

HOUSING SEARCH CHECKLIST



BEFORE YOU BEGIN A SEARCH

What kind of rental unit do you want to live in?

- ☐ studio, 1, 2, 3, or 4 bedroom apartment
- ☐ suite or apartment in private home
- ☐ room in a shared house
- ☐ room in private home

What are your transportation needs?

- ☐ within walking distance
- ☐ within biking distance
- ☐ on a Bus/Rail route
- ☐ using carpool or vanpool
- ☐ proximity to a shopping center or a job site

What features are essential?

- ☐ dishwasher
- ☐ washer and dryer in the unit
- ☐ air conditioning (room units or central air)
- ☐ cable and internet capabilities
- ☐ off-street parking
- ☐ furniture included
- ☐ handicapped accessibility
- ☐ private room and/or bath
- ☐ smoking (or not)
- ☐ pets permitted

What are your financial means?

- ☐ Living with others can lower housing expenses.
- ☐ Rooms in a student or private house tend to be the least expensive.
- ☐ Include the cost of renting or purchasing furniture, if needed.
- ☐ When calculating your maximum affordable rent, be sure to include utilities.

How much legal protection do you require?

- ☐ A one year lease offers a certain amount of legal protection.
- ☐ Units that do not carry a lease offer maximum flexibility but limited legal protection.

DURING YOUR HOUSING SEARCH

- ☐ Begin your search using the widest criteria possible. Narrow your choices by adding more features.
- ☐ Inspect the actual unit you intend to lease, and consider writing necessary repairs into the lease.
- ☐ Check the security of the unit.
- ☐ Check the fire safety of the unit (a smoke detector is required by law).
- ☐ Be sure that there are two means of egress (exit) from the unit.
- ☐ Arrange for telephone service and utilities to be turned on by the time you move in.

AFTER YOU MOVE IN

- ☐ Complete a thorough inventory of your apartment.
- ☐ Give a copy of your inspection form to the landlord.
- ☐ Purchase renter's insurance.
- ☐ Consider purchasing additional fire safety equipment (fire extinguisher, and/or smoke detectors).
- ☐ Always get a written receipt from your landlord when you pay rent or deposits.