



## Group Assignment Submission Form

### Assignment Details

Module Code: **MS218**

Assignment Title: **Database Design & Development**

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I/We hereby declare that this assignment submission is my/our own original work. I/We have read the University *Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism\** and are aware that the possible penalties for plagiarism include expulsion from the University. *I/We attach a list of all sources that were consulted in the preparation of this assignment e.g. books, journals, Web sites etc.*

Signature:

Date: 17/11/2019

\* [http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/teaching\\_and\\_learning/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/celt/teaching_and_learning/academic_honesty.html)

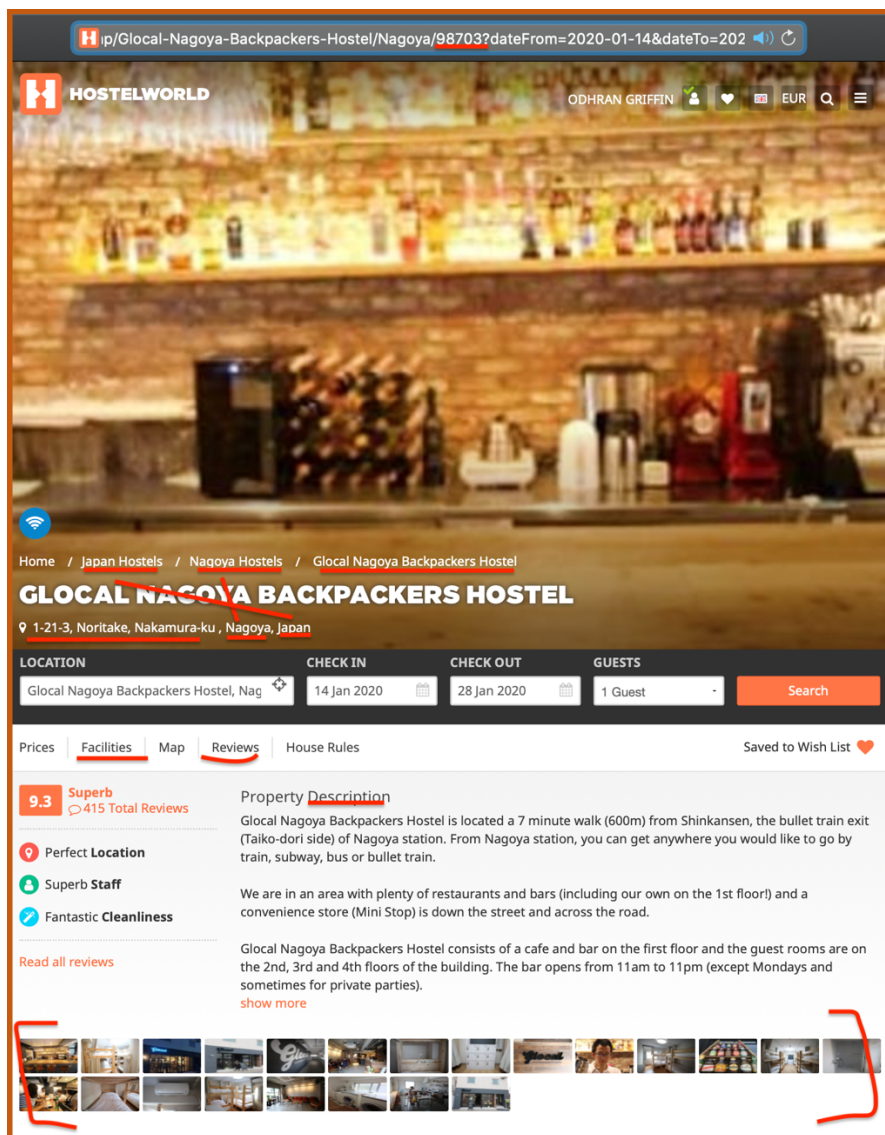
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# Reverse Engineering of the database of hostelworld.com

