

Accommodation Search Hints and Tips



What to look for when viewing accommodation?

Security/Safety

Test that the windows and doors lock securely.

Street lighting/ visibility

Trust your instinct.

Does the house have an alarm?

Facilities

Turn on the shower.

Check that the cooker works. All hob/rings, oven and grill.

Note the number of electric sockets in the room.

Location, location, location

Access to public transport

Vicinity to amenities

Does the area look & feel safe.

Think outside the box: Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip, Lucan

Interior

Can you smell damp or mould? Are there any obvious dark patches on the walls?

Is the house warm, clean and dry?

Is there adequate ventilation?



House Rules

Can I smoke? Where?

Is there a specific time that the landlord would like to use the kitchen and should I cook my dinner at another time? (if self-catering)

Is the food in the kitchen available to me?

Will my room be used by family during Christmas and Easter breaks (if I'm away and not paying for those weeks)?

How many other people live in the house? Who will I be sharing the bathroom with?

Can I have a place to store my food/room in the fridge?

When will I get my deposit back? How will it be paid? Will it be used as the last month's rent?



Key Questions to Ask

How much is the deposit?

Are meals provided and if not can I use the kitchen to prepare my own meals?

Length of notice to leave and any other charges, i.e. utilities

Do I pay over study weeks, exam weeks or Easter time?

Can I have a friend/relative to stay overnight – what are the rules and is there a charge?

See our website for more key questions and tenant information



Your checklist

Receipts for deposit and all rent paid... rent books advisable

Who has a key to your bedroom door?
What access does the landlord have to your room/the property?

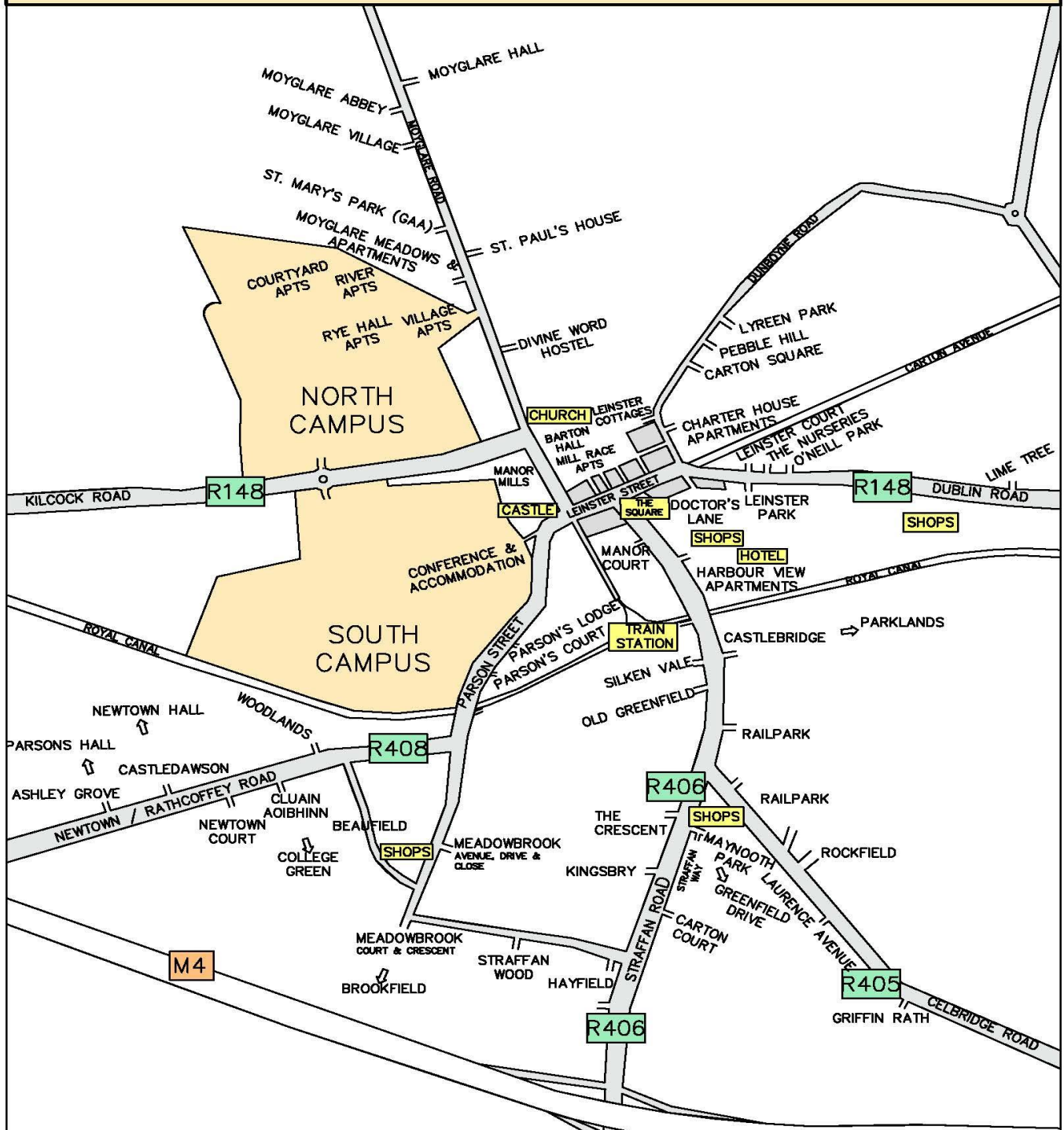
Take photos of the room(s) and an inventory [a list of everything provided by the landlord and their condition]

Ask for full contact details of your landlord. In return you should provide your full contact details including your student number, home address and next of kin.

Be clear, in written form, of the duration of the tenancy and if you will pay for absences.



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