Explore and Discover the Best City Ever
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The Off Campus Student Services Office is here support you in your search for finding an apartment. We will work with you in providing resources, help and tips/leads as they become available.

Please note however we cannot guarantee SF housing for you and therefore it will be up to you to treat the process as a priority.

Office of Off Campus Student Services
Mission Statement
The department of Off Campus Living will serve to support all students and community neighbors. OCSS commits to fostering students’ personal growth & skillset through education of communal living & safety, emphasis on civic citizenship and university connection.

Our Pledge
We strive to create a positive quality of life through intentional design focusing on independent life skills and the development of responsible community members.
THE BASICS

A. Know the Market

- Due to the attraction of living in the City, physical limitations of the area and limit of affordable housing the rent prices are above the national average
- While the search for housing is competitive it is absolutely possible to obtain
- Research and become aware of housing neighborhoods, average cost and availability
- Typically the search will take a bit of time so resilience and patience are key
- Average 1BR apt. in SF currently list at $3096 as of April 2016
- Average 1BR apt near USF average $2200-$3500

B. Steps to Take

- Determine your rental budget (which will help you determine your options)
- Assess your values, priorities & flexibility
- Research neighborhoods
- Network with everyone you know and even those you don’t
- Remember to breathe and relax in the process
- Get your finances & renters data together!
- Organize your financial information & postings! (If in need of a co signer designate one now)!
- Narrow down housing options
- Create a bio post and send out to prospective people

C. Getting Financial Information in Order

- Gather all financial info together
- Create a US bank account (if don’t already have one)
- Collect pay stub, scholarship info, bank statement; the purpose is to show you have the financial resources to pay your rent
- Designate a co signer if needed
- Budget—whether on paper or digital based creating a budget to determine how much you can realistically pay for rent. Your rent range will help to determine your options for housing
RESOURCES:

SCHOOL NETWORK GROUPS

**Offcampushousing.usfca.edu—search site**

USF Off Campus Housing- go to your myUSF page- type in off campus—
RESOURCE GUIDE available see link below or visit website:
http://usfcaoffcampus.flipsnackedu.com/browse/fuk5gifn
Also check out: SF STATE HOUSING (housing page)

USF FACEBOOK GROUPS: Sub categories

Housing, Off campus, class of 2017, class of 2018, class of 2019, graduate
Interest groups that you are interested in or are a member of

CITY WIDE FACEBOOK GROUPS: Sub categories

Affordable Housing for OK people
SF Area Rentals and Sublets
SF Roommate Exchange
Friends Looking for SF Housing
Any Interest Groups (you’re interested in)

ROOMMATE FINDERS

Room8.com
Roommates.com
Easyroommate.com

WEBSITES

ApartmentRatings.com
Apartments.com
Campuscribz.com
Craigslist San Francisco
Lovely.com
The HomeShare --- luxury apartments split to accommodate student’s budget
MyApartmentMap.com
MyCheapApartments.com
MyNewPlace.com
Oodle.com
Padmapper.com
RentalGuide.com
Trinity Management Group
Off-Campus Housing: A Student Experience
Nkeiruka Medani, graduating senior, USF class of 2017

I lived in Lone Mountain my sophomore year. Early spring semester of that year, the USF housing application opened and I felt hesitant but hopeful. I knew that as an incoming junior, I had a low chance of securing on-campus housing due to the small amount of spaces and the lottery system. At the same time, I tried to be optimistic that I would get on-campus housing because this would lessen the financial burden for my parents and myself and I would not have to worry about finding an apartment in the city.

Long story short, I was not given on-campus housing and a wave of panic took over me. I wondered where I would live, who I would live with, how much would it cost, how will I eat, the list goes on. I decided to be proactive and meet with the former off-campus housing director. He was so nice and helpful. He taught me highest and lowest cost for housing by area in San Francisco, what a renter’s packet is, how to check my credit score, and many other things. I walked in scared and unaware, and I walked out equipped with resources to tackle the beast that is off-campus housing.

A week after my meeting, I went on several SF housing websites and applied to as many as I could. I had three other friends who I planned to live with for junior year. We narrowed it down to seven apartments that we had applied to and went to those open houses. I found that open houses are a bit intense because several people are also fighting for that same spot.

Another hard part about it was that the other interested people were a lot older than us and probably would appear to the landlord as a “more stable tenant”. Another long story short, we were denied from all seven of the open houses. Also, my three other friends had a change of budget for housing so continuing the housing search together would not be feasible. It was already May and my sophomore year was going to end in three weeks. The biggest thought running through my head at that point was, “WILL I BE A HOMELESS STUDENT??”

Back to being panicked, I talked to everyone I knew to figure out if they could help me with my lack of housing. Someone told me about the USF Housing page on Facebook. I checked it out and saw that students who have a vacancy in their apartment post on the page in hopes that another student will fill the spot. I read through many posts and I found the perfect post that was well within my budget.

I messaged the girl who made the post, and she told me that since over
0 people were interested that I would have to interview with the girls in the house. I brought my renter’s packet and lots of optimism, and the interview ended up being very relaxed. I got a text from the girls in the house extending me the spot to live with them! I was so relieved and excited for many reasons. Ultimately, I am proud of myself that I didn’t give up!

5 things I learned about Off-Campus Housing:

1. Don’t panic! Panicking doesn’t make the situation better; it causes more stress and anxiety for you which is never good.

2. Ask for help! No one expects you to know how this works. Guidance from friends, family, and school resources, Off-Campus Student Services, will get you where you need to go.

3. Do independent research! You cannot expect things to fall in your lap; you have to go out and grab it. Searching for things independently shows maturity and self-sufficiency.

4. Don’t be afraid to fail! I was denied seven times and I got back up again! Failing a few times is how I found where I am living now, so it was all worth it.

5. Welcome new experiences! Whether you wanted to live off-campus or if you had no choice, it is a new experience that you should immerse yourself in wholeheartedly.