

A New Student's Guide To Off Campus Living At Binghamton University

"How Many BU Students Live Off Campus?"

- Approximately 7,000 of the 12,000 students enrolled at BU live off campus. This figure includes about half of the undergraduate population.

"Where Do I Begin To Look For Off Campus Housing?"

- **OCC Housing List** – A list of available apartments or houses grouped by number of bedrooms and landlord. Contains information such as rental price, security deposit, what utilities (if any) are included, date available, what appliances (if any) are included, furnished or unfurnished and whether or not pets are allowed. This can be picked up in the OCC Office (UUW-204) for 50 cents per copy or found at <http://occ.binghamton.edu>. This listing is updated weekly. Approximately 1700 rental units are included on the OCC Housing List database. Over 400 landlords advertise on this listing. A listing of Apartment Complexes is included with the Housing List and can also be found on our webpage.
- **Press & Sun Bulletin Classifieds** - The local newspaper can be found at <http://www.pressconnects.com>

"Where Do I Stay While Visiting Binghamton To Search For Off Campus Housing?"

- The Binghamton area offers a variety of hotels and motels to meet your needs. For information, visit: <http://www.binghamton.edu/home/admissions/hotels.html>

"Where Do Off Campus Students Live?"

- The majority of our off campus population lives on Binghamton's Westside. Several students live in Johnson City and Vestal, which are about a 10-min. drive from campus. Students living in Endicott and Endwell are about 15-20 min. away, but should have a car.

"How Can I Find Someone To Live With?"

- **OCC Housemate/Subletter List** – A list of current BU students who are renting a place and are looking for someone to fill a vacancy for a designated period of time. This can be picked up at the OCC Office or view on our webpage at <http://occ.binghamton.edu/>
- **OCC Bulletin Boards** – Outside the OCC Office (UUW-204) there are bulletin boards filled with posters of students looking for housemates or subletters and landlords looking for people to rent their places.

"Do I Need A Car To Live Off Campus?"

- Having a car will be convenient, but the two local bus systems, OCC Transport (student-run service) and BC Transit (county-wide service) offered you an opportunity to live off campus without a car. All BU students pay a mandatory "Transportation Fee" at the beginning of each semester. This entitles you to unlimited rides on **both** bus systems.

"How Can I Find Out Info About Local Landlords?"

- **OCC Meeting "Student Opinions of Landlords"** – The governing body of the undergraduate off campus students maintains binders that are filled with opinions. Due to the nature of the contents, these may only be viewed in the OCC Office.

"What Should I Take Into Consideration When Looking For An Apartment?"

- **Location** should be one of the most important items on your list when examining apartments, especially if you do not have a car. You would want to know how close it is to school, work, the busline, supermarket, bank, laundry, etc. If you have a car, you will want to know where you can park, whether it is on the street or somewhere else.
- **Condition of the Apartment** Be sure to examine the apartment thoroughly before you sign anything. Do not be afraid to test things while you are looking at the apartment (e.g. flush the toilet). Bring along the OCC Apartment Search Checklist!
- **The Lease:** Make sure you read the lease carefully before signing. OCC has staff members that will examine your lease and make sure that is fair. It is important that you bring the lease unsigned to us, so we can suggest changes if necessary. Once a lease is signed, there is nothing you can do to change it. Do not sign a lease if you are unsure about living at that address. Once you sign, you are legally bound to follow all rules stated in the lease, including paying the entire amount of rent.
- **"Will It Suit My Needs?"** Items such as whether or not the apartment is furnished or unfurnished, which (if any) utilities are included in the rent, length of lease, whether or not pets are allowed (even if it says no, it never hurts to ask), or other various that are necessary to your living environment.