LIVING OFF CAMPUS IN VICTORIA

Find temporary accommodation.
- UVic Visitor Housing: www.housing.uvic.ca/visitor
- Tourism Victoria: www.tourismvictoria.com
- Ocean Island: www.oceanisland.com

Learn about legal rights and responsibilities for tenants in BC.
- Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB): www.rto.gov.bc.ca and 250-387-1602
- Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC): www.tenants.bc.ca and 1-800-665-1185

Learn about municipal bylaws and community standards in the Greater Victoria Region.
- UVic Judicial Affairs: www.uvic.ca/services/judicial/home/offcampus/index.php

Explore your options.
- Which neighborhood in the Greater Victoria Region?
  - District of Oak Bay: www.oakbay.ca
  - District of Saanich: www.saanich.ca
  - City of Victoria: www.victoria.ca
- House, apartment or suite?
- Live alone or share with roommates?
- Furnished or unfurnished?
- Desirable features?

Search for available rentals.
- Resources provided by UVic:
  - UVic Off-Campus Housing Listings: www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/index.php
  - Groups at UVic - Housing: www.facebook.com/groups/276200575805522
  - Bulletin boards located around campus

Please be aware when using these resources that rentals have not been inspected, and landlords and potential roommates have not been interviewed or screened. To protect yourself, we recommend visiting rentals in person, asking lots of questions and making detailed notes.

How can I find the location of a rental?
- Most rental ads will include a street address.
- If not, ask for the street address when you contact the landlord or potential roommates to arrange a visit.
- Once you have the street address, you can look up the location using Google Maps: www.google.ca/maps
- Google Maps is also an excellent resource for directions and bus route options.
Common abbreviations in rental ads:

- apt – apartment
- avail – available
- bach – bachelor (bedroom and living area combined)
- balc – balcony
- bath or ba – bathroom
- bdrm or br – bedroom
- bldg – building
- bsmt – basement
- cable – television
- dt – downtown
- dw – dishwasher
- flr – floor
- f/m – female or male
- f/s – fridge and stove
- fp – fireplace
- furn – furnished
- hot plate – heating elements
- ht – heat
- hw – hot water
- hydro – electricity
- incl – included
- ldry – laundry
- lrg or lg – large
- mo – month
- n/p – no pets
- n/s – no smoking
- prkg – parking
- priv – private
- refs – references
- rm – room
- utilities – utilities (heat, hot water, electricity, etc.)
- w/d – washer and dryer
- w/ – with

Visit rentals in person.
- Some important questions:
  - How much is the rent per month? How much is the security deposit?
  - Are any utilities included in the rent? Cable, TV, internet, heat, hot water, electricity, etc.
  - Are any features included in the rent? Laundry facility, storage locker, parking, etc.
  - Are there any restrictions? Smoking, pets, overnight guests, long-term visitors, etc.
  - Is there a minimum duration for the tenancy?
  - Where are the nearest bus stops, shopping centres and other amenities?
  - What are the security features? Are there locks on all the doors and windows?
  - What are the safety features? Are there smoke alarms?
  - Do all the appliances work?
  - Do any repairs need to be made?
  - How is the heating system controlled?
  - Would it be possible to paint the walls or make any other decorative changes?
  - Why are the current tenants leaving?
  - When could you move in?

Do the paperwork.
- Three important things need to happen before you move in:
  - Sign a Residential Tenancy Agreement
  - Pay the appropriate deposits and fees
  - Complete a Condition Inspection Report

Purchase tenant insurance.
- Insure your possessions against theft, fire and other damage.
- There are many tenant insurance providers. Research your options before making a decision!

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International Student Services
uvic.ca/iss  |  International Student Centre UVC B272  |  250-721-6361  |  issinfo@uvic.ca