A GUIDE TO

Finding Housing

AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Georgetown University
Office of Global Services

1. Define your budget and preferences.
2. Find a roommate.
3. Start your search online.
4. Check the rental application requirements.
5. Schedule an appointment to view the apartment/room.
6. Visit the apartment and be prepared to ask questions.
7. Fill out a rental application (if required).
8. Review and sign the lease.
9. Send in the security deposit.

1 How much can you spend on monthly rent?
Do you want roommates?
How long do you want to travel to campus?

Budget Tip: You should not spend more than 50% of your monthly income on housing. 30% is common.

2 Search for roommates at OCHListings.georgetown.edu. Click on the "Roommates" tab, then fill out a short questionnaire about your living style, and start searching for roommates within the Georgetown network.
Check out the Georgetown Housing Facebook Group for available rooms and roommate announcements.

3 Recommended housing search websites:
OCHListings.georgetown.edu
Georgetown Unofficial Housing Facebook Group
Craigslist.com
Apartments.com
Zillow.com
Renthop.com
Padmapper.com

Plan ahead: You may need temporary housing while looking for permanent housing. We recommend searching AirBnB and Georgetown Law Short-Term Housing Resources.

4 It is standard for landlords to ask for your Social Security Number (SSN) as part of their rental application. If you do not have a SSN, you can ask if the landlord will accept any alternatives to an SSN or credit check.

Common alternatives are:
A guarantor: someone who will co-sign the lease with you and agree to pay the rent if you do not
Proof of financial support (ex. scholarships, loans)
Paying several months of rent in advance

Some places that DO NOT require an SSN are:
The Virginian Suites
WeLive
River Place
London Normandy Apartments
Washington Intern Student Housing

5 Sample email request to schedule an appointment to view an apartment: Here's a sample email:

Hello Mr./Mrs. _____,
My name is Tonia Valdez and I'm interested in your rental at 55 Reservoir Road. My roommate and I are graduate students at Georgetown University, searching for a peaceful place to live near campus. I would love to set up an appointment to see the property. My phone number is 831-555-5555.
Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.
Tonia

6 **Here are some sample questions you should plan to ask when you visit an apartment or room.**

7 Not all residences require an application, but if they do, you will likely need to provide:
Copy of your passport (or another proof of identity)
Admission or acceptance letter from Georgetown
Proof of funding to cover rent (ex. a bank statement)

8 A lease is a legally binding agreement between the tenant and the landlord addressing topics like rent, maintenance, subletting, etc. Here are some sample leases.

Warning: Do not send in a security deposit before you sign the lease.

Tip: Visit the Office of Neighborhood Life's website to see the schedule of free legal advice sessions about leases and tenant issues.

9 Landlords tipically collect a security deposit at the beginning of the lease for any damages you may do to the apartment . The deposit is typically equal to one-half to two months of rent.

Tip: Take pictures of any existing damage to the apartment when you move in, to make sure you receive your entire deposit back.