



**studyworkgrow**

LINKING LEARNING WITH LIFE

## ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

[ TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-TWO ]

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# **accommodation guide**

A guide to accommodation in Australia for high school students. Created by Study Work Grow Pty Ltd in 2022.

## **VERSION 1**

Due to the ever changing world as we live with COVID and international students, some of the items or options listed in this Guide may be subject to change. We always recommend that you do your own research and contact organisations directly.



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## accommodation

Thinking of moving out of home to study?

You'll need to find a place to live.

It might seem a little scary, but there are plenty of benefits to flying the nest.

Living away from home can open you up to a huge variety of new experiences. From exploring different things and making new friends, to helping you build your independence.

### WHY SHOULD I MOVE?

Lots of people feel that moving out of home is a logical step once they've finished school. Maybe you have your heart set on a dream course, but nowhere in your town offers it. Some people move because they want to experience living in a different part of the country.

Whatever your reason, always remember that there's no timeline. If you're unsure or not ready to move out, there's nothing wrong with staying at home. Online study is also becoming more popular and accessible, and is a great alternative.

But if you've decided you're ready to step out into the big, wide world, this guide is packed with information you might find useful.

### WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

You have lots of options when it comes to finding a place to live while you study. Many universities and training organisations have on campus accommodation facilities.

Or, you might want to live in an external, privately run accommodation facility built just for students.

You might even take a big leap and rent your first house or apartment.

We've covered multiple types of accommodation options in this guide, so read on to find out more.

