

# STATE OF STUDENT HOUSING REPORT

2023/2024

**APPROVED BY**  
STUDENT UNION HOUSING WORKING GROUP

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The figures in this report should be deeply troubling for the University and the broader community. Many of our students are at a breaking point with the cost of living, the housing crisis and the continuing rising rent prices are pushing students into poverty. This is genuinely a crisis which will affect every aspect of the student experience.

While student poverty is rising, students are increasingly being priced out of education, with 33% of students having considered dropping out due to the cost of rent. Even with this, the University has planned an increase for all on-campus accommodation of 10%, which over 81% of students said they could NOT afford.

Students who drop out because they can't afford to survive not only causes damage to that student but also deepens the University's financial challenges.

With the University wanting to break even by increasing fees and student numbers, this is potentially a dangerous strategy that will push students further into poverty and more students into housing insecurity.

Any increase in student numbers must be matched with more accommodation support, rooms and further financial support for all students.



This situation hinders their ability to focus on their studies and engage in external activities. Students are suffering academically and socially and are missing the genuine university experience that most students desire, require, and anticipate.

Scotland's students are faced with an accommodation nightmare, which has led our students to be broke, emotionally distressed, and considering dropping out.

The change needed will not happen overnight but must happen urgently. Nor should immediate action on uncontrollable rents and housing shortages be delayed. As students face the brunt of a deepened cost of living crisis, the need for change grows stronger every day. The 20% of students who have faced homelessness cannot wait.

# REPORT AT A GLANCE

## WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

Prior to this report we were aware that students were struggling and there were issues with accommodation, however the data in this report shows that students are in dire situations.

Students have always had issues with their accommodation, but things have got worse over the last ten years, with pressure reaching a boiling point. The cost-of-living crisis and a nationwide housing shortage are pushing students into ever-more desperate situations, which is only likely to worsen. Housing, its availability and affordability are and will continue to be the most concerning issues for students.

This crisis has led to higher rates of student poverty, worsened the student mental health crisis, and increased the number of students dropping out of university.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THIS REPORT

**81%**

of students could not afford the 10% increase to Halls.

**71%**

of students have had to make financial sacrifices due to high rent.

**9%**

of students have less than £50 a month after rent.

**33%**

of students have considered dropping out because they cannot afford rent.

**20%**

of students have been homeless at some point during their studies.



# **INTRODUCTION**

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In May 2024, the Student Union Housing Working Group conducted a survey of Heriot-Watt students on the state of student housing, focusing on both on-campus and off-campus accommodations. This report collates the collected data and documents the personal experiences of students who participated in the survey and follow-up interviews. Supplemented by data from the Student Union Big 6 Survey, this report paints a dire picture of the student housing crisis.

The respondents consented to the use of their data to further the work of the Student Union's Working Group's housing campaign, with the understanding that the analysis may be published or shared with the University, the press, or other media. All responses have been anonymised.



# ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS



**71.3%**

thought their rent was expensive.

**81.3%**

could not afford the incoming 10% increase in rent.

**Heating**

was the biggest maintenance issue faced by students.

***The Student Experience in halls is unaffordable and marked with problems while remaining sociable and convenient.***

This section will explore the survey results regarding students living at on-campus accommodations. On-campus students comprised 80 of the 231 surveyed, with 73 respondents being from Edinburgh and 7 from the Borders Campus. This part of the report investigates student satisfaction levels, issues they have faced, ability to pay rent increases and the best thing/worst thing about on-campus accommodation.

# CONDITIONS OF ON-CAMPUS HALLS



## Satisfaction with the quality of Rooms

35% of on-campus students were "very satisfied" with their rooms. 39% were "somewhat satisfied". 14% were "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied", and 13% were "dissatisfied" with the conditions of their rooms; these levels change depending on the hall of residence.

## Issues in halls

Students reported heating issues as the most common problem, with 35% complaining about it. Leonard Horner Hall tops in heating complaints, followed by George Burnett and Robert Bryson Halls. Less expensive halls report more frequent problems, indicating poor living conditions come with lower priced halls.

There were multiple reports of silverfish in bedrooms and bathrooms and in addition to reports of insect infestations, with both issues stating that maintenance had not done anything about it or sent out any pest control after the student asked for it.

Some students reported issues with circuit laundry machines being broken for an extended period of time, which caused a bottleneck as only two machines were available to serve nearly 300 people.

Most students reported having more than one issue while in on-campus halls.

## Satisfaction with the quality of Facilities

Only 14% of students said they were "very satisfied", with the conditions of the halls (including Electricity, Shower, Toilet, Circuit Laundry, Heating, Wifi, and Flat cleaning.)

53% of students were "somewhat satisfied", 10% were "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied", 14% were "dissatisfied" and 9% were very dissatisfied".

