MOVING OFF-CAMPUS 101
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

FINDING A PLACE
italicized texts are clickable links

- Identify your desired living situation: Studio, 1 Bedroom, shared room, etc. Below are cost estimates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room/Unit Type</th>
<th>Berkeley</th>
<th>Oakland</th>
<th>Albany</th>
<th>El Cerrito</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room in shared apartment or house</td>
<td>$1,241</td>
<td>$1,073</td>
<td>$1,315</td>
<td>$,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio apartment</td>
<td>$2,088</td>
<td>$1,639</td>
<td>$1,545</td>
<td>$1,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bedroom apartment</td>
<td>$2,332</td>
<td>$1,896</td>
<td>$2,567</td>
<td>$2,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two bedroom apartment or house</td>
<td>$3,531</td>
<td>$2,535</td>
<td>$3,804</td>
<td>$2,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three bedroom apartment or house (Three bedroom apartments are rare)</td>
<td>$4,394</td>
<td>$2,712</td>
<td>$3,836</td>
<td>$2,808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rental estimates provided by Cal Rentals

- Search early to find a neighborhood which best suit your needs. Most rental places are available at the end of semesters when students graduate.

- Research various housing sites to see what options you have:
  - Cal Rentals
  - Berkeley Student Cooperative
  - Berkeley Facebook Housing Group
  - Craigslist

- If you decide to share, use the roommate search tools available:
  - BIO Roommate Search Tool
  - Graduate Student Housing Facebook Group
  - Cal Housing, Sublets, & Roommates Facebook Group
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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

SECURING A PLACE

• **Schedule a viewing.** If you aren’t available, get a friend to view it for you.

• How much are the **average utilities cost** in your desired neighborhood? Below are some estimates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>~ $20-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(cost may be higher in winter due to heating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>~ $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer and Trash</td>
<td>~ $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet + Cable</td>
<td>~ $29.99 - $70 (Internet only – depending on speed and contract length)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Some apartments offer basic cable. If yours doesn’t, there are many packages for cable + Internet. Check with your provider)</td>
<td>~ $49.99 (cable only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>~ $59.99 (cable + Internet)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average utilities estimate provided by several BIO staff who live in a variety of housing types and areas.

• Clarify **1)** what is included in rent (parking, utilities, etc), **2)** how many occupants can be on the lease and **3)** availability date.

• **Read the lease or rental contract** in detail before signing to understand the terms and conditions.

• **Clarify any issues or concerns** you may have (ex: point out damage to the unit) with the landlord **prior** to signing a contract or lease and **prior** to moving in.

• **Prepare financially.** This will include **1st month rent + last month rent + a deposit**, and basic necessities.
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PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Upon getting keys to your unit, **document in detail about the current condition** of every space in the unit to avoid disputes and protect your deposit when you vacate.
- You have several **rights as a tenant** in Berkeley such as landlord providing safety features in your rental unit and addressing repair issues in a timely manner. Click here to read more about California Tenants' Rights.
- **Buy renter's insurance** in case of incidents such as fire, theft, or vandalism. It also covers your **property when you're outside of your unit** such as a stolen laptop on campus.
- **Be aware of Scams and Frauds** from online advertisement sites such as craigslist.org.
  - Do not pay or wire money without viewing the housing option.
  - Refer to Cal Rental’s Scam Advisory for more information on how to avoid scams.
- Refer to Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board to **protect yourself against unwarranted rent increase and evictions**.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Berkeley International Office: Finding Housing
- The Graduate Assembly Housing Guide
- ASUC Renter’s Legal Assistance Advice
- UC Berkeley Off-Campus Housing Guide
- Cal Rentals Resource Guide