



TU Dublin Students' Union Cost of Living Guide 2024-2025

Welfare & Equality

Cost of living for students living in Private Accommodation in Dublin

Cost of living in Private Accommodation	Monthly Costs	Total Cost per year, based on 12-month rental contract
Rent	€780 is average cost of renting a single room in Dublin*	€9,360**
Utilities – Electricity, Internet & Heating	€100	€1,200
Food	€220	€2,400
Travel Average	€48	€576
Mobile Phone	€20	€240
Books and Class Materials	€69	€621
Clothes and Medical	€40	€480
Social Life	€80	€960
Student Charge	€333	€3,000
Totals	€1,690	€20,280

*Figures are based on one bedroom accommodation available to rent in Dublin as of 17th June 2024

**Most private rentals are done on a minimum of 12-month contract

Pros and Cons of living in Private Rental Properties

Pro's

More Freedom

You can come and go as you please as there would be no curfew or restricted times for using facilities in the house, like kitchen, Livingroom, laundry etc.

Shared cleaning

Cleaning isn't that fun of a task and as they say, a problem shared is a problem halved. It can also be rather annoying if someone doesn't pull their own weight or hasn't got the same cleaning standards as you. Making a cleaning chart could be beneficial in this situation, or if you can afford it, hiring a cleaner to pop over once every couple of weeks if your place is getting a little bit too grimy.

You're never alone

When you live with other people, there's always someone to hang out with. From having someone to talk to when you need to share your worries or a binge-watching partner for your favourite TV show, they'll usually be someone on hand to keep you company. Plus, it's a great opportunity to meet new friends outside your usual circle

Con's

Sign up fees

To apply to rent a property, whether a flat, house or just a room in a house share, you'll need to save

up the money for application fees, deposit and your first month's rent in advance.

Extra bills - that include all your utilities such as gas and electricity, plus your internet and TV subscriptions. These can be quite costly at the end of each month.

Lack of privacy

This could be an issue if you like a lot of time to yourself or if you don't get along with your housemates. But you can always retreat to your room if you'd prefer some time alone.

Shared things

Pans, plates, cheese graters, it's a lot of stuff to gather up by yourself. You never know how useful a tin opener is until you haven't got one. Sharing a house means that between you, you can collate all the things you depend on to make your life that little bit easier. Unfortunately, it also means that someone is more likely to borrow your fancy shampoo or use up the last of the milk.

Friends turned enemies

As the saying goes, you never really know someone until you live with them. Who knew your best friend shed that much hair in the shower? Living with friends can be difficult or it could be the best fun you ever had, you just won't know until you try it.

With an open mind and a little bit of patience, house sharing can be an exciting, cost-effective living option. But if you like your own space and have a specific way of ordering the cutlery drawer, then it's probably not for you.

Cost of living for students living in purpose built student accommodation in Dublin

Students living in Purpose Built Accommodation	Every 4 Weeks	Total College Year 39 Weeks Sept – May
<u>Rent</u> Staying in twin room sharing Staying in single room (Basic)	€978 €1,200	€9,535 €11,700
<u>Utilities</u>	Inc. In digs	Incl. In Digs
<u>Food</u>	€220	€2145
<u>Travel Average</u>	Student build accommodation is located in city centre within walking distances of all campuses.	
<u>Mobile Phone</u>	€20	€195
<u>Books and Class Materials</u>	€69	€672
<u>Clothes and Medical</u>	€40	€390
<u>Social Life</u>	€80	€780
<u>Student Charge</u>	€333 Calculated over 9 months	€3,000

<u>Totals</u>	€1,740 If sharing in twin room €1,962 If in single room (Basic)	€16,717 if sharing twin room €18,882 if in a single room (Basic)
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Pro's of staying in Student purpose built accommodation

Pro's

Convenience

In college there's almost nothing better (or more terrifying) than waking up 15 minutes before class starts and still making it on time. There's no long commute, traffic or fear of being late. Whether it's for a quick nap during free period or to prepare your own lunch, your room is never too far from the college.

The social aspect

which is especially good for foreign students who don't know anyone in Dublin (or Ireland), but in general it makes it so much easier to get to know people outside of your course with different interests etc.

Being on your own

Is a big and exciting step. There seems to be so much to take care of and a contract for almost everything. In student build accommodation, you simply pay your rent. Electricity, water and most importantly Wi-Fi are covered within the price. Moving to a new city and leaving all your friends is tough. How to get over it? Make new friends. Fast. What better way to get to know new people than living in the same building?

Netflix Marathon

cooking together or getting ready for a party is easy – your new friends are just a few doors away. Enjoy long shopping sprees.

