

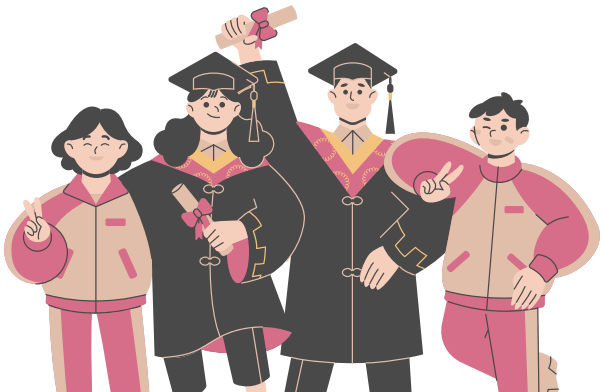
Navigating as a Non-Native English Speaker

Bring a Buddy

Even for native English speakers, understanding leasing terms and contracts can be difficult. If you are not confident in your conversational English skills, bring a friend with you to translate.

Ask for Translated Documents

Some landlords provide legal documents in commonly spoken Non-English languages for that area. Ask if they have documents translated in spanish, mandarin, arabic, etc. If a translated copy is not provided, ask for more time to get your English copy translated for you. It is important you fully understand and legal documents you are signing!



OFF-CAMPUS LIFE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

For Questions, Help, or Support, please contact:

Off-Campus Life
ocl@colostate.edu
(970) 491-2248

International Students & Services
iss@colostate.edu
(970) 491-5917

Student Legal Services
sls_intake@mail.colostate.edu
(970) 491-1482

Student Resolution Center
srcenter@colostate.edu
(970) 491-7165



Off-Campus Housing as an International Student

What to know and what to ask when leasing.



Things to Know

Credit Requirements

Most off-campus housing options will have a credit check and income requirement in order to lease with them. If you do not have a credit score in the US or a guarantor who does, ask if they provide an alternate route for international students. This may require an additional security deposit, monthly installments up front, or other financial securement for your lease.

Forwarding Addresses

Upon move-out, many landlords won't provide the financial move out statement or security deposit in person. You'll be required to have it sent to a forwarding address. Try not to provide an out of country address, as it may not arrive. Leave a US address of a friend, relative, or your next home instead to ensure you receive your move out documents.

I think I'm being discriminated against, what do I do?

Identifying Discrimination

The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing and housing-related discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status, and disability.

Reporting Discrimination

If you feel you have or are being discriminated against, please contact Student Legal Services, CSU cultural centers, and/or Off-Campus Life for support.

Read more about HUD Fair Housing laws.



Searching for International Friendly Housing

Check Reviews

Reviews in general should be taken with a grain of salt, but in this case they can be very helpful in determining other international students' housing experiences. Search for words like "discriminate" and "racist" in reviews to see if there have been problems in the past with this landlord.

Don't Be Afraid to Ask!

When touring an apartment or house, don't be afraid to just ask the landlord if they are international student friendly and up to date on their Fair Housing training. A clear answer, good or bad, is better than a vague one!

Finding Roommates

Whether you're looking to live with other international students or students in your same major, RentalSearch is a great resource for finding people to live with. Visit Off-Campus Life's website to read more and post your roommate listing.