



LIVING OFF CAMPUS GUIDE



LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT? CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

START LOOKING

Start looking for housing as early as possible, ideally in early spring, because it may be very difficult to find an apartment in August when all students are looking for accommodation! Long-term rent normally means 6-12 months and a contract must be signed at all times.

PROXIMITY TO CAMPUS

Can you get to classes, the library and other campus locations quickly and easily when you need to? Is public transportation readily available?

SAFETY OF THE LOCATION

Although Klaipėda is considered safe, there are certain areas where more criminal activities happen. Find out the crime statistics for the region here: www.ird.lt/nvzrgis/map.

CONVENIENCE

What's the proximity to the nearest grocery store? What about the nearest coffee shop? Consider what you'd like to be nearby and then map out if the places are located within the area.

REASONABLE RENT RATES

Research what typical rent rates within the area are. You can research this by asking around locally, researching online or rent comparison websites or by asking local fellow students.

SEARCH ENGINES

Use popular search engines: www.skelbiu.lt, www.rinka.lt, www.alio.lt; www.aruodas.lt; www.domoplius.lt. Never pay rent or deposit fee before visiting actual apartment.

Approximate rental prices in EUR (does not include utilities):

	Southern Part	City Center	Northern Part
1 bedroom	150-200	300-400	250-350
2 bedroom	200-350	400-800	350-400



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What is included in the rental fee?
- Who will do maintenance if needed (broken toilet or kitchen equipment, etc.)
- What utilities do you have to pay?
- What's the typical monthly cost of each of the utilities? Ask to show a few bills for the previous months and especially heating bill from January.
- How much is the deposit? Usually landlords ask to pay a 2month worth security deposit.
- What are your parking options?



WHEN DOING A WALK THROUGH THE APARTMENT:

- Is there a good amount of natural light?
- Make sure the amenities match what is advertised in the listing, and ask questions regarding missing ones.
- Do locks work properly?
- Are windows old or new? Old windows may increase your heating bills.
- Do toilet and shower function properly?

- Check the location and number of outlets, noting both. Also, check to see if the outlets work!
- Walls for marks, holes, scratches, patches, etc. Keep note if the walls are well taken care of because it reflects on the landlord.
- Entryway and staircase. Are they well-maintained? This may give you a good idea of what the landlord and/or neighbors are like.
- What are your initial impressions of the landlord? Does he or she seem trustworthy?



SHARING AN APARTMENT WITH A ROOMMATE?

There are some basic considerations to make before choosing a roommate, close friends included:

- Do they have a reliable source of income, and will they be able to afford the monthly rent and utilities?
- How does this affect your rental budget?
- Can you trust them to be around your personal belongings?
- Who will sign the rental agreement? If you, will they abide by the terms of the contract?
- Are your lifestyle choices similar?
- How do you plan to split up home responsibilities?
- Who will they invite over as guests?



AFTER YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE APARTMENT

Review the agreement. Always read the entire document in the language you understand. You may very well discover restrictions and procedures counter to your assumptions of how the terms of a lease agreement work. Most landlords will provide lease agreements with a high level of detail in order to protect both parties. Make sure you clarify in writing:

- What are the penalties if you are forced to move out before the end of term?
- What charges are you liable for?
- If you decide to move away during summer break, are you allowed to sublet your room for 4 months?
- Are you allowed to add roommates to your lease?
- What is the refund policy for security deposits?
- Under what conditions can you be evicted and what is the legal process?
- Under what conditions can you legally break your lease without incurring penalties?
- Check landlord's ID and make sure it matches the personal details indicated in the contract.

Although LCC does not have any partner agreements with landlords and does not provide assistance in finding off campus housing, we will gladly answer your questions. Feel free to email studentlife@lcc.lt or visit Student Life Office Assistant in **DeFehr centras, office #22**.