

LIVING OFF CAMPUS IN VICTORIA

Find temporary accommodation, if necessary.

- UVic Visitor Accommodation: www.housing.uvic.ca/visitor
- Tourism Victoria: www.tourismvictoria.com
- Ocean Island: www.oceanisland.com
- Hostelling International Victoria: www.hihostels.ca/victoria
- Turtle Hostel: www.turtlehostel.ca

Learn about legal rights and responsibilities for tenants in British Columbia.

- Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB): www.rto.gov.bc.ca and 1-800-665-8779
- 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 Office of Student Life: www.uvic.ca/services/studentlife/student-conduct/off-campus/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.

- We recommend starting with these resources:
 - Places4Students UVic Portal: www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/index.php
 - Groups at UVic - Housing: www.facebook.com/groups/276200575805522/about
 - Bulletin boards located around campus

Please be aware when using these and other free resources that rentals have not been inspected. Landlords, property managers, and potential roommates have not been interviewed or screened. To protect yourself, we recommend visiting rentals in person, asking lots of questions, making detailed notes to help you remember the conversation, and including all verbal agreements in a Residential Tenancy Agreement.

How can I find the location of a rental?

- Most rental ads will identify the neighbourhood but not the street address.
- Ask for the street address when you arrange to visit the rental in person.
- 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.

International Student Services

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Visit rentals in person.

Please be aware that there are fake rental ads posted on websites like Craigslist, Kijiji, and UsedVictoria. If you are asked to send the landlord, property manager, or potential roommates any money before you can visit the rental in person, or before you sign a Residential Tenancy Agreement, you should be extremely cautious because it is likely a scam.

- Some important questions to ask when you visit a rental:
 - 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?
 - How will you get to UVic? How long will it take?
 - How far away are the nearest bus stops?
 - Where are the nearest food sources, 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?
 - If there is an outdoor area, who is responsible for maintaining it?
 - 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 to start a tenancy.

- 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

Do not give the landlord, property manager, or potential roommates any money before you sign a Residential Tenancy Agreement. Visit www.rto.gov.bc.ca for more information about starting a tenancy.

Change your address.

- Update your address in UVic My Page every time you move.
- If you are moving from one off-campus location to another, you may wish to sign up for the change of address service provided by Canada Post. Order the service online or in person at any post office.

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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