



Department of International Development, Community and Environment

## Questions and Answers regarding Housing at Clark University

Graduate students are responsible for arranging their own housing. The IDCE Department only offers minimal information about available apartments.

### **Where can I get a list of available off-campus housing?**

The Office of Residential Life & Housing provides a listing of available apartments, many of which are within walking distance of the university at [www.clarku.edu/offices/housing](http://www.clarku.edu/offices/housing). The list is updated every two weeks. Most students arrange for housing as soon as they arrive in Worcester or before. Additional apartment listings can be found in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette real estate section on [www.telegram.com](http://www.telegram.com). You may also find a housing list at [www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org).

### **What types of housing are available?**

University housing and off-campus housing are available, but there are only a limited number of on-campus housing spaces for graduate students through the Residential Life and Housing Office. Incoming students have priority for this housing.

Students wishing to apply for this space are required to submit Students wishing to apply for Graduate Housing for the 2009-2010 year should submit a Graduate Housing Request Form, Graduate Housing Contract (Signed), and a \$300 Deposit. All forms are available for download and print by visiting the Graduate Housing webpage at [www.clarku.edu/offices/housing/options/graduate.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/offices/housing/options/graduate.cfm).

Off-campus rooms and apartments are available in the immediate Clark area. Students without prior arrangement for University housing are urged to arrive before orientation. Early August is a wise time to seek suitable housing in the neighborhood.

### **What does University housing include?**

A limited number of on-campus housing units are available for graduate students through the Residential Life and Housing Office. Incoming students have priority for this housing. Please email Kevin Forti at [kforti@clarku.edu](mailto:kforti@clarku.edu) or go to Graduate Housing at [www.clarku.edu/offices/housing/options/graduate.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/offices/housing/options/graduate.cfm) to learn more about the cost and any requirements. Units are reserved on a first come, first serve basis and require a one-year commitment.

### **What does off-campus housing include?**

Private landlords manage off-campus apartments. Graduate students often share an apartment. The approximate cost is \$400 - \$500 per month, per student. **Most landlords require a one-year lease or contract to be signed by the renter.** The University has not inspected these apartments nor has any responsibility for contracts between individuals. Most nearby homes are more than 100 years old. Maintenance of these properties depends upon the landlord and whatever agreement is part of the lease or contract.

### **What are the general monthly rental costs in the area?**

\$400 + = A shared room in an apartment. Apartment should be in reasonable, comfortable condition.  
\$600+ = A studio or one-bedroom apartment.  
\$750+ = A more comfortable, better-maintained apartment. Of course, if two or more students rent the apartment, expenses are shared.

### **Are utilities included in the rent?**

Utilities such as heat, gas, and electricity are generally not included in off-campus housing. Students usually split the costs of these expenses with their roommates. Please be aware that cold

Worcester winters can lead to expensive utility bills. Ask your landlord about heating costs before signing a lease agreement. However, given rising energy costs, utilities bills are difficult to predict from one year to the next.

**Will I be required to pay a security deposit?**

Usually, a security deposit is equivalent to one month's rent. You may also be required to pay your first and last month's rent. When you move, the landlord will inspect the property. The security deposit is returned if the apartment is left in good condition.

**Are studio or one-bedroom apartments available?**

Studio or one-bedroom apartments are limited and rented immediately. However, they can be found if you begin your search early.

**If I rent a two-bedroom apartment, who is responsible for the rent?**

Whoever rents the apartment and signs the lease is responsible for the rent. If a lease is to be co-signed, it is best to have a roommate lined up ahead of time and an agreement in place of how you will split the monthly bills.

**How will I find a roommate?**

There is a roommate section in the apartment list from Residential Life and Housing. It may take some time to contact potential roommates; email is often a preferable means of connecting. Email addresses of incoming IDCE graduate students will be provided. With these, you can make the necessary connections to find an IDCE roommate. Roommate notices are also posted in the IDCE House. This arrangement has worked out very well over the last few years.

**Are most apartments furnished?**

Most apartments are not furnished. However, used inexpensive furniture can be purchased from several places in the area. A stove/oven and refrigerator is generally provided.

**What else will I need to purchase?**

Sheets, blankets, pillow, pot/pans, towels, and basic household items like a bed and a desk. Some students choose to go to used house-ware stores in the area.

Worcester is also host to discount stores like Target and Walmart, which can be a good source for inexpensive household items that you will need to purchase on your own.

**Do apartments have a washer/dryer?**

Some apartments have washers and dryers available in the building. However, several laundromats are available within walking distance.

**Should I make a reservation with University-owned housing?**

For international students, it may be helpful to make a reservation with University-owned Housing, at least for the first year. It is convenient to have a place to live upon arrival, and it saves the hassle of trying to find an apartment. Basic furniture is supplied, and utilities are included in the cost of the rent.

**Should I make arrangements to stay somewhere for two or three nights before finding an apartment?**

Yes. A reservation at a nearby hotel for two or three days is recommended. Hotel room prices are about \$95 a night for a single room.