## Introduction

Hostel World is a global Hostel-based online booking platform. The site allows both Hostel owners and hostel guests streamline the booking experience. Hostels can create a page which offers all necessary information to potential guests and the infrastructure for them to make a booking. These potential guests can create user profiles. In order to make a booking, one must create a user profile. When creating a profile, they will be prompted to enter personal information. This user information will then be saved in the database and will be assigned to the user from that moment onwards. When a booking is made, it includes a collection of data from the Hostel Page, the user profile and the specific information selected by the user when they made the booking. After their stay, a user can create a review of their experience. They will be prompted to enter a score for 7 different attributes. They will also be asked to leave a description. The scores they have selected will be subject to AVERAGE/SUM/COUNT operations within the database and displayed at different points within the site.



## Reviews & Ratings

**9.3** **Superb**  
Based on 415 reviews

Value For Money	9.2	Security	9.4	Location	9.4	Staff	9.9
Atmosphere	8.6	Cleanliness	9.7	Facilities	9.2		

## Latest Reviews

<b>10.0</b> <b>Superb</b> 23 Sep 2019 Best hostel I have ever stayed at. Great facilities and location. Really lovely staff who went above and beyond. Australia, Male, 18-24	<b>10.0</b> <b>Superb</b> 19 Jul 2019 Cool hostel, friendly and helpful staff and great atmosphere USA, Male, 31-40	<b>9.7</b> <b>Superb</b> 29 Jul 2019 Easy spot close to the train station. I was only there for one night as a layover so I can't really comment on the hostel as a whole (it was very quiet when I <a href="#">show more</a> Canada, Female, 18-24	<b>9.4</b> <b>Superb</b> 14 Oct 2019 The hostel wasn't flash, but it was near the Nagoya station, and the beds were comfortable. The female floor offered a woman only bathroom with <a href="#">show more</a> USA, Female, 31-40
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[Read all reviews](#)

## Facilities

### Free

Free City Maps      Free WiFi      Linen Included

### General

Air Conditioning      Common Room      Hair Dryers      Hot Showers  
Key Card Access      Reading Light      Security Lockers      Self-Catering Facilities  
Washing Machine

### Services

Laundry Facilities      Luggage Storage      Towels for hire

### Food & Drink

Bar      Cafe      Meals Available      Restaurant

# Normalization

Assumptions:

- Each hostel has a hostel code. It is not displayed on the screen but can be seen within the URL of the page. The number '98703' can be seen within the URL of the Glocal Backpackers Hostels page displayed above. This is the unique hostel code given to this particular hostel.
- Each user has a username. Users must register an account in order to leave a review or make a booking. They must select a unique username when creating an account.
- Each booking has a booking reference number. This number will be displayed on booking pages.

In the following notation, underlining signifies the primary key (aka "identifier" or "determinant") and curly brackets { } signify multi-valued attributes or repeating groups.

We will ignore the fields containing an average rating, average review score and total reviews. These are computed fields based on AVERAGE/SUM/COUNT operations done on review data within the database.

Pricing of hostel beds will also be excluded as they will be generated by algorithms and change in response to demands. They will not be static values that can be represented in this database.

The normalization process will begin at the Hostel page. From this page users can receive information about a particular hostel.

## ONF

HOSTEL =     HOSTEL\_ID (PK)  
              +HOSTEL\_NAME  
              +HOSTEL\_DESCRIPTION  
              +EMAIL  
              +PHONE  
              +HOSTEL\_LONG/LAT  
              +HOSTEL\_REGION  
              +HOSTEL\_COUNTRY  
              +HOSTEL\_CITY  
              +HOSTEL\_ADDRESS  
              +HOSTEL\_REVIEWS {USER\_NAME, USER\_NATIONALITY, DATE, FACILITIES\_SCORE...}  
              +HOSTEL\_PHOTO {IMG\_ID, IMG\_LINK}  
              +HOSTEL\_FACILITIES {FAC\_ID, FAC\_NAME, FAC\_CATEGORY}

HOSTEL\_ID is the primary key of this table and it is a unique value. It is minimal as it consists of just a single attribute. It is stable as there are few reasons to change the ID once it has been applied. There is also no reason to believe it will ever be null.

