COVID-19 commitment 2021/22

This commitment is applicable to all students who have accepted an offer of a room in University owned or administered accommodation for the academic year 2021/22. It is intended to provide you with clarity and guidance on how pandemic related events may affect you and your liability during the period of your accommodation contract.

Pre-Arrival

By agreeing to accept your offer of accommodation, you are entering into a legally binding contract. This means that you agree to be liable for all rent owed for the duration of the contract. The dates of your tenancy contract can be found on your offer letter.

If, after accepting your offer, your circumstances change and you no longer require your accommodation please inform us immediately. If you have not moved into the accommodation the University may agree to cancel your accommodation contract.

It is recognised that a small number of students may be unable to travel from overseas in time to arrive for the start of the Autumn Term. The University will permit students to apply for permission to delay arrival to campus, with requests considered by the relevant Deputy Dean (Education) in consultation with your academic department.

If you receive authorisation for a delayed arrival, you may either pay for your accommodation from the 03/10/2021 or cancel your current allocation, place your application on hold, and be prioritised for a room on the accommodation waiting list.

When you are able to travel to campus, you should contact Accommodation Essex and let us know your planned arrival date and to request allocation of a room from that date. Accommodation Essex will confirm whether a room will be available. If a room is available for you, you will receive an offer of accommodation which you must accept to secure the room. Rent charges will begin from your agreed arrival date.

After Arrival

Contract cancellation after you have moved in to your accommodation will only be permitted for the reasons stated in your accommodation terms and conditions.

In the event of Government or University imposed conditions which prevent you from being able to reside in your campus accommodation whilst you are in your tenancy agreement, you
will be permitted to stay off campus and, if you chose to do so, you will benefit from a 100% reduction in rent for a set period of time as determined by the University.

For the avoidance of doubt, Government or University imposed restrictions are defined as follows:

- an England-wide or Local Government-imposed restriction on travel (that would prevent you from returning to campus); or
- University emergency measures imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 which prevent or materially restrict students from continuing to live and learn on our campuses.

If the Government or University imposed restrictions still permit you to attend campus and/or occupy your accommodation, you will not be considered eligible for any of the discounts set out in this document.