



Things to Consider in Your Search for Off-Campus Housing (Fall 2023)

When looking for rental accommodation

CONSIDER:

- Is the rental near my Conestoga College campus? How long does it take to travel to my campus?
- How close are amenities such as the grocery store/pharmacy/bus stop?
- Is the rental near a variety of bus routes to enable convenient travel to multiple destinations throughout the community?
- How early or late does the bus near my accommodation run? Does the bus schedule work with my class schedule?
- What is included in the rental price (gas, water, heat, electricity, internet, laundry, furnishings, etc.)?
- The extra cost of rental insurance you should purchase to protect yourself in case of catastrophic loss (i.e. fire).

When viewing potential rental accommodations

DO:

- Take pictures of the unit.
- Walk around the building and neighbourhood. Do you feel comfortable?
- Do the entry and exit doors have locks? Does each bedroom have its own lock?
- Take note that the street and unit entrance area are well lit and safe to walk at night.
- Walk to the nearest bus stop to see how long it takes you to get there.

CHECK:

- Who is responsible for cleaning? Consider indoor cleaning, lawn maintenance, snow shovelling, leaf collection, etc.
- When are garbage and recycling collected and who is responsible for trash disposal?
- Are appliances in working order (stove, oven, microwave, refrigerator, washer, dryer)?
- Are the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed and working?
- Are the fire exits easily accessible? Is there a fire extinguisher in the unit? Has it been checked in the last year?
- Is there evidence of mold, mildew, ceiling and wall cracks, or unwanted pests?

ASK:

- Who are you sharing the unit with? Are they male, female or both?
- Does the landlord live in the same rental unit?
- What spaces in the unit are shared?
- Are there house rules such as smoking, pets, food, noise levels?
- Can family and friends visit? Is permission or prior notice needed?
- Will the landlord clean, paint, or repair the unit before you move in?
- If so, get it in writing!



When applying for a rental accommodation

TAKE:

- Proof of income, letter of employment, or proof of funds.
 - Conestoga College Enrollment Letter.
 - Government Issued ID.
 - Credit check documentation.
 - References from past landlords.
 - Guarantor* or co-signer's name, phone number, and address, if required.
- *A guarantor is a family member or friend in Canada who can sign to take responsibility of the lease in addition to you as the tenant.

When securing a rental accommodation

DO:

- Bring first and last month's rent deposit.
- Request a signed copy of your lease.
- Be sure you have your landlord's contact information (especially for after-hours contact in case of emergency).
- Inspect the unit for cleanliness, damage, and working appliances (refrigerator, oven, etc.) and discuss any outstanding issues with the landlord prior to accepting the keys and moving in.
- Take pictures of the unit on the day you move in so that you have a record of the condition of the unit when you arrived.

When moving into a rental accommodation

BRING:

- Personal belongings, including bedding, clothing, and personal toiletries.
- Furniture, if not included.
- Lease and rental insurance agreements. Keep a copy of these in a safe location.

Still have questions?

Visit our Conestoga International Housing Webpage:

Housing | International | Conestoga College

Book an appointment with an International Transition Coordinator:

Student Success Portal (conestogac.on.ca)

