Talent MATCH

Talent 4 Non-Profits

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ACE WIL Association for Co-operative Education and Work-Integrated Learning BC/Yukon

Finding Housing

The Student Housing Search for Work Placements

Students who seek a work placement outside of their current city or town must consider what housing options will be available to them. This resource is to help students navigate the housing search. Below you will find a summary of resources, housing search engines, and tips to support your search.

Tips for Employers

Be a partner for your potential hires in the housing search:

1. Consider if part or all of the job can be done remotely.
2. Reach out to your networks or organize billet hosts before the hiring process to find possible accommodations for the student.
3. Share this resource with your student candidates and provide tips on the housing search for your local community. If you hire students on a regular basis, consider making a 1-2 page resource to support their housing search.
4. If you have housing accomodations available, be sure to list this clearly in your job posting.

KEY TIPS FOR STUDENTS

1. Start your search as early as possible. If you are considering applying to a position in a different location, start to look at what housing options are available in case you are offered the role.
2. Stay safe and make sure to watch for housing scams. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Finding Housing

1 Search Housing Websites

Student Focused Housing:

- ◊ Rent Seeker
- ◊ Off-Campus Housing 101
- ◊ Places4Students
- ◊ Global Education City (Vancouver)

General Rental Sites:

- ◊ Craigslist
- ◊ Kijiji
- ◊ liv.rent
- ◊ Apartment Love
- ◊ PadMapper
- ◊ Facebook Marketplace

Many cities and towns also have local **Facebook groups** to look for housing. Some are specific to students (eg. UBC Roommates group), some are specific to a field (eg. Green Room Sublets is for theatre & performing arts professionals), and some are general to all renters in a particular area (eg. Vancouver Rentals & Roommates).

2 Ask your employer

If you are interviewing or have secured a role in another city or town, ask your employer if they can help you navigate your search and keep an eye out for housing. In some cases, employers may have the option for on-site accommodations. If your contact isn't sure, ask if there are any current or former employees that could provide support.

3 Ask your network

You may have professional contacts, friends, or family in the town you are moving to. Ask people in your network if they know anyone who can support your housing search.

4 Check housing options at nearby local colleges or universities

Student Housing: If you are moving to a city with a university or college, check with the local student housing office to see if you can find accommodation on campus. Extra accommodation on campus is most likely to be available in the summer term from May to August.

Off-campus recommendations: Post-secondary institutes may also have recommendations on their websites for off-campus housing. Try Googling the "name of school" + "off-campus housing." If you can't find anything online, reach out to the local campus housing office to ask for their recommendations on off-campus housing.

Check with the local Student Union: Some student unions have ways to connect students with accommodation. Reach out to let them know you will be doing a work term in the area and are seeking housing.

5 Explore options

Explore options such as Airbnb to see if hosts will agree to a longer term stay for a lower rate.

RENTAL RESOURCES

Tenant Resource Advisory Centre (TRAC)
TRAC is a non-profit organization that provides free legal education, representation, and advocacy on residential tenancy matters.

Online Courses: TRAC has several free online courses to support your housing search and rental process. The course Renting It Right: Finding a Home will support you with guidance on your housing search. You can receive a certificate of the course(s) you complete, which can help you stand out in your rental applications.

Free Hotline: TRAC has a free hotline run by volunteers at 604-255-0546 or 1-800-665-1185. Visit their website for the hotline schedule.

Templates: TRAC has many template letters you can use as a renter including a roommate agreement letter.

Rent Smart: Rent Smart provides education, resources, and support to renters across Canada. They have a course called RentSmart Certificate Online (RSCO). They have free resources available to renters in British Columbia and Alberta on topics including roommates, COVID-19, and tenant & landlord rights.