# CONDITIONS OF ON-CAMPUS HALLS

REPORTED ISSUE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
MOULD	12	15%
HEATING	28	35%
LACK OF POWER	4	5%
LEAKS	15	18.75%
KITCHEN APPLIANCES NOT WORKING	20	25%
BROKEN HOB/OVEN	16	20%
BROKEN FRIDGE/FREEZER	13	16.25%
BROKEN DOORS/WINDOWS/LOCKS	13	16.25%
FLOODING	7	8.75%
OTHER	35	43.75%

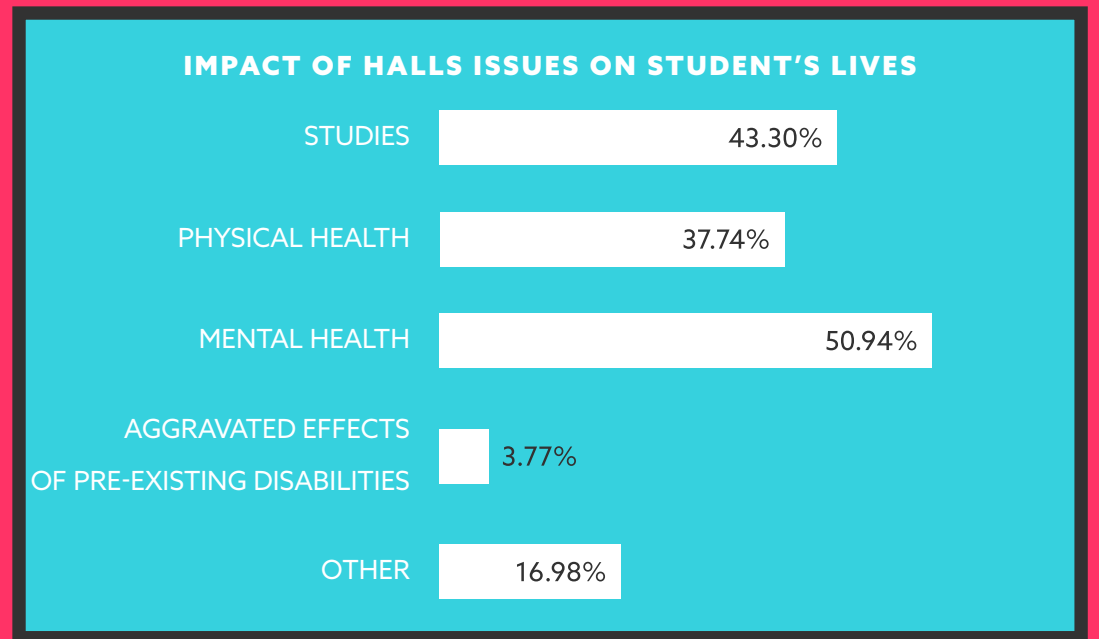


# CONDITIONS OF ON-CAMPUS HALLS



## The Impact of these issues on Students

It is clear that poor housing conditions are detrimental to students' studies. Issues with accommodation, such as unreliable utilities or maintenance problems, are causing students to spend less time on their studies, having a major impact on their physical and mental health. A student who is worrying about staying warm is not a student who is able to give their all to their studies.

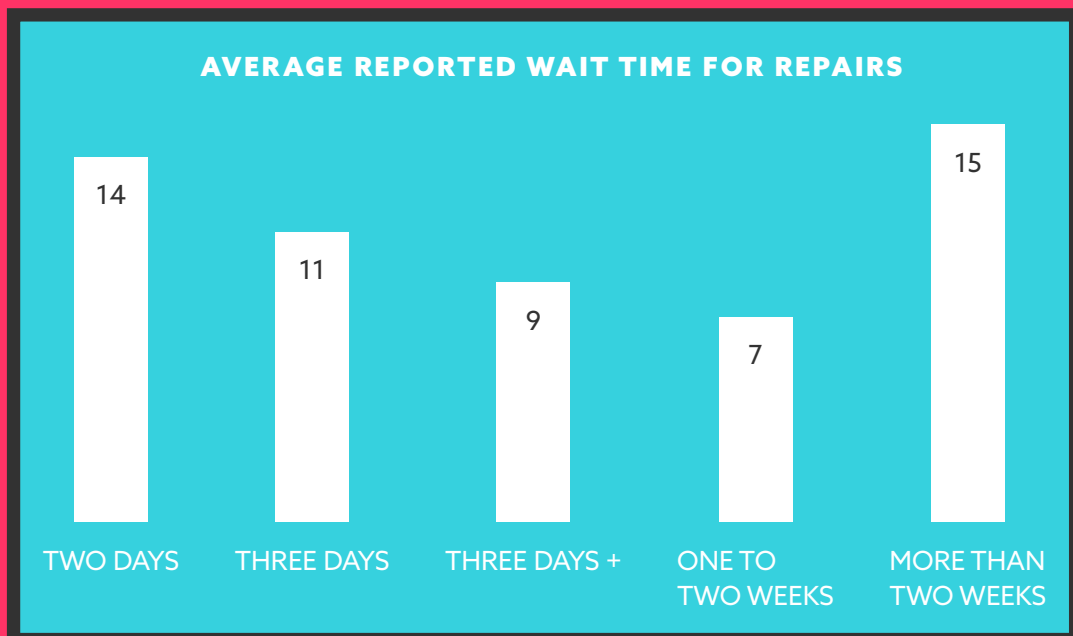


Poor conditions will have a direct effect on grades, dropout rates, university ratings, and, most importantly, students' well-being and safety.

## Repair Issues

On average students have to wait three days or less before an issue is seen by the maintenance team.

However, many students experienced longer wait times, with 11% of students waiting one to two weeks and 23% of students waiting more than two weeks.



