



University of
St Andrews

Student Rent Guarantor Scheme Policy

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Purpose	This policy explains how the university manages the Student Rent Guarantor Scheme.

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1.1	Terms and Conditions text added	Published	Rose Darvill, Registry Officer, Scholarships	22/06/26

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the University of St Andrews' framework for operating a *Student Rent Guarantor Scheme*.

The scheme supports access to private accommodation for defined groups of students who may face barriers in providing a personal rent guarantor, while ensuring that institutional risk is appropriately managed.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all St Andrews students (including undergraduate, postgraduate taught, postgraduate research, part-time, online, international foundation programmes, pre-sessional programmes, single semester students, and students who are studying or working abroad for credit).

This policy applies to the University of St Andrews and governs the framework under which the *Student Rent Guarantor Scheme* operates. The scheme applies only to private accommodation in Scotland and operates as a pilot initiative on a discretionary basis.

3. Policy Principles

The scheme is guided by the principles of equitable access, financial best-practice, proportionality of risk, legal and regulatory compliance, and appropriate governance and oversight.

4. Eligibility Framework

The scheme is initially operating as a pilot scheme and eligibility is restricted to defined priority student groups identified by the university, currently entrant international postgraduate taught students and care-experienced or estranged students. Detailed eligibility requirements are set out in supporting documentation.

5. The University's Role

Under the scheme, the university may agree to function as a rent guarantor only, subject to defined limitations and conditions. The university does not replace the student's contractual responsibilities to landlords or letting agents.

6. Financial Governance

Any rent paid by the university under the scheme constitutes a debt owed by the student to the university and will be managed in accordance with university financial regulations and student debt policies, including the [Failure to Pay](#) policy.

7. Administration and Oversight

The scheme is managed by Academic Registry under the oversight of the Academic Registrar. Decisions are subject to internal review in line with published procedures.

8. Data Protection

The University will manage personal data processed under this policy in accordance with the provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. Information about how the University collects, shares and uses personal data is detailed in the University Student Privacy notices which can be accessed at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught students privacy notice and the Postgraduate research students privacy notice. and University policies.

9. Review

As a pilot initiative, this policy will be reviewed following the 2026 entry cycle.

10. Related Documents

This policy should be read alongside the Student Rent Guarantor Scheme – Information for Students and the Student Rent Guarantor Scheme – Terms and Conditions (Appendix A).

11. Appendix A – Student Rent Guarantor Scheme Terms and Conditions

These Terms & Conditions outline the conditions under which the university agrees to act as a Rent Guarantor for eligible students.

Students applying to the rent guarantor scheme must agree to these T&Cs.

1. About the scheme

The University Rent Guarantor Scheme is a pilot initiative designed to support eligible students who cannot provide a suitable personal guarantor when renting private accommodation in Scotland.

The Scheme is entirely discretionary. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee acceptance.

2. Eligibility criteria

This pilot Scheme is only open to:

- Entrant international postgraduate taught (PGT) students, or
- [Care-experienced](#) or [estranged students](#) at any level.

To be eligible for this scheme for 2026 entry, students must:

- Be fully enrolled at the university for the entire length of the tenancy.

- Be 18 years of age or older.
 - Be entering a Private Residential Tenancy (PRT) with a registered landlord or letting agent in Scotland.
 - Not owe any money to the university.
 - Be able to show they can afford their share of the rent.
 - Provide any financial evidence or other evidence the university requires.
3. **What the university will guarantee**
- The university guarantees only the student's share of rent, up to £1,200 per month.
 - The guarantee covers rent only, not deposits, damages, utilities, or any other charges.
 - The guarantee is valid only for the fixed term of the tenancy, up to 12 months.
 - The university will not guarantee open-ended or rolling tenancies.
 - The university will not guarantee rent when the student is not a registered student.
4. **Joint and Several Tenancies**
- All tenants named on the tenancy agreement must apply to the scheme and be approved.
 - The university guarantees only the individual student's share.
 - The university will not cover unpaid rent owed by other tenants outside of the terms of the guarantor scheme.
5. **Student responsibilities**
Students must:
- Pay their rent in full and on time.
 - Notify the university immediately of financial difficulties.
 - Keep contact details updated.
 - Not sublet or transfer the tenancy without permission.
 - Notify the University if they are released from the tenancy early.
6. **Where the university pays rent on behalf of the student**
- The amount will be added to the student's account and must be paid by the end of the period of the guarantee or such other date as is agreed by the university.
 - The university may offset any amounts due to the university against any awards or payments from the university to the student at any time.
 - Non-repayment will be managed in line with the university's [Failure to Pay](#) policy.
7. **Withdrawal from the scheme**
The University may terminate the guarantee if:
- The student takes a leave of absence or withdraws from the university.
 - The student owes money to the university.
 - The student tenancy terms change without approval.
 - The student breaches these T&Cs.
8. **Appeals**
- Students may appeal a decision by emailing the Academic Registrar at registrar@st-andrews.ac.uk. Appeals must be submitted within 10 working days of receipt of an unsuccessful decision being received.
 - Appeals will normally be considered within 10 working days. The decision of the Academic Registrar is final.

9. **Data Protection**

- Data provided will be handled in line with the [University's privacy and data protection policies and notices](#).
- The university may share necessary information with landlords, agencies, or internal staff.

10. **Governing Law**

- These T&Cs are governed by Scottish law.
- Disputes will be handled by Scottish courts.

Version number	Purpose or changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and School or unit	Date
1.0	New policy published.	Published	Rose Darvill, Registry Officer, Scholarships	01/05/26
1.1	Terms and Conditions text added	Published	Rose Darvill, Registry Officer, Scholarships	22/06/26