

Before Starting Your Search

When considering renting a house or apartment off campus, be aware of the following:

- You may need temporary housing for the days prior to moving into your apartment.
- Apartments come furnished and unfurnished. Students who choose unfurnished apartments will need to buy furniture and other household necessities. CORT Furniture can provide furniture packages (see information on CORT under [Agencies with Apartment Services](#) on our website).
- In addition to the resources noted on this page, you may be able to find advertisements for shared housing and apartments on bulletin boards in the main campus buildings.
- Some students choose to start with a homestay or an on-campus apartment (Seattle Central only), and then change to an off-campus apartment later, after they have had a chance to get acquainted with the city and to make friends.
- In the state of Washington, students under the age of 18 are generally not allowed to sign a lease and rent an apartment on their own. It is strongly recommended that students under the age of 18 live with a [host family](#).

Before you begin your search, ask yourself the following questions:

- What is my budget? Be sure to consider expenses like utilities and parking.
- Do I need furnished housing?
- How close should I be to public transportation, grocery stores, and restaurants?
- How long will I need to rent?
- What kind of housing do I need?

What Will You Need?

The rental process moves very quickly here in Seattle. It really helps to be prepared. Here is a list of common information you will need for housing applications:

- Contact information
- Addresses of previous tenancies
- Contact information for previous landlords
- Proof of funding or income
- Proof of employment or proof of student status
- Vehicle information
- Emergency contact information

Credit Scores & Background Checks

Some renters may require a credit or background check. A U.S. social security number is necessary for a credit or background check. Students who do not have a social security number are advised to prepare additional documentation of financial resources (scholarships, bank account funds, etc.) as part of a supplemental packet.