

Sanford application process explained

Selection process:

On average there are 10 applicants for every room each month. In 2014, we had over 200 applicants and placed 22 people.

The application process consists of three stages: your paper application, a membership interview and a placement interview. The whole process usually takes place once a month, except when there are no room vacancies.

Once you've applied and your application has been checked, you will be invited for a membership interview. This takes place on the first Tuesday of every month. The purpose of membership interviews is to ascertain a person's suitability to the co-op. We will consider your attitude to living in shared accommodation, your willingness to contribute to the co-op as a whole and your ability to accept different lifestyles. Once you are selected at membership interview stage, your application will stay live for 3 months (on average there are around 60 live applications at any time). After this applicants may re-apply.

Placement interviews will take place on the following Sunday, in all houses where there are voids – these interviews are for houses to select the applicant they'd like to live with. The number of voids will vary month by month - sometimes there are several rooms available on the street, sometimes only one, and sometimes none. Each house that has a void will see 15 applicants, selected at random from all current live applications.

Membership officers will be in touch as soon as possible to let you know the outcome of your placement interview; this will normally be within 24 hours, but can sometimes take a little longer if a house has difficulty reaching a decision. If you're selected, you are expected to commence your tenancy within two weeks; once you've started your tenancy you will become a member.

Who should apply?

Sanford invites applicants from all sectors of the community regardless of gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or health status, who are:

- Over the age of 18.
- Who wish to live in a co-operative environment.

Unfortunately, Sanford is not suitable for:

- Applicants with dependent children or people who wish to share a room (Sanford only provides single occupancy rooms).
- Wheelchair users. Unfortunately, because Sanford was built in the 1970s, we regret that there is currently no wheelchair access.
- Applicants with dogs, crocodiles, vultures (Sanford's cat community is growing and pressing for its rights).

Apart from these restrictions there isn't anything else that should keep a person from applying to live in Sanford.

Sanford Information sheet

What Sanford is

Sanford is a fully mutually-managed housing co-operative, which was established in 1973. Today, its 116 rooms and six studio flats still serve their original purpose of providing affordable housing for single people in London.

Each house is shared by 7 - 9 members. They are all fully centrally heated with a large communal kitchen, living room, bathroom, shower-room and three toilets. Bedrooms are approximately 13 x 9 feet and every room also has a wash basin.

How it's managed

Sanford co-op is run by its members, for its members - and every member has an equal say in how the co-op works.

Members have an opportunity to bring proposals, suggestions and ideas to the monthly Members and Committee of Management (CoM) meetings, to be voted on. They can also put their views forward via their house rep.

What Sanford expects from its members

Members of the coop are expected to take an active part in the life of the coop. Practically, this will include: minor maintenance tasks; cleaning and filling your biomass boiler; attending monthly meetings; playing a role in decision making; or getting involved in larger-scale projects. Lots of members have co-ordinator roles (for things like keys and locks, boilers, memberships, etc.) and every house has a representative.

We're also looking for a stable community, and only accept applications from people who plan to stay at Sanford for at least 12 months. In short, we're looking for a bit of a commitment to both our housing co-op and the co-operative principle.

The benefits of cooperative living

In return for putting in a little bit of work to make Sanford run smoothly, members benefit from a very affordable rate of rent. Freedom from the conventional tenant landlord structure also means we're able to make our own decisions about our living environment and how we're run.

Some of the great things that people have set up and maintain at Sanford include: the award-winning bike shed, the community bicycle work shop, a communal wood oven, a beautiful garden and ponds system, and the C60 project (our attempt to reduce our carbon footprint by 60%).

Where we live

Our office is address:

11 Sanford Walk
New Cross
London
SE14 6NB

You can find a map on our [website: https://sanford.coop](https://sanford.coop)