

# House (or Apartment) Hunting Tips

## Where to look for Housing

### Duke Community Housing Database:

[studentaffairs.duke.edu/forms/chouse](http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/forms/chouse)

You can search for apartments, houses, and rooms on this database open to the Duke and Durham communities.

### Craigslist: [raleigh.craigslist.org](http://raleigh.craigslist.org)

This is a public website where it is common to post items for sale/rent. You can find apartments, houses and rooms for rent. Because anyone can post to the site, be careful and use your best judgment to avoid scams.

### Contact Apartment Complexes/ Property Management Companies

If you're looking to rent an entire apartment or townhouse (not looking for a roommate) see the handout "Housing Options near Durham Tech."

### Newspaper Classifieds

Duke Chronicle: [dukechronicle.campusave.com](http://dukechronicle.campusave.com)

News and Observer: [www.newsobserver.com/classified-ads](http://www.newsobserver.com/classified-ads)

### Other Websites

[Apartments.com](http://Apartments.com)

[NearDuke.com](http://NearDuke.com)

## Paying for Housing

**Monthly Rent:** You will pay rent monthly to your landlord or property management company. Make sure you know the due date and payment methods. Ask about penalties for paying late rent.

**Security Deposit:** When you sign the lease, you will have to pay a sum of money (usually around \$200) to insure against damages to the apartment. If the apartment is in good condition when you move out, you will receive this deposit back.

**Application Fee:** Some property management companies will require an application and charge a fee. (usually between \$35-\$50)

## Living with a Roommate

In the US, it is typical for students who do not know each other to share a house or apartment. Normally, you have your own bedroom and share the rest of the house. This is usually a cheaper option. Follow the tips below when considering moving in with a roommate.

1. Meet the person or people you will be living with before moving in to make sure your personalities are compatible. Ask questions about their personal habits, such as: What time do you wake up/go to sleep? Are you a smoker? Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend?
2. Be clear about expectations regarding: personal space, food and cooking, cleaning, guests (including overnight), and what will be personal and what will be shared.
3. Discuss how bills will be paid and whose responsibility it will be (including rent, water, electricity, internet, etc.)
4. Will the lease be in your name, your roommate's name, or both? Be clear about what could happen if you or your roommate doesn't pay the rent on time.

## Other Tips

- Purchase renters insurance to make sure your belongings are covered in an emergency.
- Inspect the apartment before you rent and after you move in. Make note and take pictures of any damage so they can be fixed right away, and you can't be charged for them later.
- Take good care of your apartment so that your security deposit will be returned when you move out.
- Contact your landlord as soon as something breaks or is not working in your apartment.