

# Time to Make a New Move?

**Imagine moving out of the house you've lived in for what seems like your entire life, leaving your comfort zone and living with different people.**

Leaving your parents behind might seem like a great idea but for some it's not.

19-year-old, journalism student, Kieran Banister who studies at the City of Glasgow College tells me that there are disadvantages and advantages about the move.

He said: "Compared to living with my parents, it's great – I get a lot more freedom to do what I want." But the trouble with gaining freedom is the new responsibilities that come with it.

He said: "You have more responsibilities and the freedom you have can sometimes get in the way of your studies.

"Whereas at home you are more likely to be guided and pushed into doing things."

He added: "You also tend to miss certain things like your parents taking control of chores, like making dinner and washing dishes. "There have been times when I've been up late doing chores."

**Here is the ten-question test to find out if living in a shared flat is the right move for you.**

## **Who could you move in with?**

If you don't have any friends who need a roommate and don't like the idea of living with strangers, then living in a shared flat isn't something you should think about doing.

## **Can you afford it?**

Always check how much rent the flat mate is asking for, for obvious reasons. You can check this by meeting up with the landlord and asking him and checking the contract for the rental fee.

## **Do you know how to cook?**

You may think that cooking is easy and comes naturally but it looks a lot easier than it actually is. Take a cooking class or save money by getting a relative or friend who can cook show you the ropes.

## **Is it in the right area?**

There is no point in moving into a flat that is a long distance away from your university or college. Make sure you are at a reasonable distance away from your university or college. Also find out if it is near newsagents, train station, bus station or if you have a car, a car park.

## **Can you follow their rules?**

Different people will have different ways of doing things. One being rotas – on it could be roles for each roommate such as cleaning and cooking.

## **Does the flat come with vital equipment or facilities?**

If you are used to having a computer to yourself then you may be in for a shock if there's only one computer for five people. If you have a laptop or Ipad that you can take with you then you're sorted.



You should also make sure the flat has Wi-Fi /Internet connection.

## **Is the flat in a nice area?**

Always make sure you research the area before you even consider moving into the flat.

## **What happens if I accidentally break an appliance?**

Imagine if you broke an ornament or a cooking appliance, does that mean you have to pay for a new one and how expensive was the one you broke? Always ask this before thinking of moving into the shared apartment.

## **Will your room be secure?**

If your room isn't secure then you may end up getting valuables stolen, so always check how sturdy the lock is.

## **Are there penalties for late bill payments?**

You never know your wage might come in late one month and you may be stuck for money and have to delay paying your rent.

by Jemma McGuffie



Pictured above is students living in shared accommodation.

To the right is a student living in a shared flat