HOSTEL\_NAME is not necessarily unique; it is a non-key attribute. In this example, 'Glocal Backpackers Hostels' is an instance of HOSTEL\_NAME. HOSTEL\_DESCRIPTION is another non-key attribute.

EMAIL and PHONE are not listed on the hostel page. However, they are produced on the booking page and so we have assumed that each hostel has these attributes assigned. Although they are unique, they should not be used as key attributes as in some cases they may be NULL. They are non-key attributes.

HOSTEL\_LONG/LAT, HOSTEL\_REGION, HOSTEL\_COUNTRY, HOSTEL\_CITY and HOSTEL\_ADDRESS can be placed under a subordinate entity called HOSTEL\_LOCATION.

HOSTEL\_LOCATION {HOSTEL\_LONG/LAT, HOSTEL\_REGION, HOSTEL\_COUNTRY, HOSTEL\_CITY, HOSTEL\_ADDRESS}

A HOSTEL can have, and often does have, multiple HOSTEL\_REVIEWS. Therefore, this is a repeating group in ONF.

HOSTEL\_PHOTO: Each hotel can have many photos, but each photo will only relate to one hostel. This means HOSTEL\_PHOTO's is a multi-valued attribute. A separate table will be created for photos with a 1:M relationship.

Each HOSTEL can have many FACILITIES and each FACILITY can be connected to many HOSTELS. This will be considered as we progress.

## 1NF

HOSTEL =  
HOSTEL\_ID (PK)  
+HOSTEL\_NAME  
+HOSTEL\_DESCRIPTION  
+EMAIL  
+PHONE

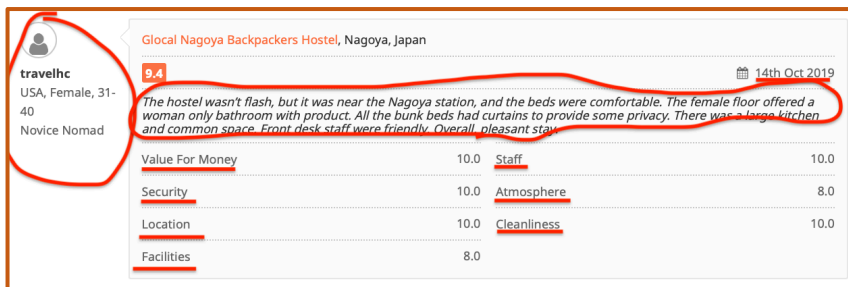
LOCATION =  
LONG/LAT (PK)  
+HOSTEL\_ID (PK,FK)  
+REGION  
+COUNTRY  
+CITY  
+ADDRESS

Hostel Location is made up of 4 attributes. Each REGION, COUNTRY and CITY all have pages on hostelworld.com. The total address appears as a single hyperlink. Clicking this will display a map. This leads us to believe unique co-ordinates are assigned to each hostel (LONG/LAT). These co-ordinates along with HOSTEL\_ID will be used as the primary key for the table LOCATION. This composite key is necessary as there may possibly be more than one HOSTEL at a single LONG/LAT. Two hostels within one building. Note: *We will assume addresses not to be unique to a hostel (eg. door number) in order to more easily demonstrate our understanding of partial dependencies.*

REVIEWS =

- REVIEW\_ID (PK)
- +USERNAME (FK)
- +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)
- +VALUE\_FOR\_MONEY\_SCORE
- +STAFF\_SCORE
- +SECURITY\_SCORE
- +ATMOSPHERE\_SCORE
- +LOCATION\_SCORE
- +CLEANLINESS\_SCORE
- +FACILITIES\_SCORE
- +DESCRIPTION
- +DATE

Creating a composite key out of USERNAME and HOSTEL\_ID is not an option. It would not be unique as one USER can make many reviews on the same HOSTEL. There would also be a deletion anomaly. If a user deleted their profile, and USERNAME was a PK, the review would cease to exist. The username field should change to 'anonymous' in the case of a user deleting their profile.



