

OUR COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION:

Living on campus is the perfect way to enjoy the full Northumberland College experience. By choosing to live on campus, you will make friends for life and enjoy a true-life experience that you will never forget.

The accommodation is provided from September to June and from 5.00pm on a Sunday through to 4.30pm on a Friday but does not include college holidays.

Our residential accommodation consists of 30 single bedrooms, divided between 4 houses, all of which have shared kitchen facilities that include a hob, oven, fridge, washer/dryer, kettle, toaster and microwave. Each bedroom has a bed, internet access, study desk & chair, bedside unit and wardrobe. You can apply for either an en-suite room or a room with shared bathroom facilities. There's plenty of free parking and you'll have free WiFi access too.

All accommodation is self-catered, with supporting access to on campus canteen facilities.

All residential accommodation, is owned and run **but** the Northumberland College. Alternative accommodation may be used by 3rd party providers on a short-term basis after a significant event where access to College residences has been denied (e.g. major water leak). Use of such accommodation would be time specific and with recognised providers e.g. Local Hotels etc as **outline** with the Business Continuity procedure.

The social side of living on campus

Residential students are able to take part in a range of fun activities throughout the year and through the Student Association, help shape the weekly activities which include:

- a. Organised outings to cinema, bowling etc.
- b. Weekly trips to the supermarket on a local retail park
- c. Provision of break out/games area 3 nights a week which is staffed by a student member of staff
- d. Spring Clean Tuesday to develop independent living skills and maintain cleanliness standards
- e. Weekly tutorial session with external/internal presenter to cover various issues/topics (e.g. fire safety, sexual health, budgeting, cooking, alcohol awareness, knife crime etc.)
- f. 'Get Active' programme is in place delivered by the College's Sports Activator

Your safety

The residential accommodation is separated from the main campus by fencing and security gates, with its own outdoor space including a designated smoking area. All houses are supported 24 / 7 by our dedicated team of highly experienced wardens. They will make sure you are happy, content and have everything you need.

The college also has its own team of student support officers on hand, who are able to provide any specialist support you may need including Financial Support, Learning Support, Counselling, as well as weekly Sexual Health **clinic** provided by NHS.

Residential students aged under **18-year-olds** are accommodated in houses separate from the older 19+ students. Depending on the nature of the demand by gender the allocations of individual rooms create single sex households for those aged u18

Access to our accommodation is restricted as follows:

- a. Each resident has access to the accommodation complex
- b. Only students allocated to a specific house have access
- c. Doors to individual bedrooms are restricted to the allocated resident

All outside areas of the residential area is covered by **CCTV** system to monitor activity in a non-intrusive way and coverage is promoted to the students and their parents at the point of application. No such coverage takes place within the households.

Students are required to sign in and out of the residences and there is a curfew of 11.30pm each evening. Late passes are available for recognised events but are subject to written permission being secured from the parent/guardian for those aged u18. Students are required to inform the residential staff when they intend to be absent overnight.

The **Accommodation Officer** operates on a drop-in basis, while the Wardens have a schedule of ‘inspection’ throughout the evening to ensure housekeeping is in good order and contact is maintained with the students up to curfew.

Student Safety Officer, in place, who’s primary purpose is to ensure a safe, secure, welcoming environment for staff, students and campus visitors. They work closely with managers responsible for curriculum, the **Accommodation Officer** and wider support staff to promote positive student behaviour and respond to any incidents.

Site Security Guard is in place during the day. Their role is to provide proactive patrols across the campus/estate, provide visibility and a point of contact for staff, students and visitors whilst acting as the eyes and ears of the wider facilities team.

Allocation of rooms

Rooms are allocated by the **Accommodation Officer**, on a first come-first served basis, reflecting the age and gender of the applicant. The **Accommodation Officer** will consider previous history of occupancy when judging access to the residences, as outlined in the Fitness to Reside Policy and Procedure. In such cases where access is denied (e.g. for behavioural issues), the student would have the right to appeal to the Head of Central Services who would make an independent judgement. Rooms are allocated by the **Accommodation Officer**, on a first come-first served basis, reflecting the age and gender of the applicant.

Students can request a change in their accommodation, and any such request would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Factors to consider could include student well-being, maintenance of good order, changes in personal requirements etc. These requests would not normally be denied.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion

College is committed to meeting and supporting the needs of its student and staff community.

Educationally: SEND Strategy and Learning Support Policy in place. Close links with County Council to meet needs of specific students including those with Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and Care experienced (LAC/CL) with Personal Educational Plans (PEP).

Halls of residence: Any student specific issues/requirements are picked up through the application process or by contact from course admissions/accommodation staff.

The accommodation application form specifically asks whether the student is subject to EHCP and PEP support. Where this is the case the Head of Central Services in conjunction with Head of Learning Support and curriculum staff to ensure that need can be met and agreement of resident specific levels of support.

Specific adjustments which can be made include:

- access to a multi-faith/reflection room
- provision of fridges in rooms for food separation
- disabled student access and reasonable adjustments
- provision of specific dietary requirements in the catering outlets

