

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING @PITT

Where Do I Start?

1 Decide Your Price Range

Not everyone can afford to live in a big apartment close to campus, and that's okay! Decide how much you are willing to pay each month and use that to narrow your search.

2 Pick a Neighborhood

Not sure where to start? Check out some of the [neighborhoods](#) close to campus – Oakland, Shadyside, East Liberty, Squirrel Hill, Bloomfield, Lawrenceville, and Greenfield.

3 Research!

Look online for available apartments, see if there is a [University](#) or [Public bus line](#) that has a stop nearby, see what restaurants and grocery stores are close, and make sure you are satisfied with the safety of the neighborhood!

4 Be Careful of Scams

Although most apartments listed online are legitimate, you should be careful that some are scams (especially on Craigslist and AirBnB!). You should NEVER pay anything before seeing the apartment in person and looking at the lease.

5 Review your Lease

Always read your lease before signing it! Be sure to check OCL's ["Before you Sign" guide](#). Leases are legally binding and are used to hold both you and the landlord accountable. Make sure you know what you're agreeing to!

6 Don't Panic!

Thousands of people do this every year, you can do it too! There are very helpful resources online and at www.ocl.pitt.edu

TRYING TO SAVE MONEY?

- Think about getting a roommate.
- Look at apartments in the suburbs. Pittsburgh has a great bus system, so it's possible to live further away without a car.
- Check for studio apartments instead of 1-bedroom apartments.
- Contact landlords directly about apartments instead of paying a broker fee
- Look for apartments that don't have amenities like parking, a gym, or laundry
- Check out rental or used furniture instead of buying everything brand-new

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE LANDLORD:

- What utilities are included in the monthly rent price?
- Are there parking options?
- How much money is the security deposit? Do you need multiple months of rent up front?
- How long is the lease?
- Is the apartment furnished or is there a furniture rental option?
- What documents do you need to see from me because I am an international student?
- Does the rental property have laundry on-site?

SHORT-TERM HOUSING:

- Many students arrive in Pittsburgh without an apartment secured, or they can't move in immediately.
- Short-term housing needs to be arranged BEFORE arriving in Pittsburgh.
- OCL has a list of short-term options available [here](#), including hotels, AirBnB, and sublets.

Looking for a roommate?

Submit a Roommate

Application at

www.ocl.pitt.edu/roommates

FAQs:

Q: What if I can't find a place before I get to Pittsburgh?

A: That's okay! There are lots of short-term housing options available [here](#), and usually you can find apartments by walking around that aren't listed online.

Q: I'm feeling overwhelmed about finding an apartment. What do I do?

A: A great resource is Pitt's office of Off-Campus Living.
Phone: 412-624-6998
Email: ocl@bc.pitt.edu

Q: When should I start looking for housing?

A: It's never too early to start looking for housing, but you should definitely have an idea of where you are going to live BEFORE arriving in Pittsburgh.