Each Hostel can have many reviews and each user can leave many reviews. These are many to many relationships. The review table may be seen as an intersection table. There is a 1:M relationship between Hostel and Review and a 1:M relationship between User and review. Each review can only link to 1 user and 1 hostel.

As seen in the screenshot above, ratings are divided into 7 categories. SUM and AVG formulas would be used to generate the overall scores and so we will not include them in our database design.

USER =

- USERNAME (PK)
- +USER\_FIRSTNAME
- +USER\_SURNAME
- +USER\_NATIONALITY
- +USER\_DOB
- +USER\_AGE
- +USER\_PHONE
- +USER\_EMAIL
- +USER\_PHOTO

In the case of a user not uploading a photo a stock image will be used. This prevents a deletion anomaly.

BOOKING =

- BOOKING\_REF (PK)
- +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)
- +USER\_ID (FK)
- +DATE\_OF\_BOOKING
- +ARRIVAL\_DATE
- +DEPARTURE\_DATE
- +NUM\_OF\_NIGHTS

‘BOOKING’ is a Weak Entity as it can only exist if there is a related instance of ‘HOSTEL’ and ‘USER’.

‘HOSTEL’ and ‘USER’ are Strong Entities as they can exist independently.

BOOKING\_REF is a unique primary key. The primary key of this table cannot be a composite key made up of USERNAME and HOSTEL\_ID as any one user can make many bookings in the same hostel. This would also create a deletion anomaly. If a USER or HOSTEL was to cease to exist, the bookings they were once related to must continue to exist.

BOOKING, similar to REVIEW can be seen as an intersection entity. It forms a link between the M:M relationship between USER and HOSTEL to make two 1:M relationships.



HOSTEL\_PHOTOS = IMG\_LINK (PK)  
+HOSTEL\_ID (FK)

IMG\_LINK can be the unique primary key as each image should only be assigned to a single hostel.

HOSTEL\_FACILITIES= FAC\_ID (PK, FK)  
+HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)

FACILITIES = FAC\_ID (PK)  
+FACILITY\_NAME  
+FAC\_CATEGORY

On hostelworld.com, hostels choose which facilities their hostel has using check boxes. Each facility has its own unique key. Each facility can have many hostels. Each hostel can have many facilities.

## 2NF

HOSTEL = HOSTEL\_ID (PK)  
+HOSTEL\_NAME  
+HOSTEL\_DESCRIPTION  
+EMAIL  
+PHONE

HOSTEL\_LOCATION= LONG/LAT (PK, FK)  
+HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)

Here existed a partial dependency. REGION, COUNTRY, CITY and ADDRESS relied only on the LONG/LAT part of the composite primary key. This is resolved in 2NF by taking REGION, COUNTRY, CITY and ADDRESS out of HOSTEL\_LOCATION and into a new separate table called LOCATION. This will also allow for more than one hostel to be connected to the same LONG/LAT. This is necessary as the same building could contain two hostels in some cases.

ADDRESS is listed as a single link on hostelworld.com. It is not divided into Street name, door number ect. The Hostel can write all of these in a single entry to the database. It will be connected to a link containing the long/lat and will display a map with those co-ordinates.

