

This is a brief guide to point you towards resources and considerations when finding housing. We strongly encourage you to do your own vetting of housing options and not to forward money to organizations. IIP can provide general advising on housing, though we are not experts in every location and you are responsible for securing your own housing.

Housing search strategies/resources

Internship contacts including your internship contacts (supervisor, HR person, coordinator, etc) and other interns. Also consider [UW-Madison alumni chapters](#) in your city.

Local universities or **government agencies** may rent out dorm rooms. These are often the cheapest option and furnished. You may need proof of enrollment at UW-Madison to live in these dorms.

Private dormitories offer furnished dorm rooms, often designed for international students. You may need proof of enrollment at UW-Madison to qualify for these dorms.

Long-stay hotels or **hostels** have furnished rooms that can be rented for several weeks or months. These often include a kitchenette and other living amenities.

Local housing listing sources list furnished or unfurnished housing options that you rent directly from a landlord. These may be cheaper but require more extensive research on your part.

Vetting questions

Commute: How will I get to and from my internship site? What are transportation options at night or on the weekend? Is there a metro stop/bus station/bike path nearby?

Safety: Does the room have a lock? Is there a spot in the room to lock valuables? Does the apartment have an emergency exit? Are there security features (ex: a doorman, cameras)? Do I have cell phone reception in the apartment?

Neighborhood: Is the neighborhood safe? Do I feel comfortable in this neighborhood? Is there sufficient lighting at night? Are there local resources (ex: grocery stores, ATMs)?

Your supervisor or local agencies (ex: tourism board) can give you more insight into safe neighborhoods.

Roommates: Are there roommates? What are house rules?

Lease: What are the dates on the lease? What is listed in the lease and how might it be different from a lease in Madison? Is WiFi included and, if not, how will I access internet? What is the move-in and move-out process? Is there a security deposit? Which documents do I need to sign a lease? What are termination options if I need to relocate?

Expenses/payment: Which expenses do I pay? How do I pay rent/utilities/other expenses?

Apartment: Is the apartment furnished (if so, what's included)? Is laundry available on or off-site? Does the apartment have air conditioning and/or heating? Is anything broken or is there damage?

Take photos when you move in and notify the landlord so you're not held liable for any existing damages.

Viewing: Can I or an on-site contact tour the apartment before committing to a lease? Are photos of the apartment available? If the housing listing source site has a review/reference function are there 10+ positive reviews / references? *Always view housing during the day, bring a charged cell phone with the local emergency number and, if possible, a friend or colleague.*