## moving out could be an option if you...



**want more  
independence**



**have a  
specific plan**



**want to meet  
new people**



**are comfortable  
with finances**



**live in a regional or  
remote area**



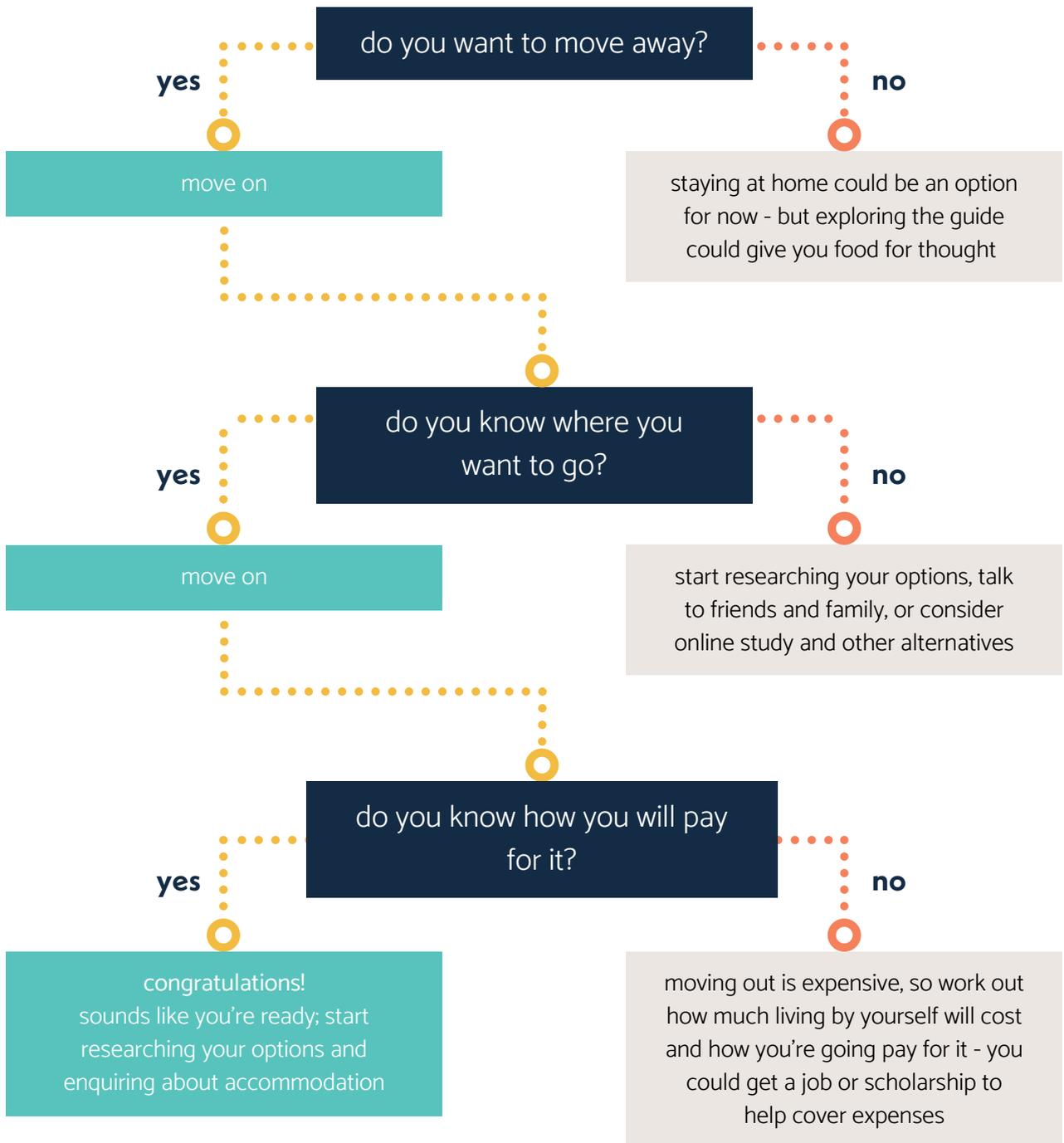
**want a change  
of scenery**

If any of the above resonate with you, moving away from home could be an option.

The important thing to remember is that there's no pressure for you to move out ASAP. Lots of people live at home for a variety of different reasons, and that's okay.

Living at home also doesn't mean you can't experience the same things people do when they move out - you might just have to get a bit creative.

# should i move out?



## plan your move

You're probably not going to be able to just hit the road and hope for the best. You'll have the best chance of success if you do some planning before you move.

### KEEP CONNECTED

Make sure wherever you go that you'll have that all-important internet connection included – or you could struggle staying up to date with course work.

### LOCATION

When you're searching for accommodation and focused on your budget, it's easy to go for the cheapest option. But if you're stuck in the middle of nowhere you could be spending a fortune just getting to uni and back each day.

### BUDGET

Figure out how you're going to pay for your accommodation, and don't forget to budget for essential living – any bills, food, travel, etc.

### SECURITY

It's really important that you have somewhere to live where you feel safe, and it will help to ease your parents' worries too.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

Check websites for reviews, ask in discussion groups or try to find past students who will be honest about their digs.

### CREATURE COMFORTS

It might be easier to settle in if there are communal areas where you can hang out and meet other students.

## university on-campus accommodation

This is probably the first - and most popular - choice that springs to mind when you think about living away from home to study. Heaps of universities have purpose-built accommodation facilities on campus, making it a breeze to travel to and from class, and get the whole uni experience.

Many places offer a variety of options to choose from. These can include things like:

- Studio/one bedroom rooms
- Twin rooms
- Large dormitory or house-style rooms with common spaces and private bedrooms

When you're picking which style of accommodation you'd like, keep some things in mind. If you're moving alone, would you mind sharing with someone you might not know, or would you rather live by yourself? Would you mind living in a mixed environment, or would you prefer living in a unisex space? Consider whether you'd be comfortable sharing spaces like bathrooms as well, if you need to.

You will usually need to pay a weekly or monthly fee to stay, similar to rent. This might also include the cost of utilities, such as water and electricity, so you don't need to pay for them separately. Remember to check what's included before signing up.

To find out whether your chosen uni offers on campus accommodation, visit their website or give the future students team a call.

