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>UNIT TYPE</th>
<th>BERKELEY</th>
<th>OAKLAND</th>
<th>ALBANY</th>
<th>EL CERRITO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APARTMENTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDIO</td>
<td>$1,268</td>
<td>$1,972</td>
<td>$2,025</td>
<td>$2,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 BEDROOM</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
<td>$1,778</td>
<td>$1,770</td>
<td>$2,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 BEDROOM</td>
<td>$2,941</td>
<td>$2,646</td>
<td>$2,214</td>
<td>$2,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 BEDROOM</td>
<td>$4,166</td>
<td>$3,509</td>
<td>$3,610</td>
<td>$3,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+ BEDROOM</td>
<td>$4,156</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
<td>NO DATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROOM RENTAL</td>
<td>$1,288</td>
<td>$1,289</td>
<td>$1,331</td>
<td>$1,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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
MOVING OFF-CAMPUS 101
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>Utility</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td>~ $20-30 (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>
</tbody>
</table>
| Internet + Cable (Some apartments offer basic cable. If yours doesn't, there are many packages for cable + Internet. Check with your provider) | ~ $29.99 - $70 (Internet only – depending on speed and contract length)  
~ $49.99 (cable only)  
~ $59.99 (cable + Internet) |

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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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

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