

# LIFE INSIDE STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

## WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT IT'S LIKE

by **DAVID McDONALD**

**Thinking about leaving home next year? Want to study in a different part of the country? We take a closer look at what student accommodation is like and everything you need to be aware of if you are considering the big leap in 2014.**

For a Year 13 student the prospect of being free and living it up with like-minded young people in another part of the country is somewhat exciting.

We spoke to Léa Turner from Whangarei who made the big move to Wellington to study at Victoria University at the beginning of 2013.

Léa is staying at Te Puni Village in Kelburn which hosts around 400 students. She loves

Wellington city and really enjoys the student lifestyle.

"Wellington is a great city to be in. There is always something going on for students; the nightlife is always pumping and there are so many awesome cafés to try out."

"The Hall of Residence is such a good environment. Everyone is really nice and it has a great vibe. It gives you the opportunity to meet so many different people. Living with other students is always fun and you make some great friends," Léa says.

Léa pays around \$310 a week which covers power, water, three meals a day and internet.

Prices for fully-catered student accommodation (includes three meals daily) can cost around \$220 to \$360 a week. A student allowance or loan from StudyLink may assist with costs.

Andrea School, Accommodation Advisor at the University of Canterbury has some important points for students to consider when considering and applying for Halls of Residence.

"The transition from school to university is all about developing independence. This means you need to take responsibility for keeping your room tidy and staying on top of your laundry and cleaning."

Applications for student accommodation are very important and there are a

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 *The camaraderie of student life in a hall of residence.*

number of factors you need to be aware of when applying.

There are typically two elements to the application process for university accommodation. Firstly, there is an online application form which you will find on the university's website. In addition, there is a 'Common Confidential Reference Form' which is a reference completed by your school.

"The halls are typically looking for well-rounded students who are going to study hard but who also have other skills and interests to offer to the residence. Therefore it is important that you list all your recent extra-curricular activities in your application form and promote yourself well," says Andrea.

What you say in your application form is very important to the halls when making their selection. Equally important is what your referee says about you in your 'Common Confidential Reference Form'.

From a student's perspective, Léa believes there are many factors for prospective students to consider, particularly on a financial and studentship level.

"You have to be aware of all the different expenses. I would advise you save as much money over summer as you can so that you have funds in case of an emergency or surprise expenses and don't rely too much on StudyLink," she said.

## DEADLINES for applications for the **BIG** universities

-  University of Otago  
September 30
-  Victoria University of Wellington  
October 1
-  University of Canterbury  
October 1
-  University of Auckland  
No closing date but they advise applying before September 15
-  University of Waikato  
October 1
-  AUT University  
No closing date but they advise students to apply early
-  Massey University  
October 1
-  Lincoln University  
October 1

"Remember to stay on top of your study and not get too distracted."

Léa believes staying in a student hall is a great experience and would recommend it to any student. It is strongly advised that students apply early for student accommodation. Check university websites for more information and pricing details.

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