

Accommodation Checklist

Be prepared when you go to meet the landlord:

Bring your checklist! Ask lots of questions!

Document the state of repair of your potential rental premises, including any damages.

Location

- Is it close to public transport?
- Reasonable travel time to campus and/or within SWHAT escort distance?
- Are there grocery stores, pharmacy and other amenities nearby?

Safety

- Do you feel comfortable in the neighbourhood daytime and nighttime?
- Does the room/apartment have adequate locks to provide privacy and security?
- If the apartment has a security system (buzzer or key), is it working?
- Are all windows intact and lockable?
- Are there smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in key areas?
- Is there more than one fire exit from the unit?
- Is there a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen?
- Is the entrance well lit and are any shrubs well trimmed?
- Who has access to the house key and when were the locks last changed?

Responsibilities

- Are you responsible for shoveling snow and is there a snow shovel provided?
- Are you responsible for lawn maintenance and is there a lawn mower provided? (Remember to ask about the summer months!)
- Are there adequate garbage containers provided and when is garbage picked up?

Facilities

- Is the parking sufficient (one space per car)?
- Will the parking area be shared with other tenants?
- Is the parking area well lit?
- Is there a storage area (shed or garage) and can this area be locked?
- Are there working laundry facilities on the premises or are they located nearby?
- Are the laundry facilities coin-operated?
- Is a fridge/stove/microwave provided in working order?
- Is the unit partially or fully furnished? What is included?

Quality of Accommodation

- Is there sufficient cupboard/closet space?
- How many people share the bathroom/kitchen or fridge with you?
- Will moving in and out be difficult because of stairs?
- Is it clean, spacious, well lit, and adequately heated?
- Is there any evidence of pests (e.g. cockroaches, mice)?
- Are the ceilings high enough and in good repair (cracks, water marks, mildew)?
- Is the carpet/floor reasonably clean?

- Are the walls in good repair (paint chipping? holes?)?
- Is the plumbing adequate? (Check the water pressure from the taps; flush the toilets.)
- Is there a good supply of hot water (ask current tenants)?
- Are there sufficient electrical outlets (check for three prong/grounded plugs)?
- Are there adequate telephone and/or cable jacks?
- How old is the unit?
- Are the windows properly sealed with storm windows and screens?

Lease Agreements

- Is a lease required?
- What is the length of term required in the lease?
- Who is responsible for payment of utilities? (heat, water, hydro, gas, cable/internet, etc.)
- Who is responsible for subletting?

Cost

- Is rent due weekly or monthly and on what date?
- How much is the rent?
- Does the rent include all utilities?
- What is NOT included in the rent? (ask the current tenants what the monthly utility bill is like...don't rely on the landlord for this information)
- Is a telephone/cable line already installed?
- What type of heating method is used?

Household Issues

- Does the tenant have control over heating/air-conditioning?
- Does the heating/air-conditioning work?
- If there is no air-conditioning, are there screens on the windows?
- Are overnight guests allowed?
- Are pets allowed?
- Where is the Fuse Box/Breaker Box located?

Roomers Only (eg. Living with the landlord/owner)

- Are meals included?
- Are you allowed use of the kitchen?
- Are there restrictions on visitors?
- Do you have to be in by a certain hour?
- Is there enough privacy (e.g. privacy lock on door)?
- Is decorating allowed? Who does it?
- Are there house rules (e.g. parties, visitors, smoking, noise)?