

## **Q&A- Accommodation Information Session**

### **Student Apartment Complexes:**

#### ***How many beds are in campus accommodation vs Private student specific accommodation?***

Campus accommodation will have approximately 1530 beds available, including the newly built Crow's Nest. This constitutes over 18% of the expected availability in purpose-built student accommodation for the academic year (2023/24).

Private student specific accommodation has approximately 6000 beds currently available, with a further 900 beds expected to be completed in 2023.

#### ***Does the rent vary by complex and are utilities included in the rent? When will the rates for 2024/25 be made available?***

The rental cost for the academic year is different across the campus accommodation complexes and utilities are a separate payment. The 2023/24 academic year prices for each of the complexes can be found at this link:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/campusaccommodation/>

Prices for the 2024/25 academic year will be made available by campus accommodation over the coming months.

For private student specific accommodation, the rates can vary depending on the location and quality of the accommodation. We will update the prices at the following link as soon as they are available:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/privateapartmentcomplexes/>

#### ***Is there any way of ensuring getting into the same apartment with a friend?***

If two students receive an offer of a room in campus accommodation or in a private student complex, the students can then contact the complex manager to request to be placed in the same apartment together. They will do their best to facilitate you, but there is no guarantee.

#### ***Which building is best for first year/international students?***

All the campus accommodation buildings, except for the Crow's Nest, are suitable for first year students. For the most part, first year students are accepted into all the private student accommodation providers.

You will find that all complexes have a diverse population of students. Therefore, students coming from outside of Ireland should focus on complexes that meet their budgetary restrictions, along with any specific requirements, the same as every other student.

***Besides campus accommodation, what other options are available for the 1st year students?***

Incoming first year students can book a room in one of the private student apartment complexes:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/privateapartmentcomplexes/>

Alternatively, they can find a room in a house or in digs on our UCC Studentpad site:

<https://studentpad.ucc.ie/Accommodation>

We do recommend that all first years begin their academic journey living in a student complex, where possible. This can maximise the initial student experience and eases the transition from family life to student living.

***Is there any need to book more than one private student complex?***

If a student complex allows you to secure the booking, there is no need to book any more than one of the private student complexes. If a complex has a lottery system or expression of interest system, you may need to continue your search until you have secured accommodation.

***Can you enter the lottery and book a private complex at the same time?***

Yes. We would recommend that you do both but check the terms and conditions of the private complexes to ensure that you can cancel your private accommodation, without penalty, if you are successful in the campus accommodation lottery.

As private complexes can vary in price, we would always advise that you consider your budget for accommodation and look for accommodation within this budget.

**Campus accommodation General Questions:**

***Can I book campus accommodation directly or is it only through a lottery system? Are students from abroad prioritized in the accommodation lottery?***

Campus accommodation can only be booked through the lottery system.

The campus accommodation lottery does not prioritise students. It is a randomly selected lottery.

***Which campus accommodation complex has the largest number of beds?***

Victoria Mills is the complex with the largest number of beds in campus accommodation.

***Are the student rooms in the campus accommodation buildings furnished? What is the layout of the rooms? Are there any catered halls?***

All apartments and rooms in campus accommodation are furnished. Student apartments typically have a shared kitchen, shared dining area, shared living space and private bedrooms. Some apartments may have bedrooms with or without an ensuite bathroom. If an apartment does not have ensuite bathrooms, a shared bathroom will be available within the apartment.

The video should help you understand the layout better. <https://youtu.be/4mDYF4ISAJY>

While every student apartment complex is different, apartments typically come in 4 to 8 bed configurations.

***Are there any catered halls*** in campus accommodation? There are no catered halls in campus accommodation or in any of the private student apartment complexes.

***Is parking available generally in campus accommodation and does it come at an extra cost?***

There is limited availability of parking spaces in campus accommodation and it is offered on a first come first served basis and for students with mobility issues. Students should contact the complex manager for more information if they are successful in the lottery.

***For campus accommodation, can the rent be paid in installments or monthly? Does the rental contract cover the entire period of the school year?***

It is possible to choose to pay the rent in either two installments or in monthly payments.

The rental contract for campus accommodation typically lasts for 37 weeks, which covers the entire academic year.

***Can you apply for more than one complex? If you are unsuccessful in the lottery for your chosen site, can you be considered for other campus accommodation?***

You can only apply to one complex in the campus accommodation lottery.

The first round offers come out a few weeks after the applications close (usually mid March). Students will be notified by email if they are successful. If unsuccessful, they will be placed on a waiting list **only** for the preferred complex.

***Can we still apply for campus accommodation if we are just under the 45KM requirement?***

You could still apply for the lottery if you are very close to the 45km requirement. Campus accommodation will advise you if there is an issue with the application.

***Does one have to participate in the lottery every year? Do you have an option or priority for second year?***

There will be a re-booker lottery for subsequent years which is smaller than the main lottery. Current residents in campus accommodation will be emailed details of the re-booker lottery. You will be placed in the lottery for the complex you are residing in. Should you wish to change

to another campus accommodation complex for the subsequent year, you will need to contact campus accommodation directly to request this.

