

# Electrical Heaters

## Guidance



### Too cold for comfort?

The types and age of the heating systems across campus vary widely, using a combination of gas central heating, steam, and electric storage heaters.

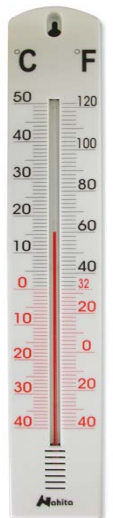
The University aims to heat its buildings to between 19-21°C. Achieving this temperature at all times during the working day can be challenging. And even if this temperature is reached, each person is comfortable at a different temperature, so not everyone will be happy with this.

### Did you know?

Plugging in an electric heater in a room with a thermostat causes the heating to go off in neighbouring rooms (as it tells the temperature sensors to turn off the central heating, as the room is too hot). This is likely to cause your colleagues in other rooms to feel cold and they too may plug in additional electric heaters, increasing our carbon emissions.

### What should I do if I'm cold?

- Request a free thermometer strip from [saveit@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:saveit@ncl.ac.uk) to see if the temperature of the room is between 19-21°C.
- Are your colleagues also feeling cold? If not, consider altering the number of layers of clothing you wear to maximise your own personal comfort.
- Many radiators have valves that allow you to alter the heating in your room.
- If you think there is a fault with the heating system, please report this to Estate Support Service Customer Services, using the online form at; [www.ncl.ac.uk/estates/services/defect/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/estates/services/defect/)
- As a last resort, use an electrical heater to reach a room temperature of 19-21°C. See overleaf for heater tips.



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**If your electrical heater is not PAT tested, it voids the University's fire insurance!**

Each Directorate is responsible for testing their own equipment.

Please contact your local Safety Officer for advice.

### Heater tips

If you need to use an electrical heater, please follow these tips;

- Do not use a personal heater from home to heat the office,
- Make sure the heater is PAT tested,
- Do not use the heater to overheat the room (above 21°C).

When buying an electrical heater, please consider the following;

- Buy a heater with a built-in timer, so its not left on outside office hours. A 7day timer is better than a 24hour timer.
- Buy a heater with a built-in thermostat. Set it to turn off when the room reaches 19-21°C, to avoid overheating,
- Choose the most environmentally friendly model possible.

### Did you know?

Electricity generates more than 3 times as much carbon dioxide as gas!  
So an electrical heater creates over 3 times the amount of carbon emissions that gas central heating does.



### Heating Upgrades

- By 2012, £4million will have been spent installing high efficiency boilers across campus, including Herschel Building, Architecture/ Fine Art buildings, Agriculture building, Merz Court, and Robinson Library.
- An ongoing investment programme into the University's Building Management System (BMS) means more accurate controls (such a thermostats) have been fitted.