

Ai The Art Institute of VancouverSM

Student Housing Guide

Resources for finding accommodation in the
Greater Vancouver Area.



Vancouver is a beautiful city with a very diverse population which includes many students. In the search for housing, students have many options to consider.

Living on your own for the first time can be an instrumental part of your memories as a student. Students' living arrangements can have either a positive or a negative impact on their academic success. We want to help you find a comfortable living situation so that you will be able to focus on succeeding in your studies. For this reason, we have compiled this Student Housing Guide for students who want assistance finding housing.

This guide contains information that may help you in your search for housing and make the experience less stressful for you. If you have questions not answered here, please contact:

The Art Institute of Vancouver Student Affairs
Phone 604.298.5400 (ext) 5411
Email aivstudentaffairs@aii.edu.

We can go through different options with you and answer your questions about accommodations and how to find a place in the Great Vancouver Area.

Housing

As you begin looking for a place to live, it is important that you ask yourself a few key questions:

- Do you want roommates?
- Do you want to live close to the campus?
- How will you commute to the campus?

In order to help you be better prepared for your search, use the information in this guide to help you find a place that suits your needs as well as your price range.

Calculating your Budget

There are many expenses in addition to rent that you should be aware of. Some of these expenses may be included in your rent so be sure to ask before you sign a lease.

The following is an approximation of what you might expect to pay per month in the Greater Vancouver Area. However, prices will vary depending on living arrangements and lifestyle. Note that the prices do not include any deposits that may be required.

	Approximate amount	Your budget
Rent	(see next section)	
Electricity	\$15-\$50/month	
Phone	\$30+ /month (+ long distance)	
Internet	\$20-\$50/month	
Cable	\$25+ /month	
Heat/hot water	\$15-\$50/month	
Food	Dependant on individual	
Parking	\$5-\$10/day (downtown)	
TOTAL		

Make sure that the "TOTAL" falls within your budget.

The Greater Vancouver Area

Some of the more popular places to live in Vancouver:

Kitsilano/False Creek: Close to the water with many interesting shops and cafes and always plenty to do. There are many university students living in these areas.

Rent: 1 bedroom \$900+/month; shared \$600-\$700/month

Downtown: A very convenient area to live, but also a pricey area. If you live downtown, the best areas to live in are: West End, Yaletown, near Robson Street and English Bay.

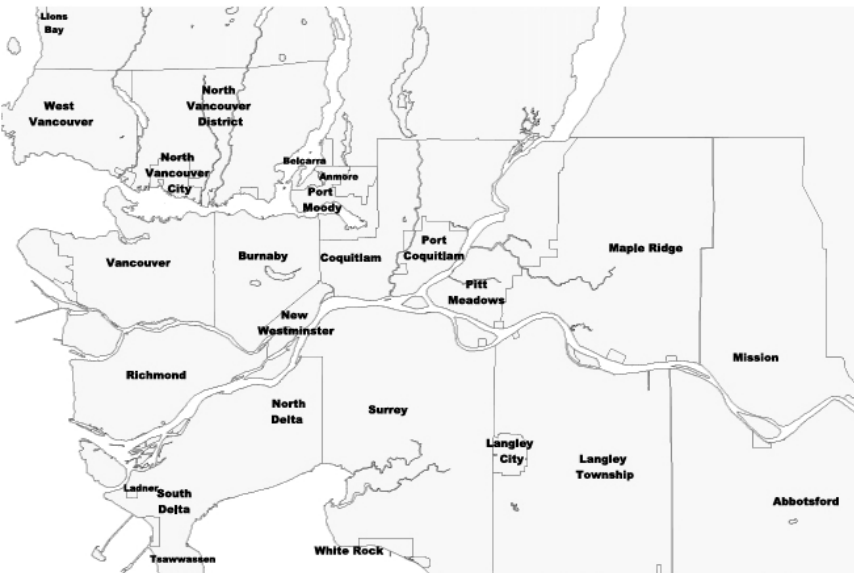
Rent: 1 bedroom \$800-\$900/month; shared \$600-\$700/month

Vancouver Eastside/Commercial Drive: This area is relaxed and has lots of shops. Be careful when selecting a place in the Eastside, as there are many dangerous areas, especially along East Hastings, in Chinatown and Gastown.

