

Renting Off-Campus: Step-by-Step

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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.