

VERTO HOUSING IN LONDON

Welcome to your home away from home! Read on for more information about what to expect in your London accommodation.

STUDENT RESIDENCE: What can I expect?

Student residences provide a great opportunity to live amongst other British and International students. Student residences are located within zones 1-2 of the London Tube, and approximately a 30-40 minute commute via a combination of public transit and foot.

Within your studio, you can expect:

- **Double occupancy in each room amongst dorm-style living:** Verto participants will live in twin studios (meaning two students per room) with another Vertoan. Rooms have a bunk bed setup with two 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.
- **Partial Board (meals):** Sunday evening dinner to Friday morning breakfast, you'll receive breakfast and dinner at the cafe/dining space in the residence. It is buffet style, and there will be vegan and vegetarian options-please also ensure you communicate your diet restrictions to staff. Daily lunch, weekend meals, and snacks are on your own. Your studio provides basic cooking & kitchen equipment to prepare meals, or take advantage of London's many eateries!
- **A safe and well-equipped home:** All student housing is vetted by London staff for standards of health and safety. The student residence features a 24-hour staff reception desk.
- **Amenities** like an onsite gym, onsite laundry facilities (additional cost of £3/wash and £1/dry), movie screening areas, communal study space and lounge areas, and onsite maintenance and housekeeping services (at an additional cost of £25 per clean).
- **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. There is not much storage for large suitcases.
- **Walkable location:** Expect to live within a short walk to pharmacies, ATMs, banks, stores, restaurants, public transportation, etc.

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 sanitized 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.

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

MAINTAINING A CLEAN ROOM: It is each student's responsibility to keep their room tidy, out of consideration for their roommate. Additionally, cleaning supplies and toilet paper will be the responsibility of each student to provide.

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 studio 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 home. 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 place 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 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 accommodation will be equipped with the basic necessities for making snacks & meals. 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.

GROCERY SHOPPING. Because food is fresh and has fewer preservatives, you'll find that items like produce spoil quickly. Additionally, 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.

GUEST VISITS: Please keep in mind that while living in the residence, no overnight guests are allowed. In addition, quiet hours for the residence are 11pm – 7am. During this time, all residents are expected to keep noise levels to a minimum.

Your accommodations will feel like home before you know it!

More resources:

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

Student residence photos:

See the following page for example photos of what your residence 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