One of the best things about living on campus is all the other benefits that come with it, such as:

- Being close to your classes
- Common rooms and shared facilities, e.g. gyms and pools
- An internet connection
- On campus security
- Student living ambassadors to answer any questions you might have
- Included white goods and furniture
- Access exclusive events and opportunities

Some accommodation offer extras like meals, so your food is also all taken care of.

Note that the facilities may vary between universities and even between campuses, so make sure you research all your options thoroughly to find the best choice for you.

One of the tricky things about on campus accommodation is that spaces can be limited and in high-demand, so it's important to get your applications in ASAP to make sure you don't miss out.

## guaranteed accommodation

As we mentioned, on campus accommodation can often be extremely popular, and there are only so many rooms. So how can you feel secure knowing you'll have a place to live when you leave home?

Thankfully, many universities now offer what's called **guaranteed accommodation** - this means if you apply by a certain date or meet certain criteria, they will guarantee that you will have a place to stay.

The most obvious benefit is that you can rest easy knowing you're not going to be left in the lurch if accommodation spaces fill up quickly.

However, it might also mean you have less flexibility when choosing the type of accommodation you're put into, so keep that in mind if you're chasing something specific.

Universities with guaranteed accommodation:

- [Australian National University](#)
- [Charles Sturt University](#)
- [Curtin University](#)
- [Federation University](#)
- [James Cook University](#)
- [University of Canberra](#)
- [University of Melbourne](#)
- [University of Newcastle](#)
- [University of Queensland](#)
- [University of Tasmania](#)
- [University of Western Australia](#)
- [University of Wollongong](#)
- [Victoria University](#)

Before you jump in and apply, remember to check the eligibility details and agreement small print carefully.

## residential colleges

This style of accommodation is very similar to the on campus options offered by universities. Residential Colleges are often located on or nearby a university campus' grounds, but are run by a separate institution, not the university.

Residential Colleges are often smaller and more personal than larger on campus facilities operated by universities.

Like other uni accommodation, Colleges come in a variety of styles, from shared to individual rooms, unisex and mixed options, furnished or unfurnished, and also often include common areas and facilities.

Keep in mind many Colleges may be religiously affiliated and offer things like pastoral care and spiritual services (though this isn't always the case). This doesn't mean you'll need to follow a specific religion to stay at a particular College - they welcome people of all faiths.

Residential Colleges might also offer additional options and services that you may not get in other places, including:

- Special events
- Exclusive groups and clubs
- Separate facilities only for those at the College
- Sporting teams and opportunities

Plus, they often come with the same creature comforts as other uni accommodation, like included internet, utilities, furnishings, and security.



## specialist accommodation

Want to move out and live with other students in a supportive environment, but not sure if you want to live on campus? This is the option for you. There are tons of specialist student accommodation providers out there who offer a variety of options exclusively for students, with the added benefit of being located in the heart of the action.

These types of accommodation are run by private providers, but are still only offered exclusively to students. This means you get to live in a space with other like-minded people, while having a bit more freedom.

They offer a ton of benefits similar to other types of uni accommodation, including:

- On-site facilities
- Help and support services
- Security
- Included utilities and furniture
- Special events

Because these places aren't affiliated with a specific uni, you can mingle with students from other universities as well.

Many specialist student accommodations are unsurprisingly located near uni campuses, making travel easy. It's worth double checking their distance from uni and your travel options though.

Here are some providers you might like to check out:

- Iglu
- UniLodge
- Student One
- Scape
- Ysuites
- Yugo

## private accommodation

This is the option that gives you the most freedom and flexibility - renting your own property. You have the freedom to live wherever you want, near or far, and rent can often be cheaper than through specialist accommodation (but bear in mind you'll probably have other expenses to cover).

Some of the benefits of renting your own private property include:

- Live wherever you want
- Complete privacy - it can just be all yours
- Choose the style of living you want (house, unit, apartment...)
- Pick your own furniture and appliances
- Extra comforts that are often absent in other types of student living: bigger spaces, outdoors areas, extra rooms
- Live with friends (even if they're not studying)

One of the main downsides of living in a private rental is that it often doesn't come with all of the inclusions student accommodation does. You may need to get your own internet connection, it might not be furnished, and you'll probably have to pay separately for utilities like electricity, gas and water.

