

Where to find available spaces

There are many places you can look for houses or apartments for rent. Our web site (www.niagara.edu/offcampus) has listings (updated regularly) of local landlords with available space. Other places to look include: the newspaper classifieds, the internet, and, perhaps the most useful, friends and classmates!

Be sure you pick up our *Rental Property Inspection Checklist* to assist you when you visit prospective locations. This guide will help to ensure that you are comfortable in your new home.

When you move

We recommend all students look into purchasing Renter's Insurance so that all of your belongings are protected in the event of theft or damage. Your landlord's insurance typically does not cover your belongings, and this insurance is relatively inexpensive.

When you move (continued)

Once you've secured comfortable housing, you probably will think about having friends over. Keep in mind the following when entertaining guests:

- Keep the numbers low— most neighbors won't mind if you have a few people over every now and again, but 100 people is probably 90 too many.
- Make sure that you trust the people you invite— if you can't control the party, the party will get out of control and you're responsible for it.
- You're responsible— even if your room/housemates are the ones that have people over, you're responsible too. So do what you can to ensure that laws are being followed.
- Keep noise down— if people can hear noise from the sidewalk, it's too loud. Pay particular attention to this after 11pm.
- Keep good relationships with your neighbors- they are liable to invite the police to your party!
- In general, keep in mind that you now live in a neighborhood and the enforcers are now the police, not the RAs!



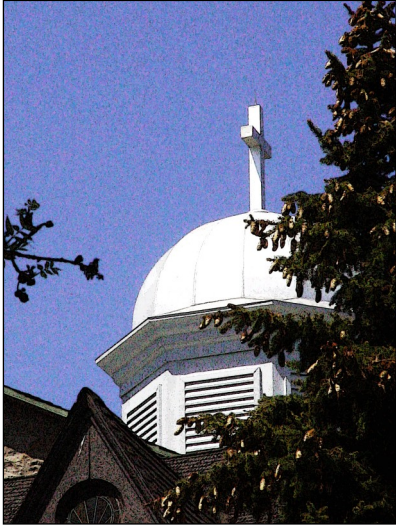
Education That Makes a Difference

Off-Campus Housing Guide for Students



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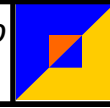
University Housing and Off-Campus Housing Affairs



The University Housing Office serves NU students in their search for off-campus housing in Niagara and Erie counties, overseen by the Assistant Director for Off-Campus Housing Affairs. Our services include:

- Assisting graduate and undergraduate students in finding suitable long and short term accommodations.
- Providing information on safety and security while living off campus.

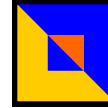
Transitioning from On-Campus to Off-Campus Housing



Unfortunately, moving into an apartment or house from a residence hall isn't as simple as packing up and moving your stuff. Here are some things for you to consider before you make the decision to move off campus:

- Niagara requires that all students (except for graduate and transfer) reside on campus for the first two years before being eligible to move off campus. Do you meet this requirement?
- What is your budget? How will moving off campus affect your financial aid?
- Will you live alone or will you have a roommate?
- How will you get to campus? How does this affect your budget?
- How will you stay connected to campus life (especially if you have a part-time job to pay for your apartment)?
- How will you furnish your apartment or house?
- Will you be able to cook and clean for yourself?

How to start your search: Setting your Budget



The most important first step in starting your search is determining your budget. Here are some things to think about as you set a budget for yourself:

- How much do you, or will you, have (total) to spend?
- Are your parents or guardians willing to help?
- How much will you be receiving in financial aid/student loans that can be applied towards living expenses?

Total these amounts and divide it by the number of months you will live in the residence (please note that this can be determined by the landlord, some require a 12 month lease). The number you come up with is the total for **all** of your living expenses, including rent, utilities, and food.