

Things to Consider in Your Housing Search



When looking for a place to rent, ask yourself:

Location

- How far is the rental from campus?
- How close are amenities such as grocery stores and pharmacies?
- Is it close to a public transit line that easily connects with my campus and with other places I need or want to go in the city? Does the public transit schedule work with my class schedule? How late does it run and how early does it start?

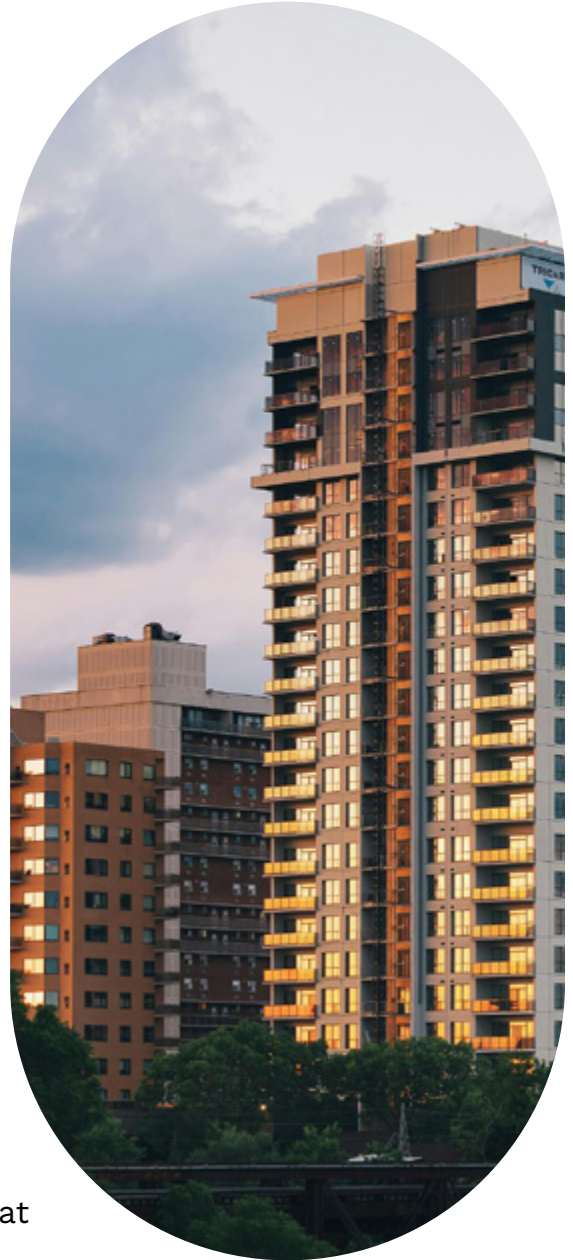
Budget

- Can I afford the cost of rent?
- Are utilities included in the rental cost? For example, does the rent include heat, water, gas, electricity, or Internet?
 - If these costs are not included, what are the additional monthly costs? Can I afford to pay them?
- What additional costs are there to consider, such as rental insurance in case of catastrophic loss (i.e., fire)? Will I need to buy furniture?

When viewing potential rentals:

Do

- Take pictures of the rental so you can remember what it looks like or anything that may need repairs.
- Walk around the building and the area.
 - Do you feel comfortable?
 - Are the entries well-lit and is it safe to walk at night?
- Make sure it is safe and secure.
 - Do the exterior doors have locks?
 - If there are other tenants sharing the space, are there locks on the bedroom and bathroom doors?
- Walk to the nearest public transit stop.
 - How long does it take to get there?
 - Is the walk safe and well-lit?





Check

- Who is responsible for cleaning and maintenance.
 - Consider things such as shared spaces, lawn maintenance, snow removal, garbage and recycling collection
- That all the appliances are working.
 - Stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator, washer and dryer.
- That smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and in working order.
- That the rental is clean and hygienic.
 - Look for evidence of mold or mildew, cracks in the ceiling or walls, or pests.

Ask

- Is the rental shared?
 - If so, how many other people share the unit? Is it single gender or all gender?
- What spaces are communal spaces?
- Does the landlord live in the same space with the renters?
- Are you allowed to have family or friends visit and do you need prior permission to do so?
- Are there house rules, such as no smoking, no pets, no loud noise after a certain time of night?
- Will the landlord clean, paint, and make any necessary repairs before you move in?
 - If so, be sure to get this commitment in writing!

When submitting a rental application:

Bring

- Proof of income, letter of employment, or proof of funds
- Conestoga Enrollment Letter
- Government-issued ID
- Credit check document
- References from past landlords

When entering into a rental agreement

- Inspect the rental for cleanliness and damage. Make sure that all appliances are in working order and discuss any outstanding issues with the landlord before accepting the keys and moving in.
- Take pictures of the current state of the rental so you have a record of the condition it was in on the day you moved in.
- Request a copy of the signed lease agreement (your signature and the landlord's signature).
 - Shop around for the best rates on rental insurance.
 - Keep physical and digital copies of your lease agreement and rental insurance agreement in a safe place.
- Bring your first and last month's rent deposit.
- Be sure you have your landlord's contact information, especially for after-hours contact in case of emergency.

Still have questions about the rental process?

Connect with us!

International Transition Coordinators (ITCs) provide specialized support to international students for a smooth transition to Canada and Conestoga College, including help with early college onboarding, travel to Canada, housing and settlement, acculturation, and guidance on accessing college and community resources.

Students can reach us via [email](#) or [book an appointment](#) on the [Student Success Portal](#).

To access the Student Success Portal (SSP), you will need to use your [Conestoga ID and Password](#).