Although the average wait time for repairs is positive, 27.5% of students had reported having had issues that had required multiple visits from maintenance before the issue was resolved, with many students saying the maintenance teams either never showed up or stopped coming for reoccurring problems.

# WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED IN HALLS

Students were asked what they thought could improve their accommodation to benefit their experience and time in halls. Below is the collated responses.

CATEGORY	NO. OF RESPONSES	EXAMPLE RESPONSES
HEATING AND VENTILATION	11	HEATING FACILITY, SHOWER PRESSURE, THE HEATING SYSTEM NEVER TURNS OFF, MORE VENTILATION, HEATING HOURS
MAINTENANCE AND CLEANLINESS	10	THINGS SHOULD BE FIXED ON THE FIRST TIME, CONDITION OF BUILT IN FURNITURE, FIX THE TOILETS
PRICE/VALUE FOR MONEY	6	LOWER THE PRICE, £850 PER MONTH FOR THE FACILITIES IS APPALLING, CONSIDER CUTTING DOWN ON ACCOMMODATION PRICES
BATHROOM CONDITIONS	8	BATHROOM CONDITIONS, MODERN UTILITIES (IMPROVE BATHROOM), ENSURE BATHROOM HYGIENE
WI-FI AND CONNECTIVITY	3	BETTER WI-FI, STRONG WI-FI IN THE LAUNDRY
NOISE CONTROL	3	NOISE CONTROL FROM UPPER ROOMS, PEOPLE EDUCATION REGARDING FIRE ALARMS
ROOM FURNISHINGS AND LAYOUT	7	RENEW THE ROOMS, QUALITY OF BED, THE WARDROBE AND TABLES ARE WAY TOO OLD, INTERIOR
LAUNDRY FACILITIES	3	CIRCUIT LAUNDRY IS A VERY POOR SYSTEM, CHEAPER LAUNDRY
SECURITY AND SAFETY	3	SECURITY, LIFT, SWITCH TO KEY CARD SYSTEM
PEST CONTROL	3	KINDLY PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO REMOVE SILVERFISH AND RATS, NO MOULD AND NO SILVERFISH
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	2	THE OVERALL MAINTENANCE IS BAD, WINDOWS LET IN TOO MUCH OF THE CHILL OUTSIDE
MISCELLANEOUS	8	SEPARATION OF PHD AND MSC STUDENT, SIGNS REMINDING PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN HYGIENE

From the feedback, it's clear that the primary areas for improvement in student accommodation include heating and ventilation, maintenance and cleanliness, bathroom conditions, and overall value for money. Addressing these issues could significantly enhance the living experience for students.

# BEST THING/WORST THING ABOUT HALLS

Students were asked to reflect on their times in on-campus accommodation. They were asked their best and worst things about halls. This was an open question where students could write whatever they wanted. The common themes are listed

## Best Thing

**U Proximity to University** was, on average, the best thing that students reported about living in on-campus accommodation.

*Some examples of these responses are:*

*"Close to the uni", "Convenience of being near lectures", "Proximity to the teaching halls and the library", and "Near to class."*

**U Community and Socialising** were the second-best things students reported.

*Example responses include; "Easier to make friends", "Meeting people", and "The people".*

**U Safety and Security** was the next notable theme among students reported as the best thing.  
*Example responses include: "It gives a secure and safe environment to stay" and "The safeguarding team".*

## Worst Thing

**U Noise and Disturbance** were, on average, the worst things that students reported about living in on-campus accommodation.

*Some examples of these responses are: "People making noise late" and "Other students also make lots of noise".*

**U The Cost** was the second worst thing students reported.

*Example responses include; "Highly overpriced", "Price", and "The rent pricing is too high."*

**U Distance and isolation** were the next notable themes among students, and they were reported as the worst.

*Example responses include: "Remoteness from the city centre", "Very far away from town", "Distance from the City centre"*

**U Maintenance and Repairs** was the next notable theme among students  
*Example responses include: " Nothing gets fixed unless it's an emergency", "The shower not working for a month", "Circuit laundry - too expensive".*



# AFFORDABILITY OF ON-CAMPUS HALLS

## Student View on the cost of accommodation

Over 70% of students found that their rent was either Expensive or Very Expensive. The price of on-campus accommodation is putting a large financial burden on students, with only 2.5% of students thinking their rent is cheap. A student worrying about rent is a student who isn't studying. Student's relying on SAAS are on average left with £1,500 for the year, after paying their full rent.

## The increasing cost of On-Campus accommodation

The rent for the upcoming academic year is set to increase by 10%.

For a student in the academic year 23/24, the rent for a traditional room with an en suite was £159 per week, totalling £6,390 for 40 weeks.

The increase will result in a new weekly rent of £175 and a total annual cost of £7,000.

Based on this information, current students were asked to gauge their ability to afford the proposed 10% rent increase.

## Majority cannot afford increase

**A substantial 81.25%** of students reported that they would not be able to afford the 10% rent increase. This indicates a significant financial strain on the majority of the student population.

**Financial Insecurity:** Only 8.75% of students felt confident in their ability to manage the increased rent. This low percentage suggests that very few students have the financial flexibility to accommodate higher living costs.

**Uncertainty:** 10% of students were uncertain about their ability to afford the increase, reflecting potential financial instability or lack of clarity in their budgeting and financial planning.

# OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS



**70%**

of students feel their housing is not affordable.

**56%**

have had a Negative Experience in dealing with their landlord.

**£800+**

20% of students pay £800 or more for their rent individually

## ***The Student Experience off-campus is marked by negative experiences in dealing with landlords, low housing supply and high rents***

This section will explore the survey results regarding students living off-campus. Off-campus students comprised 151 of the 231 surveyed, with 131 respondents being from Edinburgh, 1 from Orkney and 9 from the Borders Campus.

This part of the report investigates students' living status, rent prices, experience in dealing with landlords, and if students have ever had to use a housing charity.

# THE SCOTTISH HOUSING EMERGENCY



*I am due to start a PhD at Heriot-Watt, but I am struggling in finding a place to live. I have applied to over 35 flats viewings, but I have struggled to get viewings and I have been unable to pass the financial checks. Most landlords and letting agents are asking for 2.5 the rent that my salary and research grant could ever cover. The checks are simply too restrictive for students to even be considered for accommodation.*

**-ANONYMOUS HERIOT-WATT STUDENT**



## Edinburgh's housing system has failed.

In November 2023, Edinburgh Council declared a housing emergency in the capital, and the Scottish government declared a national housing emergency in May 2024.

This is a national problem resulting from decades of underinvestment in social housing and austerity policies, exacerbated by increasing pressures caused by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

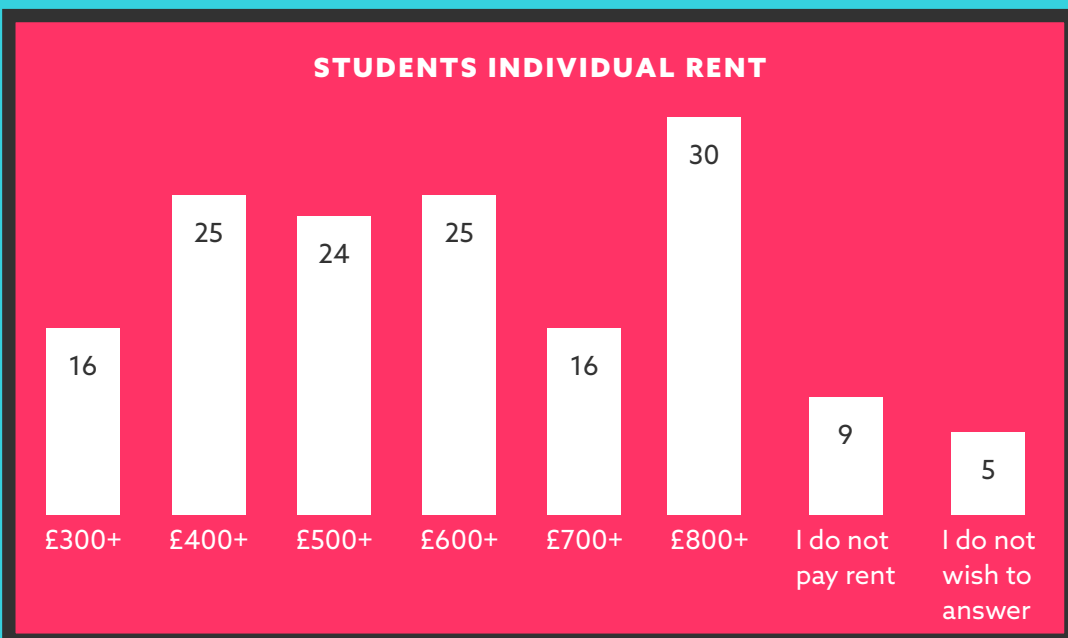
Rent has increased 15.6% in Edinburgh, as opposed to 9.3% across Scotland, with the average rent in Edinburgh being £2,430 pcm. Additionally, with these rising rents and the increasing lack of supply students are finding themselves in an ever-worsening crisis. The Royal Bank of Scotland Student Living Index found that Edinburgh is currently the most expensive area in the UK for a student to live outside of London.

This crisis in the UK is exacerbated by an ever-growing student population which has increased by 400,000 since 2019, while the number of available student houses has dropped by 19,000 in the same period.



# THE CRUSHING COSTS OF RENT

Students were asked how much rent they individually pay. Knowing how much students spend on rent helps identify if a significant portion of their budget is being consumed by housing. For example, students paying £800 or more monthly might struggle to cover other essential expenses such as food, transportation, and educational materials.



