**Chevening university accommodation tips video**

Title: What do you think are the benefits of university accommodation?

Chevening scholar: “As you are a member of university accommodation group, you will get access to most of the university social events and festivities and often you will get tickets at promotional prices for you as you are living in university accommodation so this is definitely a positive point for you to expand your horizons, make friends and socialise.”

“Another advantage of living in university accommodation is the inclusion of all bills. So usually, if you are living in accommodation, the charges include wifi, water bill, electricity bill and often insurance for your room. So you don’t need to worry about paying charges every month, you just have to set up a payment system for your accommodation and everything is set up.”

Title: When did you start your search for accommodation?

Tilenji, Chevening scholar, University of Edinburgh: “I had an impression that it was not in demand, so I wanted to take my time and apply for it. But I almost missed it, and I would tell you that if you’re set on university accommodation you still have to apply really early so that when they give you those options you can still email them back and ask for a better option. When you do that early it’s going to be very easy for them to help you so you have to apply really early for it.”

Chevening scholar: “If you want to have your preference, I would suggest you look out for deadlines and familiarise yourself with applications before the deadlines.”  
  
Title: What are your tips for scholars looking for accommodation?

Tilenji, Chevening scholar, University of Edinburgh: “Consult. You need to consult previous scholars and the university. Make use of the resources that the university have for you. On their website they are going to have flyers, they are going to have a team who are ready to answer your calls if you want to call them so they need to consult. A lot of people have got different stories, they’ve got different stories about their experiences when it comes to university accommodation.”

Title: What resources or websites did you use in your search for accommodation?

Chevening scholar: “As you may already know, Facebook is very useful in connecting and communicating with other people who are going through the same situation. So if you are going to a university and you want to find out about what other people are doing, what kind of accommodation they are looking for, you can join student groups or students who hold offers groups and even university alumni organisations and then you can ask them for help.”

Title: How have you made your room feel like home?

Tilenji, Chevening scholar, University of Edinburgh: “If you want to make a room seem big, give it some personality and I thought it was a good idea to go out and find some furnishings, paintings, verses, picture frames just to make it look really beautiful. So I went to charity shops where I got really nice paintings at a discounted price, obviously, and I put them up and everything and after that it really felt like home and I love it now and it seems bigger.”

Title: What advice would you give to your past self on accommodation?

Tilenji, Chevening scholar, University of Edinburgh: “One thing that I should have done was settle on the accommodation that I needed early and then check my emails regularly, because I almost missed one of the emails where I was offered accommodation. I almost missed one of my emails and I almost lost my accommodation, so I would check my emails regularly, apply really early and then I would congratulate myself because honestly I don’t regret the choice that I made, I really love my accommodation.

Chevening scholar: “I hope that you find these tips useful, and I wish you the best of luck in finding your home away from home in the UK. Thank you very much.”

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