must ensure that your electrical equipment is compatible with the UK mains power supply which is 220-240V, 50 Hz. If your equipment has a different rating it may not work properly and could be dangerous to use.

The plugs on your electrical equipment may require an international adapter so they fit a UK three pin mains socket. Adaptors must be fused and comply with UK and University safety standards.

Fused travel adaptors and other electrical appliances approved by the University are available to buy online from Essex Essentials www.essex.ac.uk/uecs/your_essentials

Guidance on electrical safety and pictures of the recommended travel adaptor are available at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/safety/electricalsafety/default.aspx

Windows

To ensure the safety of everyone on campus, you must not throw any items out of the windows of the accommodation. This is an offence under the Student Code of Conduct and could result in disciplinary action; further details are available at www.essex.ac.uk/students/experience/code-conduct.aspx

Stay safe

Our campus accommodation provides a safe and secure place to live, however, you should take precautions to ensure that you keep yourself and your belongings as safe as possible.

TIP:

Always close your windows when you leave your room – especially if you live on the ground floor. This will deter opportunist thieves and prevent windows from closing sharply during windy conditions.

Don't hold building or flat doors open for other people if you do not know them.

Don't prop flat doors open.

Don't leave belongings unattended within your communal areas.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

Health services

You are required to register with a local doctor for the duration of your studies at the University.

Use the NHS postcode finder to locate your nearest doctors surgery at www.nhs.uk/Service-Search

Dental services

The University hosts an Academic Dental Clinic which provides free basic dental care (one course only). To register, go to the reception area on the first floor of The Gateway Building, (accessed via the rear of the building).

For more information on healthcare for students, visit the website: www.essex.ac.uk/students/health-and-wellbeing/healthcare.aspx

Student Services Hub

Our Student Services Hub offers confidential advice and information on many welfare issues to assist you through your time here at Essex. These include adjusting to University life, financial concerns and immigration issues or if you just need to talk. They provide support to disabled students including advice and assistance regarding any adaptations you may require in your room (further details are available at www.essex.ac.uk/students/contact/default.aspx). They also provide support to students with specific learning difficulties, mental health difficulties or long term medical conditions, as well as offering a confidential counselling service.

Harassment advisers

The Harassment Advisory Network (HAN) is part of our commitment to promoting equality and diversity. The HAN is made up of a team of appointed and trained Harassment Advisers who offer a confidential 'signposting' service for students, staff and visitors who may be experiencing some form of harassment or bullying.

T 01206 874334

E harass@essex.ac.uk

ROOM INVENTORIES

Welcome to Essex!

We want you to have a wonderful stay here at Essex and to enjoy living in your new home. We have provided all the necessary furnishings in your room to make your stay comfortable and to help with your studies.

To ensure all the furnishings remain in good condition we have a rolling programme of refurbishments and we check your room to ensure everything is in order prior to you moving in. We will also perform room inspections during the year to review the condition of the furniture in your room.

Reporting Repairs

- Check your room when you arrive and report anything that needs repairing
- Report any repairs that are needed during your stay

If repairs occur which are due to wear and tear we will repair or replace the item.

If you report a repair that is not due to wear and tear you may be charged for the repair or replacement of the item.

You may be charged for any repairs noted by staff at the end of your license period that you have not reported.

Please note that an administration fee of £20.00 will also be applied.

Our contact details

Please call, email or visit reception if you have any repairs to report, contact details can be found at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/contact_us/repairs.aspx

Furniture Costs

Furniture in your room varies depending on the area you are living. Listed below are all the types of furniture that we provide and the cost of how much it would be to replace each item (including VAT).

Remember, you may not have all of these items in your room.

Bed – up to £277.23	Shelving Unit – £117.12
Mattress – up to £98.40	Carpet – up to £350.00
Bedside Cabinet – £82.37	Bathroom Cupboard with Mirror Door – £70.00
Easy Chair – up to £129.00	Shower Curtain – up to £13.08
Headboard – £137.53	Curtains/blinds – up to 110.50
Wardrobe – up to £441.18	Mirror – £55.00
Desk – up to £175.00	Bin – up to £5.94
Desk Chair – up to £119.40	Noticeboard – up to £55.16





ACCOMMODATION FULL POSTAL ADDRESSES

To ensure that your post reaches you, please be sure to use the correct postal address:

Name of house followed by flat/room number (eg. House 5, 3/A)
University Square
Queens Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 1BF

MAKING A COMPLAINT

We aim to provide students with accommodation which is clean, well maintained and allocated as set out in our Allocation Policy.

If you have any concerns about the service you have received from us, you should raise them with a member of staff at your earliest opportunity. We will always try to resolve your complaint quickly and informally.

We aim to provide you with an excellent service at all times, so we need you to tell us if we have made a mistake. This procedure explains how you can do this, and how we will deal with your complaint.

Make a formal complaint

If you do not believe your complaint has been dealt with correctly, you can ask the relevant manager to look into your complaint formally. You can make a complaint in a number of ways:

- by email
- by letter
- face-to-face
- by telephone

Note: Quote your full name and PRID or PG number on all correspondence.

We will investigate your complaint and send you an email response within 10 working days. Sometimes we will need another department to provide us with information to investigate your complaint fully (Estates Management, for example). If this is the case, we will let you know if your complaint will take longer than 10 working days to respond to. Further details and the Services and Administration form can be found at www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation/contact_us/complaints.aspx

Complaints about a member of staff

If your complaint is about a member of staff, you can ask to speak to their manager directly. If you make a complaint about a member of staff you must be prepared to make a formal statement and to attend any disciplinary hearing that might result.



www.essex.ac.uk/accommodation