

## **Conditions of Occupancy 2023-24**

### **Introduction**

The Conditions of Occupancy are the terms and conditions which form your Accommodation Contract with Queen's University Belfast, studying as a full time Queen's student (or studying a Queen's validated foundation programme at Belfast Metropolitan College or the South West College). By accepting your accommodation contract, you are agreeing to abide by the Conditions of Occupancy.

It is important that you read and familiarise yourself with this information and the **University Living Student Handbook (available on the Queen's Accommodation website and on our digital magazine accessed via the QR code provided at check in)** which contains further details on living in Queen's Accommodation.

**PLEASE NOTE: You are receiving these conditions as it forms your accommodation contract with Queen's University. Sections 1-3 below are applicable if you are living in Queen's Accommodation and if living in our external partner provider, Student Roost, they will have their own accommodation house rules and you should ask them for a copy of these if not supplied in your room or with your key on arrival.**

### **1. OUR OBLIGATIONS**

We operate a safety and security service 24 hours per day all year. Elms BT9 reception is open 24/7. Elms BT1 and Elms BT2 receptions are open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. During the Christmas/New Year holiday period, opening times may vary.

We will inspect the condition of your room and communal areas during your stay to ensure compliance with health and safety policies (as detailed in section 2). Inspections are carried out after 10.00am and you will be notified via email 7 days in advance.

We reserve the right to enter your room without your permission under exceptional circumstances and where there is deemed to be a potential risk to student safety. Examples include a fire or suspected fire, a serious electrical fault, suspected misuse of fire or other safety equipment, suspected possession of an illegal substance, suspicion of smoking/vaping, a flood, a student health concern, or other emergency.

Your residential fees include the following:

- The provision of a wired internet connection and Wi-Fi;

- Utilities (heating, hot water and electricity).

- Weekly communal clean in Elms BT9 during core teaching periods.

- Cleaning of public areas only in Elms BT1 and Elms BT2.

- Contents insurance provided by cover4insurance.com

- Complimentary use of the gym in Elms BT1, including off-peak membership of Queen's sport;

- Television licence for communal areas.

Laundry facilities are provided across all accommodation locations at an additional charge (further details regarding facilities, cost and fault reporting can be found in the University Living Student Handbook and at each laundry facility).

We have the right to move you to similar alternative accommodation for reasonable management reasons including but not limited to:

- Any alterations or building work being carried out at the accommodation.
- Your accommodation is deemed unfit for occupation.
- Where apartment(s) are not fully occupied.

## **General Data Protection Regulation**

Due to the number of students who receive funding from their parents/guardian for their residential fees, we find it helpful at times to discuss details of your accommodation fee account with them. To do this, we require your consent. You will be able to do this by signing into your online Accommodation account then going to the 'Method of Payment' section. You can withdraw your consent at any time throughout the year. If you are aged under 18 years your consent is not required.

If staying with Student Roost, under Queen's data protection protocols we have a data sharing agreement in place with them. This means the details which you submit to us in your application will be shared with them to create a student record on their booking; we do not require your specific consent for this.

## **2. YOUR OBLIGATIONS**

### **Requesting Release from your Accommodation Contract**

The accommodation contract is not a tenancy and does not have a break clause or notice period allowing you to end the contract before the end date. The accommodation contract commits you to your room and you are responsible for the residential fees for the duration of your contract.

- If you are requesting a release from your accommodation only, please ensure you make an appointment with the accommodation team to discuss your options and to complete the relevant paperwork.
- You will still be liable for the fees until another student, who is not currently in contract with Queen's Accommodation or Student Roost (under QUB terms), takes up the room, the occurrence of which becomes more difficult later in the year. It is your responsibility to find another student to move into your room as we do not always have students on a waiting list. A GP's/consultant letter or submission of any medical evidence does not guarantee a release from accommodation. You are not permitted to sub-let your room under any circumstances.

