**Chevening private accommodation tips video**

Title: What do you think are the benefits of private accommodation?

Chevening scholar: “I think one of the main benefits of private accommodation is price. Sometimes if you compare to student halls, student halls can be a bit expensive. Another benefit is the contract, you can find places where the contract can be three months, six months or even a year – so if you don’t like the place you can always change. Another benefit is that you can invite your friends over and have a delicious dinner.”

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “The flexibility. There are many options for you to choose. You can choose any room type, any price, any location that you want to live or how long you want to stay in this room.”

Title: How did you start your search for accommodation?

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “I decided to find it myself by surfing on the internet and looking on some property websites.”

Title: What are your top tips for scholars looking for accommodation?

Chevening scholar: “I have four tips for you. The first one is, don’t send money, it could be a scam. The second one is be patient, you are always going to find accommodation, don’t freak out. The third one is go international, if you really want to practice your English my best advice is live with people who aren’t from your country or speak the same language as you do. The last one is try to live with other students.”

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “You should spend your early days in the UK looking round the city and viewing for the real place you want to stay before choosing it or making any agreements. I think it’s unsafe to choose a room and place to live when you haven’t seen the room yet.”

Title: What resources or websites did you use in your search for accommodation?

Chevening scholar: “Spare Room (spareroom.co.uk), Ideal Flatmate (idealflatmate.co.uk), Easy Roommate (easyroommate.com). Also you can find some groups on Facebook, like in my case I searched for Mexicans living in the UK or Mexicans living in Exeter and also try to find some alumni networks.”

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “spareroom.co.uk, gumtree.com, rightmove.co.uk. These three websites are really good for looking for a room.”

Title: How have you made your room feel like home?

Chevening scholar: “I put some pictures of my family, friends, boyfriend around my room. You could also try bringing your flag and putting it on the wall. But bring things that make you feel identified with the country, so also the British flag.

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “I brought these bedsheets from my home and use them here, so with these bedsheets I feel like I’m sleeping on the bed in my home.”

Title: What advice would you give to your past self on accommodation?

Chevening scholar, Raksachai, University of Leicester: “I would tell myself I should do better research about the city and the nearby area of the house. Because some areas are so nasty, some areas are good to live. I think these details are good to know before making a decision.”

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