Rent: 1 bedroom \$600 - \$700/month; shared \$400-\$500/month

Burnaby/North Vancouver/Coquitlam/New Westminster: All suburbs, these areas all have lots of shopping and are very community oriented. They tend to be much cheaper than living downtown.

Rent: 1 bedroom \$600-\$700/month; shared \$350-\$500/month



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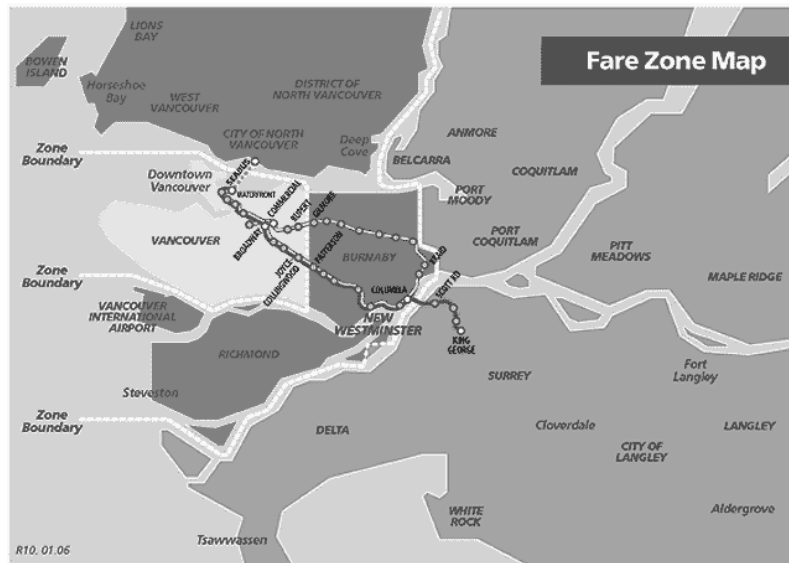
Getting to Campus

Finding a place to live that is in close proximity to public transportation is important. Make sure you map out the area beforehand so you can find housing that is accessible to the bus or sky train. To check public transportation routes and schedules refer to Translink BC:

www.translink.bc.ca
Phone 604-953-3333

Transit Fares

The number of zones (colors) you pass through during your trip will determine the fare you pay. For example, from Burnaby to Vancouver, you pass through two zones and will need a 2 zone pass or ticket. For more information, contact Translink or visit their website (contact information listed above).



	Per trip	Monthly pass
1 zone	\$2.25	\$69
2 zones	\$3.25	\$95
3 zones	\$4.50	\$130

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Apartment Checklist

Before signing a lease, do a thorough inspection of the conditions of the apartment to check that it is satisfactory. Be sure to check the condition of:

Floor, wall, ceilings, paint and woodwork

Check that there are no chips or damages.

Windows, doors and locks

Check that each door and window has a working lock.

Fridge and stove

Turn them on to ensure that they are in working order.

Shower, bathtub and faucets

Turn the water on and make sure that both hot and cold work.

Dishwasher and sink

Run water in the sink to see if it leaks. Turn dishwasher on.

Toilets and drains

Flush the toilet; check that drains do not leak.

Electrical Outlets

Ensure that they work and that there are enough outlets in practical places.



Closet space

If there is not enough closet space, ask if additional storage is available in the building and how much it will cost.

The best time to ask about repairs and improvements is before you commit. Attach a list of any damage to the lease and have it initialed by your landlord so you are not held responsible later.

Deciphering the Classified Ads

Classifieds, online or in the newspaper, are a resource when looking for housing. Make time to learn the lingo of Classifieds.

