

## Off-Campus Housing

The Office of International Student Services strongly recommends on-campus housing for first year international students not only for the convenience but for the strong community environment as well. Students who wish to consider off-campus housing for the future, must be aware that they will need to buy a car, which can be quite costly (see “Local Shopping, Dining, & Transportation”). In addition, very few apartments come furnished and those furnished are far more expensive, so students living off-campus may need to buy or rent furniture. Renting furniture can be expensive. Sometimes you can buy used furniture at a low cost at yard sales or through classified advertisements in the newspaper. Various items are also available to the Regent community through an online forum called TheBranch, located through a tab on the My Regent web page. (Students can sign in to the My Regent web page using your MyRegent ID name and password). Most apartments provide a fully equipped kitchen (stove, refrigerator, dishwasher), but not cooking utensils and dishes.

The Hampton Roads area offers a wide spectrum of housing options in the nearby cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. Living options can range from sharing an apartment in an upscale residence with a swimming pool and a tennis court to renting a dorm-like room off-campus. Rent ranges from \$400 per month for a room or shared apartment, or much more if a high-end or single residence is sought. Most landlords require a security/damage deposit (usually one month’s rent) and a signed lease. A lease is a legally binding contract and must be read very carefully before signing. Once you sign a lease, you will be responsible for paying the rent for the entire period of the lease. Most leases are for one year, but some can be signed for a six-month period. If you share an apartment with a friend, both of you will be required to sign the lease. Students choosing to live off-campus must be prepared to pay for utilities (gas/electricity, phone, water, internet etc.), which can run as high as \$300 a month. Students who plan to live off-campus should also be prepared to pay an advanced security deposit for telephone, cable, internet, and electricity services (up to \$400-500 per service).

Regent’s housing office provides an off-campus referral service that includes listings of individual rooms, apartments, townhouses and houses for rent. To view these listings, go to <http://www.regent.edu/campus/housing/> and search under Off-Campus Housing. For private-owner listings, choose Off-Campus Login under Off-Campus Housing (MyRegent ID and password are required).