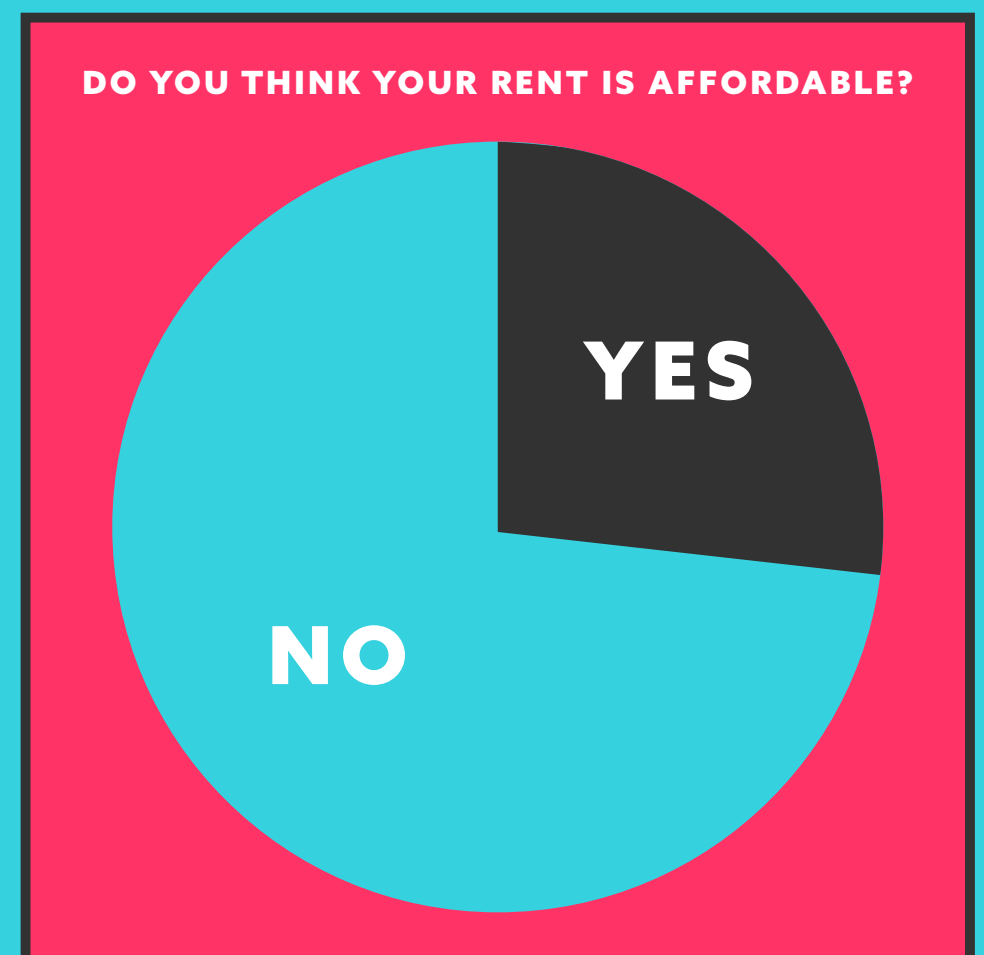
The highest number of students (30) pay £800 or more per month in rent, indicating a significant portion of students are facing high rent costs.

Additionally, many students are in the £400-£600 range. Meaning that rent eats up a huge chunk of their monthly budget.

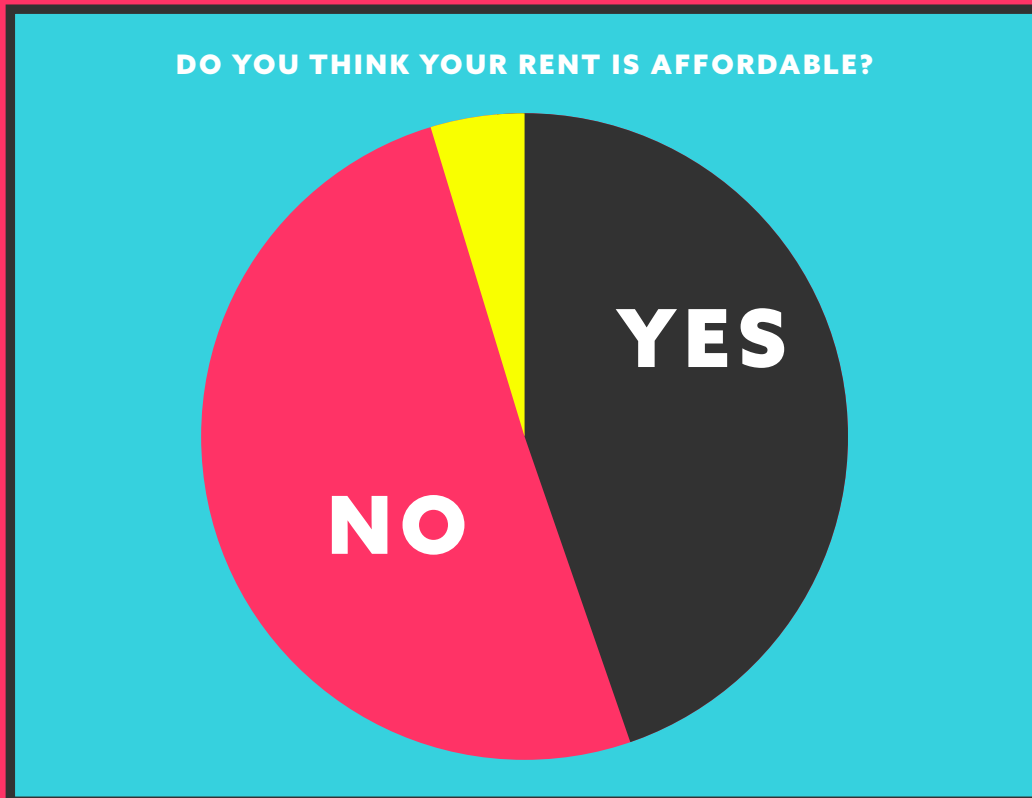
For the overwhelming majority of students, rent is a crushing expense.