***How do I request a twin room in Castlewhite?***

There will be far more single rooms compared to twin rooms in Castlewhite. Any students wishing to share a twin room should enter the lottery separately. If both students get accepted to Castlewhite, they can contact the complex manager to request a twin room together, if they wish. A twin room will be considerably cheaper for students who wish to share.

***Is campus accommodation available to an MTU (Munster Technological University) student?***

None of the UCC campus accommodation complexes are available to MTU students, unless the student is studying a joint UCC/MTU programme.

***What would be the most popular campus complex? How can you know which of the 5 campus complexes has the highest chance of success in the lottery?***

A student's choice of complex is individual to their needs.

However, as Victoria Mills has the largest number of beds in campus accommodation, it tends to be the most popular and may get the greatest number of lottery applications in any given year.

The chance of success will depend on the number of applications versus the number of beds available in any given year.

***If I am doing a course in MTU but the last 2 years are in UCC can I apply for UCC campus accommodation?***

You can apply to campus accommodation for the last two years of your degree, provided you can submit a UCC student number or proof of your studies in UCC.

***What is % success rate i.e., number of applications versus number of accommodation options offered?***

We do not have these numbers, but campus accommodation is always oversubscribed for applications versus available beds.

When the CAO results and offers are made available to students, there will be a churn of cancellations to reflect the CAO offers made. This means that the lottery will continue to happen up until all beds are filled.

## **Accommodation Deposits**

***When is the Security/Booking Deposit supposed to be paid and can you get your deposit back if you do not secure a place in UCC through the CAO or decide on a different university?***

If you get offered a room in campus accommodation then they will give you 7 days to pay the €300 security and booking deposit. €250 of this fee will be refundable up until after the CAO results in September.

When booking through a private student apartment complex, the security deposit is generally paid at the point of confirming the booking and the cancellation policy will vary by complex. In some complexes, a student can confirm a booking by paying a booking fee, which may be different to a security deposit.

## **First Year Placement Service**

***Can deferred applicants use the accommodation placement service?***

Yes. Any incoming first year student to UCC can use the placement service. It opens on the day the CAO offers are announced. There will be a link to the application form on our website on this day:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/>

## **UCC Studentpad**

***Does the student have to wait for registration before they can register for StudentPad?***

Any student with a CAO, student number or application number can register for UCC Studentpad:

<https://studentpad.ucc.ie/Accommodation>

## **International students**

***What are the accommodation options for students staying in Cork through the summer? Is there a place where we can leave our luggage/stuff over summer while we go "home"?***

There will be summer accommodation available in some of the campus accommodation complexes and in some of the private student complexes. Students should contact their accommodation provider months in advance to request an extended stay. You could also look for a room for the full year on our UCC StudentPad site.

There are storage companies in Cork that you could make enquiries with in order to store your luggage.

***Would it be possible to come to campus accommodation early? I'm not from Ireland and I would like to have a bit more time to come to cork in the late summer if possible***

Depending on availability, campus accommodation will be able to facilitate summer bookings. Students who arrive within the summer months may have to move to a new apartment for the academic year. If you are successful in the campus accommodation lottery, you can email the complex manager to request an earlier check in date.

## **Accommodation for specific schools/colleges**

Please see the following link on our website with the location of the various schools and campus accommodation:

[https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/discoverucc/maps/UCC\\_Campus\\_Map\\_2022.pdf](https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/discoverucc/maps/UCC_Campus_Map_2022.pdf)

### ***What are the closest accommodation options to the UCC Architecture building?***

Some of the closest of the private student complexes are Deans Hall Crosses Green, Davcon Court, Leepoint and Scholarlee Bishops street.

### ***How many minutes is the walk from UCC School of music to the main campus?***

It would take about 20 to 25 minutes to walk from the UCC Department of Music to the Boole library on the main UCC campus.

### ***Which building is the nearest to the Computer Science faculty?***

The School of Computer Science and Information Technology is based in the Western Gateway Building. Victoria Mills or Castlewhite are the two closest complexes to the Western Gateway Building.

### ***Which accommodation is best for a new medical student?***

Any of the campus accommodation complexes would suit an incoming medicine student.

## **General Questions**

### ***What help does HEAR or SUSI offer with accommodation?***

For information on HEAR, SUSI, Mature Students and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education), please contact our colleagues <https://www.ucc.ie/en/accessforall/>

### ***Does your office offer accommodation assistance for second- and third-year students as well?***

Our office provides assistance to all incoming or current UCC students searching for accommodation.

### ***What is the capacity of each of the UCC-owned accommodations?***

Victoria Mills has 418 beds, Victoria Lodge has 335 beds, Castlewhite has 298 beds, Mardyke Hall has 42 beds, University Hall has 180 beds and the Crow's Nest has 255 beds.

***How can I contact the office virtually?***

You can contact us at [resservices@ucc.ie](mailto:resservices@ucc.ie) to ask a question or to organise a physical or virtual meeting with a member of the team.