

Beit Hall

Beit Hall consists of 3 'wings' of 5 levels each and has good geography. It has close proximity to the school. School is just on the opposite side of the street so it takes less than a 2 minute run to get to your lecture theatre. This means that people who usually wake up late or always forget to bring stuff to school could still be on time for lessons. It is also close enough to the gym (about 5 minutes walk) to visit it every day. In terms of grocery shopping, it is rather far from the big Sainsbury's (15 minutes walk) - the supermarket almost every Singaporean visits for their weekly groceries. There are smaller supermarkets closer to other halls though, so one suggestion is to carry a big haversack to buy groceries for one to two weeks and the distance will not be an issue. If you like shopping for clothes, it is just a stone's throw away from High Street Kensington (10 minutes walk). The nearest HSBC and Lloyd's Bank are located at Gloucester Road which is again, just a 10 minute walk away.

Beit Hall is the best place for a good social life. The Union Bar is located just below the hall where you can visit nightly to meet new friends in London. The bar also provides lunch at an affordable price, so if you are lazy to cook, you can have your meal there. Being close to the union and school also means that it is convenient to attend events held there. There are numerous activities organized by Beit Hall Seniors to bond the corridor people together. From free food nights to corridor dinners, there are lots of opportunities to bond with your hall mates. There is also a games room which has a pool table, a table tennis table and a foosball table, all free of charge.

Beit Hall is a great place for cooking. It has large kitchens, a long table for 6 and 2 sets of stoves. The kitchen is even big enough to hold a mini-birthday party with several friends. Depending on your luck, there may be a personal locker for fridge and freezer which can be locked to ensure no evil corridor mates steal your ice-creams. At the very least, there will be enough space to store all the groceries for two weeks, which is not possible for some halls.

There are a few disadvantages of living in Beit Hall as well. The prices are slightly more expensive than the rest of the halls. A single en suite room costs £178 per week. A double en suite room costs 115 pounds per week. This is in exchange for the proximity and the large spacious rooms. It is also a noisy place to stay in. Expect laughter and noise from the union bar every night, especially for people staying near the union bar or on lower levels. The worst it can get for you is to have your windows vibrating due to the music. However, staying on the higher levels does minimize the noise pollution.

I would recommend Beit Hall to people who would like more opportunities to meet new people in London. People who are particularly sensitive to noises, especially during exams, should avoid Beit Hall.