

# Renting Off-Campus: Step-by-Step

The Office of Commuter Student Services and Off-Campus Living  
(631) 632-7353

## **First Ask Yourself:**

- How much can I afford per month for rent?
- What is in my budget (loans, job earnings, parental support)?
- Do I want a roommate(s)?
- How far am I willing to commute?
- What type of transportation will I require?
- What type of neighborhood would I like?

## **Shop the Market:**

- It is recommended that you begin your search three to four months in advance.
- Search through our legal [Rental Listings and Apartment Complexes](#).
- Ask yourself the following questions while looking through rental options:
  - Is the rental furnished or unfurnished?
  - Are utilities included or excluded?
  - How will I commute? (car, bus, train)
  - What is the parking situation (if applicable)?
  - Who will be responsible for damages? Repairs? Landscaping?
- Check [Landlord Reviews](#)

## **Visit the Property:**

- Conduct a full inspection of the property for safety using a copy of the [Renter's Checklist](#).

## **Meet with Roommate(s) and Set Terms:**

- Complete the list of suggested [Questions to Ask a Prospective Roommate](#).

## **Review, then Sign Lease:**

- See [Lease 101](#) to fully understand what a lease should include
- Only sign the lease once both parties, prospective tenant and prospective landlord, understand and have agreed to its terms.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions or propose changes.
- Get a keep a copy of the lease.

## **Transfer Accounts to Your Name:**

- Electric, PSEG: (631) 755-6000
- Gas, National Grid: (800) 930-5003
- Trash, Water, Internet
- Your official address (NY State DMV and the US Post Office)

## **Move In:**

- Will you use moving services? Will you rent a UHaul?
- Do you need to purchase furniture? Will you need to schedule deliveries?

## **Document the Condition of the Rental:**

- Complete the [Inventory Checklist](#) to avoid being charged for pre-existing wear and tear.