LOCATION = LONG/LAT (PK)  
+REGION  
+COUNTRY  
+CITY  
+ADDRESS

REVIEW =            REVIEW\_ID (PK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)  
                      +USERNAME (FK)  
                      +VALUE\_FOR\_MONEY\_SCORE  
                      +STAFF\_SCORE  
                      +SECURITY\_SCORE  
                      +ATMOSPHERE\_SCORE  
                      +LOCATION\_SCORE  
                      +CLEANLINESS\_SCORE  
                      +FACILITIES\_SCORE  
                      +DESCRIPTION  
                      +DATE

USER =             USERNAME (PK)  
                      +USER\_FIRSTNAME  
                      +USER\_SURNAME  
                      +USER\_NATIONALITY  
                      +USER\_DOB  
                      +USER\_AGE  
                      +USER\_PHONE  
                      +USER\_EMAIL  
                      +USER\_PHOTO

BOOKING =          BOOKING\_REF (PK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)  
                      +USER\_ID (FK)  
                      +DATE\_OF\_BOOKING  
                      +ARRIVAL\_DATE  
                      +DEPARTURE\_DATE  
                      +NUM\_OF\_NIGHTS

HOSTEL\_PHOTOS =    HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)  
                      +IMG\_LINK

HOSTEL\_FACILITIES= FAC\_ID (PK, FK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)

FACILITIES =        FAC\_ID (PK)  
                      +FACILITY\_NAME  
                      +FAC\_CATEGORY

### 3NF

HOSTEL =            HOSTEL\_ID (PK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_NAME  
                      +HOSTEL\_DESCRIPTION  
                      +EMAIL  
                      +PHONE

HOSTEL\_LOCATION= LONG LAT (PK, FK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)

LOCATION =            LONG/LAT (PK)  
                      +REGION  
                      +COUNTRY  
                      +CITY  
                      +ADDRESS

REVIEW =            REVIEW\_ID (PK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)  
                      +USERNAME (FK)  
                      +VALUE\_FOR\_MONEY\_SCORE  
                      +STAFF\_SCORE  
                      +SECURITY\_SCORE  
                      +ATMOSPHERE\_SCORE  
                      +LOCATION\_SCORE  
                      +CLEANLINESS\_SCORE  
                      +FACILITIES\_SCORE  
                      +REVIEW\_DESCRIPTION  
                      +DATE\_REVIEW

The numeric data type 'bit' will be used for the 'score' attributes. Instances of these cannot be >10. They will be stored as values between 0 and 1 and multiplied by 10 using an algorithm when displayed. (E.g. 0.71 = 7.1.) They cannot be int as they are not whole numbers. They must be used for calculations so cannot be varchar.

USER =                USERNAME (PK)  
                      +USER\_FIRSTNAME  
                      +USER\_SURNAME  
                      +USER\_NATIONALITY  
                      +USER\_DOB  
                      +USER\_PHONE  
                      +USER\_EMAIL  
                      +USER\_PHOTO

USER\_AGE, a non-key attribute, is derived from USER\_DOB which is a non-key attribute. This will be mitigated as we progress to third normal form. The age of the user can be generated by an algorithm outside of our database but by using information from the database and therefore there is no need to hold USER\_AGE data on the database.

BOOKING =            BOOKING\_REF (PK)  
                      +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)  
                      +USERNAME (FK)  
                      +DATE\_OF\_BOOKING  
                      +DATE\_OF\_ARRIVAL  
                      +DATE\_OF\_DEPARTURE