On the upside, experiencing these things now could give you more confidence moving to your next rental, or when the time comes to purchase your own place.

Renting a private property is a huge step towards your independence. Signing a contract is a pretty big deal too - you won't be able to easily back out if you change your mind.

We recommend that you speak to a Real Estate Agent and get all of the information you'll need upfront before signing anything. They can also help you find a place that is perfect for you.

Keen to go on the hunt yourself? There are places you can look online, such as [realestate.com.au](https://www.realestate.com.au) (who have also written a handy guide on tenant rights in Australia).

If you do want to rent your own place, we recommend that you do some research into the area you'll be living in. Make sure you it's practical and that you'll feel safe and comfortable there, especially if you'll be living on your own.



## think about finances

Even if you've been working and saving up, moving out of home is going to be pretty expensive, no matter which option you choose.

If you have a job secured where you're moving to, excellent! If not, you'll need to think hard about how you'll be able to finance your move as well as everyday living costs beyond that (and not necessarily by just begging mum or dad).

There are lots of little day-to-day expenses you might not have thought about before when you live at home - will you need money to catch the bus each day? Who's going to pay for the Netflix subscription? Will food keep magically appearing in the fridge (hint - it won't)?

Having a well-prepared budget is a huge advantage, and can help you be prepared in case any unexpected expenses pop up. Plus, it could help you save for other future goals (like buying a car).

One of the advantages of having a roommate is being able to split costs. Make sure you talk to the person (or people) you'll be living with in advance and sort out who's going to be paying for what, or whether you'll split all bills equally.

Here's what we recommend:

1

**Plan:** Work out where you want to live and which option suits you best. You need these details so you can work out how much everything will cost.

2

**Budget:** Once you sort out the details, write a clear budget that lists every item. You'll need to know how you're going to pay for everything in the budget. We've given you a headstart in our budget sheet.

3

**Save:** You'll know how much you need, so set some goals and start saving. A contingency plan could be a good idea, just in case you don't manage to save enough.

## scholarships and financial assistance

Speaking of finances, here's an option you might not have considered: scholarships.

Universities and even external providers sometimes offer scholarships exclusively to help you with the costs of accommodation. This could be something like subsidising (or even completely covering) the cost of rent, or providing you with money that you can put towards living expenses.

Here are some we've found to get you started, but feel free to search both university databases and our handy [Scholarship Database](#) for more:

- [USQ Residential College Scholarship](#)
- [UWA Accommodation Scholarships](#)
- [Melbourne Accommodation Bursary](#)
- [Newcastle Indigenous Accommodation Scholarship](#)
- [University of Canberra Accommodation Scholarships](#)
- [University of Wollongong](#)
- [Iglu Regional Scholarships](#)

Another option to consider is any other financial assistance that might be available to you. Services Australia and Centrelink offer a variety of financial support options to students and young people looking to move away from home for study.

Some of the services you may eligible for include:

- [Youth Allowance](#)
- [Relocation Scholarship](#)
- [Rent Assistance](#)
- [ABSTUDY Living Allowance](#)

## accommodation budget

one-off expenses		
item	cost \$	
Tickets / Fuel / Other Travel Costs		
Bond / Deposit		
Removalist Fees		
Furniture / Appliances		
weekly living costs		
Rent		
Groceries		
Transport / Fuel / Parking		
Phone / Internet		
Utilities (Electricity, Water, Gas, etc)		
Entertainment (Nights out, Netflix, etc)		
Medical (Medications, Doctors Visits, etc)		
Insurance (Car, Home Contents, etc)		
Luxuries (Takeaway, Non-essentials, etc)		
Uni Costs (Textbooks, Stationery, etc)		
savings		
Total Amount needed:	Savings so far:	Savings to make:
\$-----	\$-----	\$-----



CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE  
WITH FUTURES THEY LOVE



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