Clubbing or Sight-seeing

Makes is convenient as all students-built accommodation is in city centre.

Cons of staying in Student purpose-built accommodation

Cons

More Expensive

You must be willing to spend quite some cash on your new accommodation: the rates start at an average €672 every 4 weeks for twin room sharing and €696 for single room

Rules

There are many rules you must follow. If you don't, you can easily get kicked out. One of the rules (maybe the hardest one to follow): No guests after 11 pm. No long parties, no sleepovers.

Distractions

Sitting at home studying might be the last thing on your mind right now. But the night before an important exam, you could really use some quiet time to go through your notes. It is easy to get distracted if there is a lot of noise or your friends are having fun in the next room.

Conflicts

Living in the same apartment 24/7, there might be some conflicts with your roommates sooner or later. You must be willing to communicate to make it work. There are of course people who don't get along with anyone in their room, this is the risk you take when you are sharing a room and don't know who'll you be sharing with.

Lack of Space

There are different room types available, but they all have one thing in common: they are very practical and don't offer much space. You might want to reduce your shopping to fit the storage.

Cost of living for students living in Digs in Dublin 2023/2024

Student's living away from Home in DIGS	Every 4 weeks	Total College Year Sept – May
<u>Average Rent</u>		
Staying in Digs 5 Nighs	€529	€5,157.75
Staying in Digs 7 Nights	€601.84	€5,867.94
<u>Utilities</u>	Inc. In digs	N/A
<u>Food</u>	€220	€2,145
<u>Travel Average</u>	€48 €120 if staying in digs 5 days and have to commute back home at the weekends (4 Weekends)	€576 €1,170
<u>Mobile Phone</u>	€20	€195
<u>Books and Class Materials</u>	€69	€672
<u>Clothes and Medical</u>	€40	€390
<u>Social Life</u>	€80	€780
<u>Student Charge</u>	€333	€3,000
<u>Totals</u>	5 Nights - €1,339 7 Nights - €1,483.84	€13,055.25 €14,467.44

Students staying in digs for 5 nighs would also spend an average of €30 a week commuting back up and down to the country at the weekends.

** Prices based on 100 different properties available as of 17th June 2024

***Totals are based on 39 weeks from September to the end of May as DIGs is mostly only available from these months.

Pros and Cons of living in Digs

Pros

- Can be less expensive
- No need to worry about bills or the weekly grocery shop if meals are included
- If there are other students in the digs with you, you get to know them, but you can keep your distance if you want. There are no shared cooking, cleaning, or money matters so things are simple
- Peace of mind for 1st students and their parents who are coming to college for the first time and are unfamiliar with Dublin
- Digs will be in a nice safe area and the people you are living with will keep tabs on you. If you are sick, at least you know someone is in the house to call a doctor if you need one.
- Fresh bed linen and towels usually provided
- Financially, it is sometimes can be all-inclusive and therefore a lot less complicated.

Cons

- But choosing to rent a room in someone's home is a distinctly distinct experience from renting a house or apartment. First there is the legal difference: a tenant in a traditional rental has several rights under landlord-tenant legislation. Renting a room in a house is not the same thing at all. A room renter has fewer to no rights.
- You have to live by house rules and it's a rare digs-provider who would allow visitors, let alone late-night soirees
- Having to be home at a particular time if you want to get fed can begin to get in the way of your social life
- Can be asked to leave at any time
- Some properties offer limited kitchen and laundry access.
- May have curfews
- Guests sometimes are forbidden to use sitting room
- Staying at weekends may not be an option. If it is, it often costs extra

*It is a good idea to have this all in writing to prevent misunderstandings further down the line. You should be noticeably clear as to the precise rent and when it is to be paid and over what time period. This will normally be over the academic term(s). You should receive a written receipt for all rental payments and agree on the condition of the property from the outset and take some photographs at the start of the rental agreement.

How to Make Your Money Stretch Further

Food

Buying food in a supermarket and preparing meals yourself can be the most cost-effective way of eating while studying. Aldi and Lidl rate as the cheapest supermarkets (according to Yelp.ie) although depending on what you're buying local shops like grocers, butchers or Asia markets can be cheaper for specific items.

In supermarkets, 'own brand' food ranges are more affordable and are usually just as good quality.

Convenience foods tend to be less nutritious and because of this can end up being less beneficial in the long run. When cooking, preparing multiple servings to eat either as lunch or dinner the next day or to freeze and have later can be a way of budgeting.

