When it opens in 2010, the new Charles Morris Hall will be the benchmark by which University campus accommodation in the UK is measured.

The buildings will provide students and out of term-time, conference visitors, with accommodation to rival anything in British higher education.

Charles Morris Hall will embody the University’s commitment to providing exceptional facilities for its students. It will provide an additional 342 students with accommodation on campus, which should ease traffic congestion and eventually reduce the amount of University-owned student accommodation in areas such as Headingley. Landscaping will ensure the building is sympathetic to its surroundings, which includes Victorian, Georgian and 1960s architecture.

Building facts

- **Cost**: £27.1 million
- **Architects**: Sheppard Robson and Morgan Ashurst – Design & Build
- **Contractors**: Morgan Ashurst
- **Where**: University of Leeds campus
- **Work began**: February 2009
- **Work due to complete**: Summer 2010
- **Key features**: 459 bedrooms featuring floor to ceiling windows to maximise light, contemporary décor and high specification en-suite bathrooms.
Student feedback indicates that many are increasingly keen to stay in accommodation on campus. The improvements at Charles Morris Hall will help address this, and also satisfy their desire for high quality living spaces while studying.

A 24 hour reception service will provide assistance and support to students and visitors, as well as a range of comfortable social areas. Individual bedrooms will provide contemporary en-suite facilities, along with larger beds, telephones, data access points and an IPTV facility. Full length windows in the rooms will ensure a light, airy feel, and plenty of desk and storage space, including a room safe, will be provided.

Improving access routes around the University is integral to plans for campus. Twenty three rooms in the new building will provide high quality accommodation for physically disabled students who prefer to live on campus.

The rebuilding of Charles Morris Hall is part of a major drive to upgrade all the University’s student accommodation. The remaining rooms at the other buildings which make up Charles Morris Hall are also being improved, with refurbishment plans including new windows, furniture and décor to bring all the University’s on-campus accommodation up to modern standards.

While the new building will enhance students’ experience at Leeds, it is also offers the University a commercial opportunity. Providing accommodation for the many conference and event delegates who come to the city out of term-time is expected to become a valuable source of income for the University from 2011. The exceptional facilities provided in Charles Morris Hall have accordingly been designed to meet the high expectations of delegates as well as students.