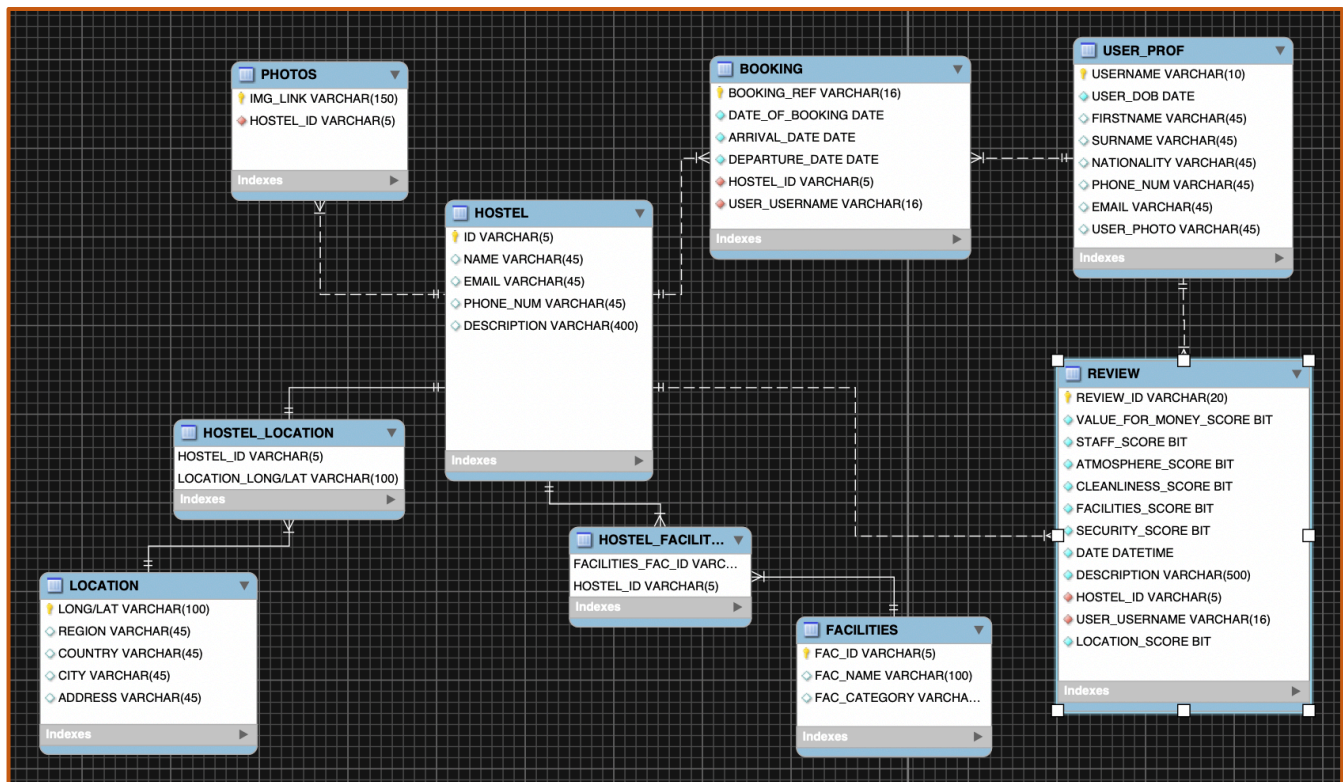
There is another derived field in the BOOKING\_REF table. NUM\_OF\_NIGHTS is the difference between ARRIVAL\_DATE and DEPARTURE\_DATE. There is no need to store this as it is a simple computation which can be easily generated during use.

HOSTEL\_PHOTOS =        IMG\_LINK (PK)  
                              +HOSTEL\_ID (FK)

HOSTEL\_FACILITIES=      FAC\_ID (PK, FK)  
                              +HOSTEL\_ID (PK, FK)

FACILITIES =            FAC\_ID (PK)  
                              +FACILITY\_NAME  
                              +FAC\_CATEGORY

## Entity Relationship diagram



Created using MySQLWorkbench

## SQL Code

# Database of hostelworld.com.

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS HOSTEL;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS BOOKING;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS USER_PROF;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS REVIEW;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS FACILITIES;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS LOCATION;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS PHOTOS;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS HOSTEL_LOCATION;  
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS HOSTEL_FACILITIES;
```

```
CREATE TABLE HOSTEL (  
    HOSTEL_ID    VARCHAR(5) UNIQUE,  
    HOSTEL_NAME  VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4 NOT NULL,  
    EMAIL        VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4 UNIQUE,  
    PHONE_NUM    VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,  
    DESCRIPTION  VARCHAR(400) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,  
    PRIMARY KEY(HOSTEL_ID) );
```