Students are deeply struggling with housing affordability; 89 out of 126 students say their housing is not affordable. This is likely due to the high rent costs, low income, and other financial pressures.

High rent often forces students to work longer hours to meet their financial needs, leaving less time and energy for studying. Affordable housing helps ensure they can dedicate sufficient time to their studies.



# STUDENT EXPERIENCE OF RENTING



39.1% (59 ) of students surveyed said that at least one point they had been forced to commute from beyond Edinburgh because they couldn't find a place in Edinburgh.

This indicates a significant issue with the availability or affordability of housing within the city.

A worrying 20% of students have sought help from a housing charity. This indicates that a significant amount of students have faced housing issues severe enough to require external assistance from housing charities or organisations, such as Shelter Scotland.

This low number may be due to students either not needing the support or not being aware of these services.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO GO TO A HOUSING CHARITY TO HELP WITH A HOUSING ISSUE?

<b>YES</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>I DO NOT WISH TO ANSWER</b>	<b>2</b>

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO GO TO A HOUSING CHARITY TO HELP WITH A HOUSING ISSUE?

<b>YES</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>60</b>

The high number of "Yes" responses (84) suggests that problematic interactions with landlords are widespread. This could reflect issues such as poor communication, unmet maintenance requests, disputes over rent or deposits, or other forms of landlord misconduct.

Given the high incidence of negative experiences, tenants may benefit from better access to legal advice, dispute resolution services, and education about their rights.

# ALL STUDENTS



**9%**

of students have less than £50 a month after paying rent.

**71%**

of students have had to make financial sacrifices due to the price of rent.

**33%**

of students have considered dropping due to rent prices

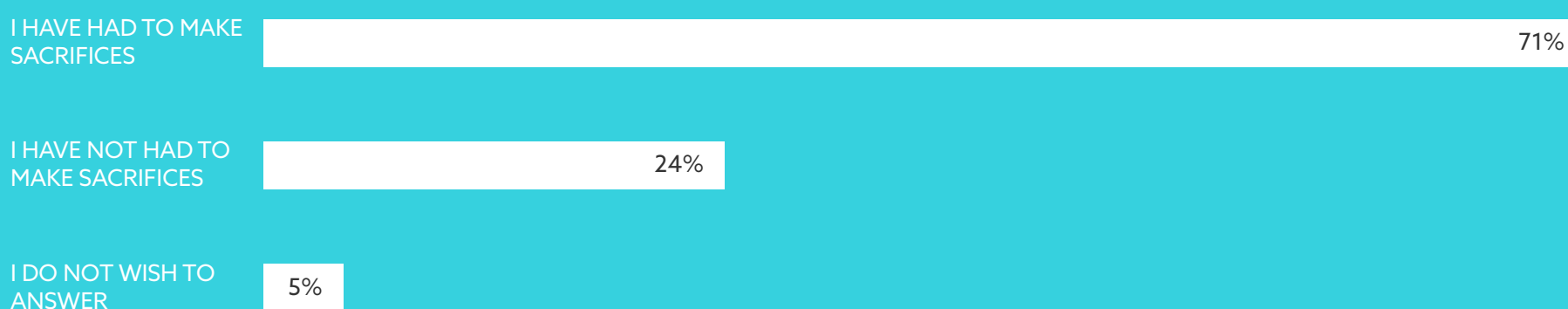
***Students are bearing the brunt of a housing crisis in every aspect of their lives. It is pricing students out of food and education.***

This section will explore the survey results regarding all students regardless of whether they are living off-campus or On-Campus. This part of the report investigates students' financial pressures due to accommodation, the effect of these high prices on students' spending, their thoughts about dropping out and how much money they have.



# FINANCIAL STRUGGLES AND SACRIFICES

## HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO MAKE FINANCIAL SACRIFICES IN ORDER TO PAY RENT?



A staggering 71% of students have had to make financial sacrifices to pay rent, compared to just 24% who have not. This alarming statistic underscores the dire affordability issues students face, forcing them to cut back on other essential expenses. These results mirror the findings of the 2023 Big 6 survey and align with the other data analyzed in this report, highlighting the severe financial pressures on students.

