Flinders Accommodation
Frequently Asked Questions

What happens after I submit my application?
Once your application is received at Flinders Housing we check to ensure it is complete before processing it any further. You are able to track the status of your application on-line as it passes through our admissions process and can contact us if you believe there is an issue.

Is there an application fee? When do I need to pay it? Is it refundable if I don’t get an offer at Flinders?
A non-refundable application fee of AU$45.00 needs to be lodged with your application.

How long after I send my application will I get a response?
Applications for 2012 close on 31 October and we endeavour to make our first round of housing offers by the first week of December. It is possible to receive an early offer however the majority of applicants should expect to hear something in early to mid December. If we are unable to make you an offer in the first round we will also let you know. There are usually three rounds of offers, one in December, a second in mid-January and a final round in late January.

What do I do if I receive my accommodation offer before my uni offer?
Accept the offer of accommodation and keep in regular contact with Flinders Housing regarding your university status. Should you not get an offer of a course at Flinders University, notify us immediately so we can discuss withdrawing you from your contract.

How do I ensure that my application makes a good impression?
Your personal statement and your references provide you with the opportunity to tell us what is great about you and how you will benefit our community. Flinders Housing staff read each statement and reference and this gives us a picture of you that forms the basis of whether we offer you a place on-campus. In your personal statement, tell us why living at Flinders Housing will be good for you – how will it benefit your university studies, your personal situation, and what qualities do you bring to our community? How will you make Flinders Housing a richer and more diverse place? What activities have you been previously involved in? What are your passions? The more information you can give us about the type of person you are, the easier it will be for staff to form a clear picture of your suitability for on-campus living.

Who do I ask to write my character reference?
Ask someone who knows you well and who can comment on your personal abilities, interrelationships and your interests. It’s probably of more benefit to you to ask someone who isn’t in your immediate family, so don’t ask Mum or Dad or uncles and aunts. If you have had a part-time job or have been a member of a sporting club or volunteer organisation, we would recommend you ask someone within those organisations who has worked closely with you and can comment on your character and your abilities.

Can I defer my accommodation offer?
Yes, you can defer your accommodation offer for up to one year but Advance Fees must be paid to secure your deferment (eg, if you receive an accommodation offer for the full year in 2012 and wish to defer to 2013, you are required to pay the Advance Fees at the beginning of 2012 to secure your place for the following year).

I don’t know what type of accommodation to apply for.
If you are in your final year of secondary school when applying for on-campus accommodation, we would recommend University Hall for your first year of University. The Deirdre Jordan Village is best suited to students who have had some experience living out of home and we would encourage school-leavers to consider University Hall as a first preference. You are able to apply to live in the Village in subsequent years,
and a year at University Hall helps the transition from home to self-catered living, it also helps you create networks at Flinders and can help to reduce feelings of homesickness or isolation. We do not normally accept students under the age of 18 in the DJ Village.

Can I live with my friends in the Deidre Jordan Village?
You can live near your friends but we aim to ensure that all households have a mix of residents with different experiences so that you can become a member of a vibrant, well integrated community. Sometimes two friends can share but expect to be placed with others you don’t yet know.

Can I apply for accommodation mid-year?
If your course commences mid-year you can also apply for accommodation as there are usually some places available. Applications for mid-year entry close 15 June; check the Flinders Housing website for details.

Can I change my accommodation options mid-year?
Changing your accommodation mid-year does present a problem as Flinders Housing is required to keep all beds full and so places are offered only on a full residential year contract for those who remain enrolled in University for the year. Breaches of contract will attract a penalty. There is, however, some opportunity for room moves mid-year in special circumstances and space permitting.

Can you help me to find accommodation off-campus?
Flinders Housing provides a free web-listing of private off-campus accommodation which you can access at http://www.flinders.edu.au/housing/short-term-private/private-accommodation/private-accommodation_home.cfm There are a number of housing options provided, from share accommodation to units and houses, and you can browse the listings to find suitable accommodation at any time. You can then contact the owner directly to ask questions or make an appointment to inspect. During peak times in February, March and July we also provide an “Accommodation Service” – come by and use the computer to browse our listings, use the telephone to book an inspection time and if you don’t have a car, we have a driving service you can utilise. We also have information available about becoming a tenant, your rights and responsibilities when signing a lease, and how to get around Adelaide. Please note that Flinders Housing does not take responsibility for the quality and suitability of any private accommodation advertised on our website.

Can I keep my room if I go home over summer?
You can keep your room if you pay the full rental cost over summer. Alternatively most residents pack up their rooms – you can store your possessions in the Hall/Village over summer. If you wish to return to the same room as the previous year, this is usually acceptable.

Why do I put in a preference for the type of accommodation I want?
Allocations are made on the basis of merit and the appropriateness of the available room. We are required to balance the on-campus communities and pay attention to the sensitivities of gender, age, and cultural background when allocating rooms. Keeping this in mind, it is not possible to meet every applicant’s first preference. It may be that you receive an offer of accommodation for your second or third preference.