



A GUIDE TO OFF-CAMPUS LIVING

WHAT TO QUESTION AND CONSIDER

PLAN AHEAD



- You can start planning well in advance, preferably a semester or more before your intended move-out date.
- Consider your budget, location preferences, and the type of housing you want (i.e., apartment, house, shared accommodation).



BUDGETING

- Calculate all anticipated expenses, including rent, utilities, groceries, transportation, and renter's insurance.
- Create a budget and stick to it.



RESEARCH

- Explore different off-campus housing options near TCU by attending our Off-Campus Housing Fair and using sites like Rent College Pads to help navigate your options.
- Consider factors such as safety, proximity to campus, public transportation access, and amenities.



UTILITIES & FACILITIES

- Set up utilities (i.e., electricity, water, gas, internet, cable, garbage/recycling) in your name or coordinate with roommates.
- Ask what facilities are provided and where they are located.

LEASE AGREEMENT

- Carefully read and understand your lease agreement before signing. Pay attention to the terms, lease duration, and any penalties.

ROOMMATES

- Decide whether you want to live alone or with roommates. Sharing expenses can be cost-effective.
- If you choose roommates, ensure your living habits, cleanliness, and financial responsibilities are compatible.



FURNITURE AND SUPPLIES

- Determine what furniture and household items you need. Decide whether you want a new, used, or furnished apartment.
- Start collecting these items gradually to spread out the costs.



SAFETY & SECURITY

- Invest in security measures such as door locks, window locks, and possibly a security system.
- Know your neighbors and keep emergency numbers handy.
- Explore transportation options to get to campus.



MOVING LOGISTICS

- Organize the moving process well in advance. Gather packing supplies and boxes, and enlist help from friends or family if needed.
- Notify TCU of your new address for important mail and documents.

COMMUNITY QUESTION GUIDE

WHAT TO QUESTION AND CONSIDER

COST & PAYMENT

- What is the cost of rent?
- Is there an application fee? If so, how much?
- What is the security deposit requirement? How can I ensure I get it back?
- What payment methods are preferred/required? Do you utilize an app?
- What utilities are included? Does this include lawn care (if applicable)?
- If utilities are not included, what is the average monthly cost, and which services are they? How do I open an account with the utility companies?
- what is your trash schedule/pick-up? is there a one-time or monthly fee?

REQUIREMENTS

- Do you conduct a credit check to live at the location?
- Do you perform a background check?
- Do you require a guarantor?
- How quickly will I know if I am approved?

LEASE TERMS

- What is the lease length? Do you offer different lease lengths? (By semester vs. 6-month vs. 1 year, etc.)
- Do you offer individual leases or per-unit lease?
- How many people are allowed per room?
- Can I sublet my unit/property if needed? If so, are there costs associated with that and how much?

PROPERTY SPECIFICS

- What various floor plans/unit types are there to choose from at your property?
- What amenities are included?
- Do you offer roommate matching?
- What is security like on the property?
- What types of parking options are available and what are the costs? Is there guest parking?
- Do you allow pets? If so, are there any restrictions, and what is the pet deposit? Is there a monthly pet fee, or is it when signing the lease?
- What is the property distance from campus?
- What is your turn around on maintenance requests?
- What is the process if I lock myself out after hours?
- What is the crime rate for this community? Do you have an officer or security on-site?
- Is there anything else you think I should know about your property?
- Are you running any current promotions?