### **Withdrawing from your course**

- If you withdraw from Queen's University Belfast or other colleges (as outlined in the allocation policy) you must vacate your room, advising the Allocation Team with two weeks' notice. You must also provide us with a copy of the official University or college's withdrawal form issued by your school or department.

- You will continue to be liable for residential fees until you have given the Allocations team your notice, vacated your room and returned your key and/or fob to your nearest reception. Your deposit will be used to off-set loss of income.
- If you, or we can offer your room to another student who is not currently in contract with Queen's Accommodation, part of your deposit may be refunded to you. This is dependent on the length of time it takes for your room to be re-let to another student who is not currently in contract with Queen's Accommodation.
- You are not permitted to sub-let your room under any circumstances.

### **Deposit payment**

When an offer of accommodation is made, part of the acceptance procedure requires a deposit payment of £300 by credit/debit card or bank transfer. Failure to provide this payment will result in the offer of accommodation being withdrawn.

Please note that this deposit payment is not a pre-payment and therefore is not included in the residential fees. The deposit is held for the duration of your stay and any damages/charges will be deducted from this. The Residential Fee team will endeavour to return the deposit balance within 28 days of the end of your contracted period.

### **E-induction**

You must complete the Queen's Accommodation e-induction prior to your arrival / check in at accommodation - failure to do so will result in delayed check-in to accommodation. This can be accessed via your accommodation account once you accept your room offer and pay £300

### **Residential Fees**

You must pay your residential fees on time in line with the payment method chosen. If this becomes a problem during the year, contact the residential fees team at the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter at [residentialfees@gub.ac.uk](mailto:residentialfees@gub.ac.uk).

Failure to engage with the Residential Fees team to agree a suitable plan to manage payment in respect of outstanding fees will result in access to your accommodation being denied until such times as you engage.

Please note that an administration charge of £25.00 will be applied for each failed direct debit payment.

Failure to settle accommodation fees will result in you being asked to leave Queen's University accommodation or accommodation at Student Roost and details of your account will be passed to the University solicitors for recovery of debt.

If you have outstanding accommodation fees debt, you will be ineligible to re-apply for Queen's University accommodation in the future.

### **Cleaning**

It is your responsibility to make sure that your bedroom and communal areas are kept clean to ensure a hygienic and safe environment for all. The accommodation must be left in a clean and tidy condition and return of all keys/fobs at the end of the contracted period.

### **Fire safety**

You must **NOT** misuse the fire alarm system or the fire equipment, as they are designed for emergency use only.

Deliberate interference with any fire equipment, including fire detection/ smoke alarm, fire extinguishers or fire blankets, fire doors and fire safety signs is a criminal offence in the UK. It also puts your life and the lives of your fellow residents at risk. Queen's Students who tamper with any equipment will be dealt with under the [Conduct Regulations](#) and may receive a written warning and fine of up to £500 as part of a disciplinary investigation.

### **Accidents**

The University has a responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of its students, staff and visitors and aims to provide a safe, healthy, and high-quality learning and living environment. Students living in Queen's University accommodation must report all accidents, however small, to a member of university staff, the Residential Life Team or your Residential Assistant (RA). All students have a legal responsibility to take reasonable care for their own safety and that of others, including guests, and to comply with these guidelines. If you are taken to hospital through injury or illness and are required to remain there for a time, it is important to contact a member of accommodation staff, so we know where you are and when you are likely to return to accommodation

## **3. A LIVING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Queen's Accommodation provides a safe and comfortable home for everyone, and it is essential to be mindful and considerate of your neighbours. Queen's University is proud of its multicultural diversity, and it is important to remember that like you, everyone is here to study, gain independence, develop key skills, and make friends for life. Many people living around you will be studying or sleeping at different times and we ask that you always respect your fellow residents and the local community.

### **Discipline**

When you accept an offer to study an academic course at Queen's you also accept to be bound by the General Regulations, which includes Conduct Regulations. Students deemed to be presenting misconduct, will be disciplined within the bounds of the Conduct Regulations. The disciplinary process may result in a fine and/or a written warning, or in your expulsion from the University or exclusion from Queen's University accommodation/external partner providers.