W/D = washer/Dryer	H/W = hardwood floors
UTIL = utilities	LDRY = laundry
INCL = includes	NS = non-Smoker
EXC COND = excellent condition	NR = near
STU = studio	NP = no pets
WIC = walk in closet	STE = suite

Tips For Finding a Great Apartment

Before your search:

Plan ahead. Begin your search at least one month prior to move in, and allow two weeks of search time.

Set up appointments with landlords. Setting up viewing times beforehand will mean that you will be able to see many places in one day.

Know what you want before you go. You may not find everything you want but it is a good idea to set priorities.

Take measurements of your larger furnishings (and take a tape measure with you when you go) so you won't be surprised after you move in.

Make sure you are aware of your tenant rights:

Tenant Survival Guide: Your Legal Rights

<http://www.tenants.bc.ca/factsheets/TSG-web.htm>

During your search:

Try to see places during the day so you can see the amount of natural light.

Come prepared to ask questions and to make a deposit.

Deposits for most apartments equal one month rent.

Questions to ask when looking at an apartment

- Are pets allowed?
- Is there a laundry room in the building?
- How much does it cost to wash/dry laundry?
- What type of security system is in the building?
- How is the water pressure?
- How big is the water heater?
- What utilities will I have to pay for?
- Is there a penalty for breaking the lease?
- Is there parking available? How much does it cost?
- Is there extra storage available in the building?
- Is the deposit refundable?
- Where is the closest bus stop/sky train station?

Safety Tips For City Living

Do not open your door to anyone unless you know who it is. In the case of sales people, or police officers, ask to see identification.

Keep emergency phone numbers posted near the phone.
Report any suspicious and/or obscene phone calls to the police.

Get to know who your neighbours are. Choose a neighbour to trust in case of an emergency.

Know the emergency escape routes in your building.

Always lock your car and never leave valuables in plain view.

Always lock your bicycle.

When you are walking at night, always stay in well-lighted areas.

Keep your apartment door locked both when you are out and when you are home.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, your own intuition can be your most reliable guide.

Resources for Finding Accommodation:

Note: The majority of listings can be found one month prior to room availability. Because tenants generally give landlords one month notice, listings are usually posted one month prior to move in date.

General Listings: a great place to start!

1. www.vancouver.craigslist.org
2. www.och101.com
3. www.rentsline.com
4. www.amsrentsline.com
5. www.myhomevancouver.com
6. www.van.net/classified

Homestay Companies

Canadian Vancouver International Homestay Ltd.
www.cvihomestay.com

Homestay Programs Long and Short Term
www.homestay.50megs.com

CF Educational Services Ltd.
www.homestay.bc.ca

VHA (Vancouver Homestay Agency)
www.vancouverhomestayagency.com

Vancouver Central Homestay
www.vancouvercentralhomestay.com

Accommodation Services

Bell Accommodation Services

Tel: 604-875-1742 Fax: 604-875-1752

Email: info@bellacc.com Web: www.bellacc.com

Caters to students, and business travelers looking for fully furnished apartments, student houses or roommates in the Great Vancouver area. Arrive and "move in" at a monthly rate, which includes phone (local calls), high speed Internet access, cable TV and laundry facilities.

Other

Extended stay rentals: www.Shaughnessyvillage.com

Youth Hostel: www.hihostels.ca

Hotel: The Inn at False Creek (downtown) has discounts for our students.
Phone 604.682.0229 Toll Free 1.800.663.8474

Dorm Style Living: Canadian International College, located in North Vancouver has dormitory space available for students who want to experience this lifestyle.
Phone 604.929.1544 Email information@cic.bc.ca

This guide is provided for informational purposes only and is not under any circumstances to be interpreted as a recommendation or representation of any kind. The Art Institute of Vancouver neither inspects nor endorses any unit or home, landlord, property location, web site or roommate listing contained in or referred to in this guide. It is the responsibility of the student to exercise due care and judgment when choosing accommodation.

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