

Apartment Hunting Guide

Websites to search for apartments or rooms for rent:

www.zillow.com, select the tab "For Rent" and begin search

www.craigslist.org, select US, find the state, click on the city nearest to your project site location, click on housing and narrow your search criteria from that point

www.rent.com, key in your city, state and narrow your search criteria from that point

If you are in a city that is home to a major University (or two), you will likely be able to find a facebook group that caters to international students looking for subleasees or apartment mates. For example, in Pittsburgh, see group "CMU Office of International Education." Some groups may be closed, so you'll have to request to join. You will need to be a detective, but it may be worth it in the end.

If you need short-term accommodations or alternatives to a lease, the following sites may be helpful:

<https://www.sabbaticalhomes.com/> - generally furnished; various lengths; locations in cities with College/Universities. Key in your city, state and begin search

www.Airbnb.com - short-term, furnished. Key in your city, state and desired dates of stay (arrival and departure dates) then begin search

www.couchsurfing.com - temporary, very short-term. Popular with college students. Little to no privacy possible. You must join in order to search for potential accommodations.

www.vrbo.com - short-term, furnished. Key in your city, state and desired dates of stay (arrival and departure dates) then begin search. These options are more pricey and generally accommodate 2 to 4 or even 6 guests.

There are numerous other sites in which to conduct your search, if you do not find the above options are meeting your needs. These include www.hotpads.com, www.apartmentlist.com, www.padmapper.com, www.rentjungle.com, www.move.com, www.apartmentguide.com, www.apartmenthomeliving.com, www.apartments.com.

You should consider the following factors and amenities when selecting your housing:

- Where is the nearest public transportation stop (bus, train, subway)
 - How much will the fares be for the commute to work?
- Where is the nearest grocery store
- Where is the nearest drug store? Convenience store?
- Where is the nearest coffee shop?
- How long will my commute to the job site be?
- If I have a car, how much will parking cost?

Finally, a word to the wise regarding lease agreements. Read the lease. Confirm utilities policies and procedures. Understand policies regarding breaking the lease. Educate yourself on lease agreements for your location. Laws can vary from state to state. A good place to start is to Google “Fair Housing Service” and your location to learn about the laws and your rights within your locality.

In addition, be a savvy and safe consumer, review the following rental safety guides when you begin your on-line search:

- <http://www.rent.com/company/security/>
- <http://www.rentalsonline.com/renting.asp>
- <http://www.libertymutual.com/safe-and-smart-living/blog-posts/tips-renting-an-apartment>
- <http://hotpads.com/blog/2014/03/apartment-scam-2014-sara-gates/>