Should you be excluded from Queen's University accommodation, or from Student Roost or be suspended/expelled from Queen's, you will continue to be liable for residential fees for the duration of your contract. You may also face criminal charges which may affect your eligibility to practice in your chosen career.

### **Lifestyle Accommodation**

If you accept a contract for a specific lifestyle accommodation such as Quiet Living, No Alcohol or Single Gender, you are required to abide by the specific ethos of this accommodation. Students who do not abide by the lifestyle of their accommodation may face disciplinary action.

## **Harassment Policy**

The University has a Harassment Policy, details of which can be found on the Academic & Student Affairs website, therefore if you feel you are the subject of harassment or intimidation, please speak to a member of staff immediately. Your accommodation contract means accepting you will neither commit nor allow guests to commit harassment or nuisance of any kind and must always act in a respectable manner.

## **Noise**

Always keep noise to a minimum, particularly after 11.00pm, to allow other residents to sleep or study. Please keep bedroom/kitchen windows closed in the evening and at night to prevent noise travelling to other accommodation/houses and beyond to adjacent residential streets. You can report a noise complaint anonymously at any time by calling your reception. Any excessive noise caused by you or coming from your accommodation/house will be kept on record and disciplinary action will be taken in line with the Queen's Accommodation Noise Policy [here](#)

## **Alcohol**

If you choose to consume alcohol, we expect you to do so in a responsible way and to be mindful and respectful manner, particularly when returning to your from a night out. Anti-social behaviour due to excessive alcohol consumption is not acceptable and may lead to a disciplinary investigation. Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in accommodation which is designated as 'no alcohol'; if you fail to observe this rule, it may result in disciplinary action.

## **Smoking/Vaping/E-Cigarettes**

In line with current legislation, the University enforces a no smoking policy throughout all its buildings and premises, including your bedroom, common areas and outside your accommodation building. Smoking, including e-cigarettes/vaping, is only permitted in designated smoking areas outside. If you are caught smoking or vaping inside your building or anywhere not within the designated smoking areas, you will face disciplinary action within the terms of this accommodation contract and the University Conduct Regulations.

## **Drugs**

It is a criminal offence to possess, consume and/or deal in drugs. Any action which breaches drugs-related legislation will be regarded as a serious disciplinary matter and will be dealt with accordingly. If you feel that you have a problem with drugs, please contact a member of the Residential Life Team who will be able to advise you of the support available to you. If you suspect or encounter the consumption or dealing of drugs within Queen's Accommodation, please inform a member of staff immediately.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

The University is committed to promoting a safe and supportive environment for students in which they can thrive and grow in independence, and which celebrates equality, diversity, and inclusivity. Student health and wellbeing is fundamental to enabling a positive experience of university life. Therefore, it is imperative that you are pro-active in your self-care and engage with appropriate support services such as your G.P, Student Disability and Student Wellbeing Service. See more information on [Student Wellbeing](#) to support the management of your physical and mental health.

### **Car parking - Elms BT9 / Bicycle storage**

Due to traffic congestion in Belfast and around Queen's, the University asks students not to bring cars to Belfast. If you require your car, limited car parking is available at Elms BT9 for all students living in accommodation and Student Roost properties. You may apply for a permit; however, these are limited to Elms BT9 residents and must be applied for when you complete your accommodation application. If you are allocated a car parking permit for Elms BT9 the cost should be paid at check in.

If you are unsuccessful in a request for onsite parking permit, you can register your car at the beginning of term at Elms BT9 reception and use the pay-per-use parking at Elms BT9. Please be advised that you must always display your parking permit, with your registration number.

We do not provide parking spaces at any other accommodation location.

Secure bicycle storage facilities are provided in accommodation. Please note that bicycles must not be stored in hallways, corridors or in bedrooms.