Household Bills

Shops vary greatly in price, so it is best to do your research when looking for household goods. Best value is likely to be found in Penney's, Dunnes Stores, Tesco, Aldi and Lidl, although some local shops may also offer good value. Buying online may be convenient too, but if you're renting consider where your post is delivered. If you don't have a designated area for packages, your deliveries may need to be collected at your local An Post Depot. Also, online items have packaging so it's good to be conscious of how much waste is going into your green, black and brown bins. These bins are charged on weight or the frequency you put them out for collection depending on the company, so reducing your waste can help reduce your bills.

As the months get colder keeping warm can be daunting when faced with mounting electricity bills. Layering clothes can be cheaper and effective, especially when layering thinner layers like t-shirts over just one heavy jumper. Thermal layers might be a good investment too. If it's available to you to research electricity suppliers, it's good to research who has the best deals. Ask your landlord if the boiler and tank have been recently serviced, and if the radiators have been recently bled so keeping in the heat is working as effectively as possible.

Clothing

There are many second-hand clothing shops in Dublin, particularly charity shops where it's possible to find good value, quality clothing. A list of charity shops is available at <http://www.icsa.ie/>

The online platform Depop is also another option where you can buy second hand clothing virtually for collection or delivery.

Transport

The cost of an average journey on a local Dublin bus service is currently €2.00 for adults on a Leap Card, and €2.60 if paying in cash. This is similar for many modes of transport; Leap Card fares are cheaper! Sometimes it can be more convenient too, as if you're using Dublin Bus and paying in cash you'll need the exact fare in coins – bus drivers won't give change and won't accept notes or card payments.

It's advisable to purchase a Student Leap Card as they offer reduced fares and other discounts for students registered at an Irish college or university. You can apply for a Leap Card online and then verify your student status at designated areas.

USIT offers travel options specifically for student travellers, including low-cost flexible fares, tailor-made insurance policies and budget accommodation.

Many students also cycle, and in many cities, there are road lanes dedicated to bicycles only. Cycling in city centres can be quite dangerous, particularly at peak times, so if you do decide to cycle you should wear a bicycle helmet. For advice on road safety for cyclists, see: <http://rsa.ie/en/RSA/Pedestrians-and-Cyclists/Cycling-safety/>.

Phone

Mobile phones are an essential way to access information and contact people but sometimes mobile charges can be more expensive than using landlines, especially for international calls and internet access. Pre-pay phones allow you to buy credit in advance and can be a way of controlling your costs more effectively, but you can also pay as you go. Irish mobile phone companies include Three, Eir Mobile, Vodaphone, Tesco Mobile, Lycamobile, An Post Mobile and Virgin Mobile.

For International calls, it's usually cheaper to buy a phone card which are available in most newsagents. Using apps like WhatsApp, Viber, Skype or Zoom is likely the most cost-effective way to connect with loved ones, by using internet connection to make free calls.

You can find out more about cost for both mobile and landline telephone rates by consulting the national communications body's price comparison website: www.comreg.ie.

Tu Dublin also has free internet available on campus called Eduroam. To learn more on how to set up Eduroam see here: <https://www.tudublin.ie/for-students/wifi-eduroam/>

You can find out more about cost for home and mobile internet rates by consulting the national communications body's price comparison website: www.comreg.ie. Comparisons are also available at bonkers.ie and switcher.ie.

College Clubs and Societies

Participation in college clubs and societies is an affordable way of socialising and a great way to try new things. You can join at any point throughout the year and there's a society for almost everything! Societies, Clubs and the Students' Union will sometimes put on events at a subsidised rate so can be a cheap way to hang out with friends.

<https://www.tudublin.ie/for-students/student-life/societies/>

Cinemas

Cinemas in Ireland are very popular, but can be very expensive, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. Some cinemas offer student memberships or cheaper deals during the week especially for students as long as you bring your student card or student leap card. The Lighthouse cinema in Smithfield has €5 student tickets Monday-Wednesday and the Movies at Swords cinema in the Pavilion Shopping Centre has a Student 'combo deal' on Tuesdays for €10.

Music

There are gigs and concerts every night of the week all around Ireland. Find listings at entertainment.ie. or in the free music and events guide Goo Magazine (Going Out Out Guide) which is available to pick up in many spots including Tower Records and the Lighthouse cinema. Many low cost gigs happen in venues such as Whelan's and Workman's, and there is often live traditional music in pubs such as The Cobblestone (Smithfield) or metal in Fibber Magee's (Parnell St).

Night Life

Pubs and bars are licensed to open from 10.30am to 11.30pm, Sunday through Thursday. From Friday to Saturday, the closing hours are extended to 12.30am. Many venues are licensed to stay open until 2.30am at weekends. All pubs in Ireland are closed on Christmas Day.

For more information on Dublin's nightlife see here: <https://www.timeout.com/dublin/things-to-do/best-clubs-in-dublin>