```
CREATE TABLE USER_PROF (  
    USERNAME     VARCHAR(45) UNIQUE,  
    USER_FIRSTNAME VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,  
    USER_SURNAME  VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,  
    USER_DOB      DATE NOT NULL,  
    USER_NATIONALITY VARCHAR(45),  
    USER_NUMBER    VARCHAR(45),  
    USER_EMAIL     VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4 UNIQUE,  
    USER_PHOTO     VARCHAR(45),  
    PRIMARY KEY(USERNAME) );
```

```
CREATE TABLE BOOKING (  
    BOOKING_REF VARCHAR(16) UNIQUE,  
    HOSTEL_ID   VARCHAR(5),  
    USERNAME    VARCHAR(16) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,  
    DATE_OF_BOOKING DATE,  
    DATE_OF_ARRIVAL DATE,  
    DATE_OF_DEPARTURE DATE,  
    PRIMARY KEY (BOOKING_REF),  
    FOREIGN KEY (HOSTEL_ID) REFERENCES HOSTEL (HOSTEL_ID),  
    FOREIGN KEY (USERNAME) REFERENCES USER_PROF (USERNAME) );
```

```

CREATE TABLE REVIEW (
  REVIEW_ID VARCHAR(20) UNIQUE,
  HOSTEL_ID VARCHAR(5),
  USERNAME VARCHAR(16) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,
  VALUE_FOR_MONEY_SCORE bit,
  STAFF_SCORE bit,
  SECURITY_SCORE bit,
  ATMOSPHERE_SCORE bit,
  LOCATION_SCORE bit,
  CLEANLINESS_SCORE bit,
  FACILITIES_SCORE bit,
  DATE_REVIEW DATE,
  REVIEW_DESCRIPTION VARCHAR(500),
  PRIMARY KEY (REVIEW_ID),
  FOREIGN KEY (HOSTEL_ID) REFERENCES HOSTEL (HOSTEL_ID),
  FOREIGN KEY (USERNAME) REFERENCES USER_PROF (USERNAME) );

```

```

CREATE TABLE PHOTOS (
  IMG_LINK VARCHAR(150),
  HOSTEL_ID VARCHAR(5),
  PRIMARY KEY (IMG_LINK),
  FOREIGN KEY (HOSTEL_ID) REFERENCES HOSTEL (HOSTEL_ID) );

```

```

CREATE TABLE LOCATION (
  LONG_LAT VARCHAR(100) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,
  REGION VARCHAR(45),
  COUNTRY VARCHAR(45),
  CITY VARCHAR(45) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,
  ADDRESS VARCHAR(100) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,
  PRIMARY KEY (LONG_LAT) );

```

```

CREATE TABLE HOSTEL_LOCATION (
  HOSTEL_ID VARCHAR(5),
  LONG_LAT VARCHAR(100) CHARACTER SET UTF8MB4,
  PRIMARY KEY (LONG_LAT, HOSTEL_ID),
  FOREIGN KEY (HOSTEL_ID) REFERENCES HOSTEL (HOSTEL_ID),
  FOREIGN KEY (LONG_LAT) REFERENCES LOCATION (LONG_LAT) );

```

```

CREATE TABLE FACILITIES (
  FAC_ID VARCHAR(5) UNIQUE,
  FAC_NAME VARCHAR(100),
  FAC_CATEGORY VARCHAR(20),
  PRIMARY KEY (FAC_ID) );

```

```

CREATE TABLE HOSTEL_FACILITIES (

```

```
FAC_ID    VARCHAR(5),  
HOSTEL_ID VARCHAR(5),  
PRIMARY KEY (FAC_ID, HOSTEL_ID),  
FOREIGN KEY (FAC_ID) REFERENCES FACILITIES (FAC_ID),  
FOREIGN KEY (HOSTEL_ID) REFERENCES HOSTEL (HOSTEL_ID );
```