

Shropshire Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme

What is the Accreditation Mark?

The Accreditation Mark provides recognition that a property has been inspected by Shropshire Council solely for the purpose of advertising on the University Centre Shropshire (UCS) Student Accommodation List. It covers all types of student accommodation in the private rented sector

What is the Accreditation Mark Standard?

In order to qualify for the Accreditation Mark your property must be in a good condition and free from serious hazards. As a landlord you must adhere to good management practices that are fair and reasonable. In addition to this, we require your property to contain certain equipment and facilities that are specifically required by students e.g. desk with a chair, washing machine and access to a wireless internet connection.

A full Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme checklist is attached and is available from the Community Protection Team at Shropshire Council or on our website www.shropshire.gov.uk

Why does the University Centre Shrewsbury (UCS) require me to have an Accreditation Mark to advertise my property?

Moving into the private rented sector for the first time is a big step for many students and their parents. The UCS takes pride in being linked with landlords who provide good quality student accommodation.

The UCS has given an assurance to both students and the parents of students, that all accommodation

advertised through the Student Accommodation Office has been inspected by Shropshire Council and meets the required standard; an Accreditation Mark provides this assurance.

What are the benefits of an Accreditation Mark?

You only need to apply for an Accreditation Mark if you wish to advertise your student property via UCS Student Accommodation List. An Accreditation Mark will be required for each property you wish to advertise.

An Accreditation Mark gives you as a landlord, as well as prospective tenants, the knowledge that your property meets the standards required for student accommodation. The student housing market is becoming increasingly competitive and we believe that an Accreditation Mark will give you a market advantage of being able to advertise your property through the UCS Accommodation Office directly to its students, including mature students, and families, who are all looking for good quality accommodation in Shrewsbury.

Who can apply for an Accreditation Mark?

Landlords applying for an Accreditation Mark must complete a half-day development course every 3 years (which will cost £40), agree to comply with a code of conduct and be a fit and proper person. Alternatively, if your property is managed by the University or a letting agent who is accredited with NALS or ARLA, they can also apply for an Accreditation Mark for your property.

Do I have to pay for an Accreditation Mark?

Yes, there is a fee for an Accreditation Mark which is £135 (in addition to the cost of the half-day training course). This fee will need to be paid for each property prior to the property being inspected and will apply whether or not your property is compliant with the Accreditation Mark criteria. The fee includes the advertising costs for the UCS Accommodation office. The fee covers any revisits within the first 3 months and is non-refundable.

What do I get when I am awarded an Accreditation Mark?

Following an inspection of your property you will be awarded an Accreditation certificate, subject to the property meeting the required standard. Your property details will be forwarded to UCS for inclusion on the Student Accommodation List.

How long does my Accreditation Mark last?

An Accreditation Mark lasts for three years, on expiry a new Accreditation Mark will have to be applied for.

What happens if my property does not comply with the Accreditation Mark standard?

We would always advise you to look at the Accreditation Mark checklist before you apply. The checklist is available from the Community Protection team at Shropshire Council, or can be found at www.shropshire.gov.uk. In the event that there are some matters that need attention, you will be given 3 months to do any works without incurring another charge for an officer to revisit. If the works have not been done in this 3 month period, you will need to make another brand new application and pay the fee again.

I have a HMO licence; do I still need An Accreditation Mark?

Yes, you will still need to have an Accreditation Mark to advertise your property on the UCS Student Accommodation List.

My property has recently been inspected; do I need another inspection for an Accreditation Mark?

An Accreditation Mark will only awarded to properties that meet the required student accommodation standard. It is more than likely that an inspection of your property will be required, however, Officers will use their discretion in assessing how recently your property was inspected and for what purpose in determining whether a further inspection for an Accreditation Mark is necessary.

How can I get an Accreditation Mark?

You will need contact the Community Protection Team either by email at community.protection@shropshire.gov.uk or by tel: 0345 678 9000.

Once you have paid your fee, a Public Protection Officer will contact you to make an appointment to visit your property.