### **Your bedroom**

We accept that there will be wear and tear in your room throughout the residential year. In order to avoid any damage, we would ask you not to change or alter the décor of your bedroom and pictures and posters must only be fixed to the pin board. Any damage caused to furniture or fixtures and fittings, over and above general wear and tear, will be charged to the student(s) responsible. All defects /damages /faults requiring attention should be reported immediately. If living in Queen's Accommodation this is done via the online maintenance system, which is accessible from the website [Accommodation at Queen's](#)

Please ensure that accurate information is provided regarding the location of the request and details of the fault. Once the request has been logged, you can track the request and view the expected completion date.

### **Charges**

On departure, your room/apartment will be inspected, and you are expected to have left it in the same condition as you found it when you arrived. It is important therefore that you complete your room / communal inventory on arrival to accommodation. You may be charged £25.00 for bedroom cleaning fee and a further £25.00 for kitchen cleaning if it is not left in an acceptable condition. Alongside your fellow residents you are all responsible to keep kitchens clean, safe and tidy including removing the rubbish, food waste and recycling to designated bin areas.

You must not duplicate or loan your key to anyone else. If living in Queen's Accommodation, there is a charge of £7.50 for a replacement key in a Queen's House and £2.00 charge for every replacement key fob. Lost post box keys in Elms BT1 and Elms BT2 are charged at £7.00

### **Electrical Equipment**

You may bring items of electrical equipment for use in your room and free testing of your equipment is arranged at the start of the year to identify any fault. Items which do not pass the electrical test will be removed from your room / kitchen and returned when you check out of accommodation. Electrical equipment which is faulty can cause electric shocks or electrocution. In addition, electrical appliances are often the cause of fires, both due to faults or misuse with the equipment.

The total combined Watts of your appliances at use at any one time in your room cannot exceed 1000W (except in Willow Walk, Elms BT1/BT2 and with Student Roost), as this will overload the sockets.

## **Banned items**

Students living within university accommodation are from many international backgrounds and a variety of beliefs, religions, and values. In accordance with the University Equality and Diversity Policy we do not allow anyone to display any national flags/emblems/or political slogans that may cause offence.

If an item that is dangerous or prohibited and is discovered in accommodation, it will be removed by a member of staff, and you may face a disciplinary investigation. Items which must not be brought into accommodation include, but are not limited to:

- Knives, firearms, replica firearms or swords, air guns, catapults water pistols, water bombs, fireworks, helium, or gas canisters
- Weapons of any kind are banned and certain sports equipment, e.g. fencing foils or archery equipment, can be classified as offensive. You may only bring these into accommodation once confirmation has been received by the Head of Queen's Accommodation from Queen's Sport that you are a member of the relevant Queen's University Club; for students attending Belfast Met or South West College the confirmation must be sent from your college or university sport's manager or club manager on appropriate letter heading. The equipment may have to be stored in reception.

The following items are also prohibited:

- Animals, reptiles, fish, insects or birds (assistance animals are permitted by prior arrangement and relevant medical evidence) Click [here](#) to view the Assisted Animals Policy
- Electric heaters and electric blankets
- Loud speakers
- Candles or incense
- Fairy lights

## **Compliments and Complaints**

We hope that you enjoy your experience living with us and we welcome any feedback positive or negative Please contact us at [accommodationfeedback@qub.ac.uk](mailto:accommodationfeedback@qub.ac.uk) and a member of the team will respond.

## **Communication**

Throughout the year, the Residential Life Team will send a weekly e-zine to your QUB or registered email address which will inform you of any important announcements, planned maintenance work residential activities and social events.

This will keep you up to date with what is happening in your accommodation. The team may also email you about other matters such as fees. It is, therefore, very important to check your Queen's email account every day; students from colleges should check the email account which you registered with Queen's Accommodation in your contact details.

You can also keep up to date with what is happening via our website [Accommodation at Queen's Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) accounts.

Throughout the year we will email student surveys to ask about several different subjects and service performance. Your response to these is very much appreciated and there are

prizes drawn from those who reply. We act based on your responses and we will communicate these changes throughout the year.