

VERTO HOUSING IN LONDON

Welcome to your home away from home! Below is more information about what to expect in your London accommodation.

Where will I be living

Verto participants will live in twin studios (meaning two students per room). These private rooms are fully equipped with two large built-in bunk beds, study space, a kitchenette, fridge/freezer, starter kitchenware, en-suite bathroom with shower, toilet and sink, and plenty of storage. Bed linens, towels and WiFi are all supplied.

What can I expect from my building?

- **24-hours reception**
- **Communal lounges:** on-site in the basement for socialising and community building, can be booked for events
- **Cinema on site (Kentish Town location):** can be booked for events
- **Cafe** or restaurants, breakfast & dinner included M-F.
- **Gym:** on-site at no cost for residents
- **On site laundry** (extra cost)
- **Maintenance** and housekeeping services

Verto London works with a wonderful housing provider who owns buildings all over the London area. These buildings are located within public transportation zones 1 and 2, and in unique and lovely neighborhoods.

What should I expect from my studio?

- **A safe and well-equipped home:** All student housing is vetted by London staff for standards of health and safety. You will be provided with basics including an equipped kitchen, shared bedroom, shared bathroom, WiFi throughout, bed linens, towels, and your own keys.
- **Dorm-style living:** Your studio will only be shared with Verto participants, but there may be other local students living in the building. Verto programming will take place in the Study Center and throughout the city, rather than in your residence building.
- **Double occupancy in each room**
- **Less personal space and storage:** Keep in mind the smaller size of studios and the fact that you will be sharing your sleeping/living space when packing.
- **Local neighbors:** Your neighbors within your neighbourhood may be regular Londoners who work, have families, and expect the neighborhood to be respected in regards to noise, trash outside, etc. You have to remember to be respectful of those non-students living around you!

Is my housing location safe?

Verto works with its housing provider to choose residences based on safety and practical commuting distance to the Verto Study Center. Verto housing meets our highest standards of health and safety and every room is inspected and sanitised prior to student move-in.

Residence neighborhoods are known to be generally safe and student-friendly. There may be aspects that surprise students, depending on their hometown. For example, London's homeless population can be seen in many areas and may beg passers-by for money or food. The homeless population presence does not mean that the area is unpleasant or unsafe.

Regardless of where your housing is located, you are expected to follow basic safety practices like locking doors behind you and not giving out front door entry codes to anyone.

What if something in my housing breaks?

There are bound to be leaks, power outages, times of slower Wi-Fi, clogged drains for example. But don't worry! Our housing provider has an amazing maintenance team that will help out with whatever needs to be fixed.

If you accidentally caused the damage, it's no problem, however, you will be expected to cover the expense and will be provided a receipt after the contractor fixes the damage. If the problem wasn't caused by you, there will be no charge to you.

A rare but possible issue is that of bed bugs. Your rooms are inspected and sanitised before you move in. If bedbugs are confirmed in Verto housing within 3 weeks of arrival, the housing provider will take immediate action and full responsibility for their treatment and extermination. However, outside of this timeframe, the extermination will be at the expense of the residents in the room as they will have brought in the pests through travel. This is a rare occurrence but must be mentioned as students may travel during their free weekends. A good rule of thumb - don't place your luggage on your bed.

What will be different in my housing that I might not expect?

MOLD. London buildings are more likely than U.S. buildings to accumulate mold on the interior of windows and walls because the buildings are old and were built with less ventilation. To avoid mold growth, you should keep the door open after a shower and, if your bathroom has a window, crack the window open as far as it will go. Any mold growth can easily be wiped away.

WINDOW SCREENS. Another fact of London life that surprises many students is the lack of screens on the windows. As such, flying bugs may make their way into your room when you have the window open. Bugs in your apartment aren't a representation of uncleanliness, it is simply due to open windows.

MICE. If you keep food items out or don't clean up after yourself with crumbs or an overflowing trash can, you may see a tiny mouse friend scutter through your studio. Mice find their way into the cracks of old buildings especially when the weather changes and they are looking for a new home. They will happily stay at your studio if they have a food source – so keep things tidy! The housing provider's maintenance team can help should you have any mice visitors, just remember it can take some time to tell the entire mouse community that your room is not an open house for mice.

AIR CONDITIONING. Air conditioning is non-existent in student housing (and throughout most housing in London), which can mean some hot summer days, and less ventilation than you might like. You'll want to crack open your windows and you can also purchase inexpensive fans at nearby home goods stores.

ROOM SIZE. Your living space might be different shapes and sizes than you are expecting, and may be smaller than you are used to. London is a large city and space is a commodity.

COOKING. Your room will come equipped with the basic necessities for making snacks & light meals as you will be on a meal plan which includes a grab and go breakfast and dinner Mon-Fri.

Verto staff are available for meal suggestions or advice on shopping and cooking in London. You will receive instructions on how to use the microwave and stove top as these may be different from what you have at home. Also, because food is fresh and has fewer preservatives, you'll find that items like produce spoil quickly and with shared cabinet and fridge space in the kitchen, you'll find that buying in bulk is not very feasible. As such, you should plan for more frequent and smaller shopping trips throughout the week.

COMMUTING. Your housing will be within London zones 1 and 2, which means easy access to public transportation all over London. Many students are surprised by how long it can take to get from one side of the city to another. Most Londoners commute around an hour to work from their home, which can include a bus, train, tube and a walk – all for one journey. Don't worry, we will help you navigate the transportation system so you can get around with ease and you will be given an Oyster card (for the metro and buses) as part of your Verto experience.

See the following page for example photos of what your housing may look like. Please note these photos are general and do not represent the housing you will personally be assigned. Additionally, the photos may give the impression of a larger space than reality due to a wide-angle lens

Although it may take some getting used to, your accommodations will feel like home before you know it.

We look forward to helping you settle into London living!



More resources:

- [Travel from Student Center to one of the housing options](#)
- [Verto Camden dorms](#)
- [Verto Kentish dorms](#)