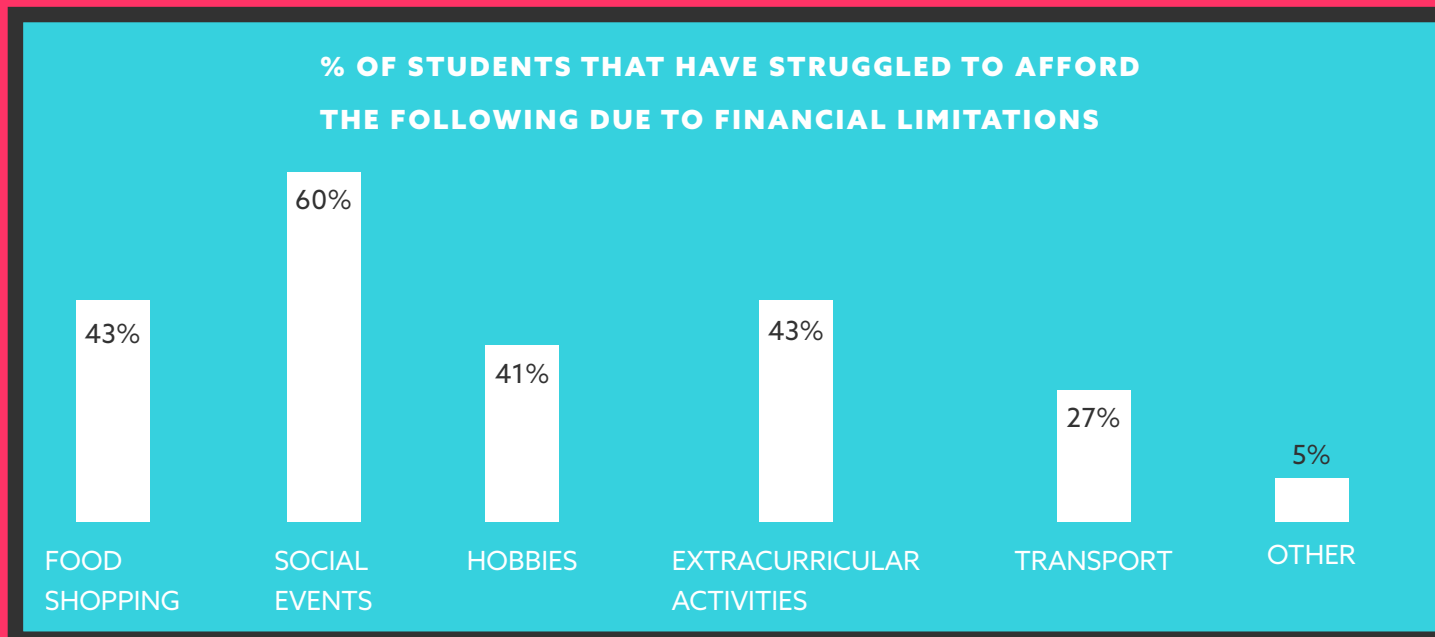
## Who is struggling the most?

Postgraduate-taught students are the hardest hit, with 81% making financial sacrifices to afford rent. They are followed closely by 2nd-year students at 79% and 1st-year students at 72%. The data also shows that international students (72%), Scottish students (69%), and students from the rest of the UK (65%) are all facing significant financial challenges.

Borders students are in one of the worst situations, with a staggering 88% reporting financial sacrifices to pay rent.

The overwhelming majority of Heriot-Watt students are struggling to make ends meet due to high rent costs. Immediate action is needed to provide more affordable housing options and better financial support for students.

# FINANCIAL STRUGGLES AND SACRIFICES



With 71% facing financial struggles, students have to cut back on their spending; the above responses show what students are struggling to afford. This alarming statistic underscores the dire affordability issues students face, forcing them to cut back on other essential expenses. Most worryingly, students are cutting back on food, social events, hobbies, and extracurricular activities. A shocking 43% have reduced their food shopping due to high rent prices.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Widespread financial strain

71% of students face large financial struggles and are having to make several cuts to their spending.

### High impact on social and personal development

The high percentage of students cutting back on social events and extracurricular activities due to financial strain is negatively impacting student experience and increasing pressure on student mental health.

### Basic needs and health

The significant percentage of students struggling with food shopping is particularly alarming as it affects their basic nutritional needs, which can have direct consequences on their health and academic performance.

### Overall quality of life

The struggle to afford hobbies and transport further illustrates how financial constraints can reduce students' quality of life, limiting their ability to engage in enjoyable activities and access essential services.

### Transport

There is a notable concern around transport, as 27% of students are having to cut back in this area. This deeply reduces students' access to education and recreation.

# HOW MUCH MONEY STUDENTS HAVE AFTER RENT

Students were asked, "On average, after paying your rent, how much do you have remaining to live on for the rest of the month?". Below are the results of the students surveyed.

**9%** of students have less than £50 a month.

**23%** £51-£100

**32%** £101-£200

**15%** £300+



# ***EFFECTS OF HIGH RENTS ON STUDENT LIFE***



## ***64% OF STUDENTS LIVE ON LESS THAN £200 A MONTH AFTER RENT***

The results show that student poverty is more widespread than was previously thought. Students, after renting, still need to buy necessities such as bills, food, and transport. On top of this, students have Sports Union memberships, phone bills, socialising and academic costs.

Students can not afford to live or to study regardless of their individual characteristics. When analysing which groups of students had less money, there was no major demographic financially suffering more, with all groups reporting similar level of financial pressure.

There is a need for increased financial support programmes, such as scholarships, grants, and emergency funds, to help students manage their living expenses.

Additionally, there is a clear need for more affordable housing options to reduce the financial burden on students.

These results highlight a concerning level of financial insecurity among students, with many struggling to cover basic living expenses after paying rent.

This financial strain can negatively impact students' mental health, academic performance, and overall university experience.

# **EFFECTS OF HIGH RENTS ON STUDENT LIFE**



## **33% OF STUDENTS ARE EVEN CONSIDERING DROPPING OUT BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD RENT.**

Students were asked if they had ever considered ending their studies due to the cost of rent. A substantial number of students (33.19%) have considered dropping out.

Students considering dropping out are also at risk of cutting off social circles, suffering from negative mental health and are in desperate need of student support services.

