



# PRIVATE HOUSING RIGHT TO RENT CHECK

Do you know your rights?

From 2016 all landlords and agencies are legally required to carry out checks to ensure that every tenant has the legal right to rent a property in the UK.

**If you are going to be living in University residences, you will not need to undergo these checks.** Often referred to as the 'Right to Rent', landlords must follow the following steps to ensure that tenants have the legal right to rent in the UK:

- See a tenant's original identification, for example, a passport.
- Check the document with the tenant present.
- Keep a copy of the original identification documentation on record.

By law a landlord must check every tenant's identification, even if they think that someone is a British citizen.

Visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for a full list of acceptable documents.

**Tip:** if your documents are with the Home Office, the landlord can verify this by calling the landlords' helpline on **0300 069 9799**.

## Do

### Prepare

Before you start looking for private accommodation, make sure you have the correct identification plus extra photocopies for you to give to the landlord or agency to retain.

The University is able to provide you with a letter confirming that you are enrolled on a course of study. Please contact the Student Hub in RM050 for further information.

### I.D

Look after your I.D and never allow a landlord or agent to retain it.

### Be safe

Always present your original identification to a landlord in person. Never send it by post.

### Trusted source

Make sure you use a trusted website. We recommend that you use the University's housing accreditation scheme at [sassh.co.uk](http://sassh.co.uk) to look for private housing.

### Remember

It is illegal for a landlord or agent to discriminate against you because of your nationality or race.

## Don't

### Part with your I.D

Don't part with your original identification or allow the landlord or agent to retain it.

### Pay excessive fees

Some agencies and landlords may try to charge you extra fees for this service. This is not illegal, but they must make any charges clear to you before you sign a contract.

### Struggle

The University is here to help you. If you have a question or need advice, call the Accommodation Office on **023 8201 5040**.

**Tip:** if you are arranging accommodation from overseas, landlords must check your identification before you move in. Your landlord may be happy to use Skype to do the initial check. You can then show them your original documents when you arrive.

### Got a question?

For advice, support or assistance, please contact:

#### Private Housing Advisor and Accommodation Office

**Email:** [private.housing@solent.ac.uk](mailto:private.housing@solent.ac.uk)

**Tel:** 023 8201 5040

[www.sassh.co.uk](http://www.sassh.co.uk)