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.