Students considering dropping out due to rent is in line with national numbers; NUS Scotland's 2023 Cost of Survival report found that 37% of students have considered dropping out for financial reasons.

## **STUDENTS CAN NOT AFFORD BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD.**

A shocking 43% of students have cut back on food shopping due to the high price of rent. This represents a 20% increase from the 2023/24 Semester 1 Big 6 survey, where 23% of students reported cutting back on food. This alarmingly large rise is deeply troubling and highlights the worsening financial strain as the academic year progresses, forcing students to make even harsher sacrifices.

Students are grappling with severe financial insecurity. This level of strain means they struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, transportation, and academic materials. The high cost of rent is not just a financial burden—it's jeopardizing students' health, well-being, and ability to succeed academically.

The financial situation for Heriot-Watt students is dire. Nearly half of the students are cutting back on food to afford rent, and this situation is worsening as the year progresses. Further financial support is needed for students.

# EFFECTS OF HIGH RENTS ON STUDENT LIFE

## 20% OF STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HOMELESS AT SOME POINT DURING THEIR STUDIES.

The Student Union uses the “broad definition” of homelessness; this means that homelessness can include where someone has accommodation but it is not reasonable to expect them to stay there. Meaning that a person does not have to be roofless to be homeless. They may be staying informally with friends or family (“sofa surfing”), placed in a poor quality Bed and Breakfast (B&B) placement, or living in conditions so appalling or unsafe that they cannot reasonably be described as a home.

One-fifth of students have experienced severe instability in their housing situation, where they have had no fixed address, and they have been required to ‘sofa surf’, stay in a hostel/hotel or have been otherwise homeless.

This amount is above the national average, which was 12% in 2023. More immediate support and emergency intervention is needed to support any student who is housing insecure and or homeless.

“

*I have to live at home, in England. As I cannot find anywhere to live in Edinburgh. I had to come to Edinburgh to register for my studies and was forced to sleep rough. I have no friends who could let me stay with them. As a result, when I do choose to come to campus, I am unable to sleep or do any personal care.*

-ANONYMOUS HERIOT-WATT STUDENT

”



# EFFECTS OF HIGH RENTS ON STUDENT LIFE

The higher percentages of instability are faced by 3rd and 4th-year students. There is a need for targeted support and intervention during these periods.

Postgraduate students (both taught and research) also show a notable percentage of housing instability.

While 1st and 2nd-year students show lower numbers, this is likely due to a higher rate of those students surveyed living in on-campus student accommodation. Although these first two years show relatively lower instability, early intervention programs can ensure that new students start their academic journey with secure housing.

- U Scottish Students: 18.84% reported housing instability.
- U Rest of UK Students: 27.27% reported housing instability.
- U International Students: 19.63% reported housing instability.
- U Edinburgh Students: 18.2% reported housing instability.
- U Scottish Borders Students: 27.3% reported housing instability.
- U Orkney Students: The single respondent reported housing instability, but the sample size is too small to draw broader conclusions.
- U A notably higher percentage of Asian and Black students reported housing instability, which suggests a need for targeted support and intervention for these groups.



*I am facing significant financial hardship due to several factors. I am unable to secure a consistent part-time job, leading me to having irregular and insufficient income. I have experienced considerable housing instability. I have had to move at least thirteen times. Every change has involved varying charges, adding to my financial strain. My family cannot offer support as I am international student and the currency conversion incurs additional charges. I cannot afford living expenses, I cannot afford food.*

-ANONYMOUS HERIOT-WATT STUDENT



# SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

**PAUSE the Rent Increase:** Given the overwhelming evidence that students are struggling, over 70% of students could not afford the increase. There is a real risk of pricing students out of education and increasing dropout rates.

The University should reconsider the proposed hike and explore alternative ways to manage the housing costs without disproportionately impacting students.

**Increase financial aid and support:** Enhance financial aid programs and provide additional resources to help students navigate financial challenges. This could involve expanding existing bursary schemes or creating new support funds.

Students may not know of these schemes or that they are eligible for them. The university must do a better job at promoting and encouraging people who would benefit from using these. Additionally, the application process for this support is a lengthy and challenging process that must be simplified to stop discouraging people from applying.

**Regular consultation:** Implement a regular consultation process with students to understand their financial challenges better and incorporate their feedback into future accommodation pricing strategies.

**Student collaborations:** The University should regularly meet with the Student Union to collaboratively work towards relieving financial pressures and housing issues.

# SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Increase in Mental Health Services:** With housing insecurity and financial pressure negatively impacting students' mental health, universities should strengthen mental health services to support students facing financial stress and provide counselling and stress management resources.

**Further support for students who are housing insecure** by providing them with emergency accommodation or bumping them up the waiting list for halls.

### **Increased funding for Community Larder/Community Meals**

These services have been incredibly successful at helping relieve financial pressure. Further funding and support are needed to expand these initiatives to serve more students and be held more often.

### **Specific strategies need to be developed to address the financial pressures of students at the Galashiels and Orkney campuses.**

Due to unique challenges and limited facilities, further work is needed to support these students. For instance, the popular free soups on Thursdays are not available to students at the Gala campus.

### **Match an increase in student numbers with an increase in accommodation for students.**

Increasing student numbers will only elevate the current issues we are facing without providing extra facilities, funding and staffing.