Life in the U.S. – Finding Housing

On-Campus Housing:

American Campus Communities
- Waitlist Applications for Vista Del Campo, Vista Del Campo Norte, Camino Del Sol, and Puerta Del Sol Apartments are all currently available. Don’t fret! Some of these communities still have availability!

Campus Village and Arroyo Vista
- Applications for these communities will be available in April. Check the Housing Website in March for an exact time.
- Campus Village has a year round contract while Arroyo Vista has a 9-month contract.

Needed Vocabulary:
- Security Deposit: Ranges from usually $150-$200 or more and is paid with turning in your lease. If there are no damages in your apartment when you move out, you get the full deposit back. If there are damages, the leasing office will use the security deposit to pay for maintenance. Any leftover money will be refunded.
- Reservation Fee: A down-payment on a contract paid to complete your contract. This is not given back at the end of your contract.
- Guarantor: Someone who upon signing legally promises to assume your debt if you can’t pay rent. All American Campus Communities (VDC, VDCN, CDS, PDS) require a guarantor. If you are under the age of 18 and living on campus in Campus Village, Arroyo Vista, Middle Earth, or Mesa Court, Student Housing requires a guarantor.
- Waitlist: When placed onto a wait-list, this means a lease/contract is NOT guaranteed. After applying, you will unfortunately have to wait for a response from the appropriate office if they have any availability. This time-frame could be anywhere from the next day to months from now.

Perks of On-Campus Housing:
Utilities included
Independently responsible for contract/ lease
Not responsible for finding a roommate
Generally already furnished

Moving Off-Campus:

Don’t know where to start? Try the Anteater Housing Network!
[http://offcampus.housing.uci.edu/](http://offcampus.housing.uci.edu/)
Needed Vocabulary:

- Tenant: Typically the leaseholder, the individual(s) who live in the apartment in question.
- Landlord/ Leasing Agent: The individual responsible for processing the lease/ contract and setting you up with the apartment.
- Subleasing/ Subletting: This is when the lease holder in turn leases it to another tenant. Landlord -> leases to you -> you lease to another individual.
  - Subleasing tends to take place if the tenant will not reside in the apartment for a month or longer so someone else would be financially responsible. Communities have different rules regarding if subletting is allowed or not – be sure to ask the community for rules regarding subletting if you plan on doing this.

More About Subleasing
If you do not have any friends that you want to live with, an alternative (as opposed to getting a lease by yourself) is to look on housing websites for people who need roommates! You can easily find an apartment that is already furnished that you can rent. In this case, you would be the subleaser. You may not even need to bring in a desk or bed if you are just taking the place of the old roommate for a specific duration of time before he/she returns (either from studying abroad or the summer).

If you are the one who will be absent during the summer or the school year, you can also post listings to have people sublease in your place so that you will not have to pay rent during the months that you are gone. Do be aware though, that some places don’t let you sublease to other people.

Utilities
Gas, Water, Electricity
- Electric: Southern California Edison
- Gas: The Gas Company
- Water: Irvine Ranch Water District
  - Typically these bills (the bills are SEPARATE for utilities) get billed to one person and then everyone else in the apartment pays them back.
  - You should receive more specific information about the different billing services you have to sign up for once you sign your lease and move into your new apartment (the apartment should provide a more specific packet of information for you).

Internet, Cable, Telephone: Cox Communications
- Register online
- Also gets billed to one person
- You will be sent instructions on how to get internet - you will need a modem and wifi router! (And some cables to connect plug into the wall in order to connect to the internet)

University Town Center Collection (UTC): Colombia, Harvard, Dartmouth, Cornell, Stanford, Berkeley, Ambrose

http://www.rental-living.com/UCI-Living/

Getting a lease
- Go sign up on the waitlist at the leasing office in Dartmouth Court - you will need to turn in a fee for completing the waitlist application
- Length of lease: 1 year
Laundry

- To access: you need what we call a FOB key. You receive this "key" (looks like an oval-shaped gray piece) when you sign the lease and get your apartment key.
- Laundry rooms close at 10PM so it is advised that you finish your laundry beforehand - washing is 38 minutes, drying is 45 minutes.
- You must buy a laundry card (normally in the laundry room) - costs $5
- To fill your laundry card, use a card (credit or debit is fine) and insert the amount that you would like to add in - follow the on-screen instructions

Parking

- You will receive one port spot (a garage spot) and a parking pass
- If you have more than two cars, it is advised that you begin a rotation for who has the port, who has the parking pass, and who has to find guest parking (all along Stanford street).
- If you park in a resident spot without a parking pass, you risk getting towed.
- You need to register each car with your apartment in the leasing office

Rent

- You can either have one person pay rent each month (and everyone else pays that person their portion) OR you can pay your own portion online (it'll be divided up for you)
- IMPORTANT NOTE: In this case, paying rent does NOT include paying for your internet and utilities. Those are separate bills! So you need to be mindful of which ones you have paid and which ones you need to pay.

Park West

http://www.rental-living.com/Communities/Park-West/
- Transportation: Anteater Express has a bus that goes from Park West to campus if you need a mode of transportation to get to UCI. This service DOES have a fee/fee though. Personally, I think the deal is pretty good if you buy a pass - saves lots of money!

Toscana


Turtle Rock (Apartments & Homes for Rent)

http://www.rental-living.com/Communities/Turtle-Rock-Vista/

Villa Siena (A Popular Choice for International Students)

http://www.rental-living.com/Communities/Villa-Siena/

Unfurnished Option

- Length of Lease: 3-12 months. The shorter the lease is, the more expensive the rent.
- Utilities not included
- Guarantors not accepted

- Studio: $1,830 - $1,905
- 1 Bedroom: $1,760-$2,225, security deposit $600
- 2 Bedroom: $2,105-$2,540, security deposit $700
- 3 Bedroom: $3,075 - $3,225, security deposit $800

Furnished Option

- Minimum of 31 days stay with 30 advance day notice. Utilities and internet already included.
Dealing with Pesky Neighbors
What if you have neighbors that are loud? Neighbors that are always partying or too loud, especially late at night?

General guideline: call the police (911) once the party starts (especially if your neighbors have had parties in the past that have lasted until early hours of the morning and you know this for a fact) because the police normally do not come immediately - it takes them time to come, so it’s better to call earlier so you don’t have to wait as long.

Furniture

Buying furniture: As college students, you probably don’t want to spend THAT much money on furniture because you’ll only be using it for a few years. Instead, you probably want to be as thrifty as possible while still being able to snag the best deals.
  - IKEA - a variety of new furniture for reasonable prices
  - Craigslist - you might be able to get good deals
    - There is also a “free” section - be sure to check that out.
    - Disclaimer: BE CAREFUL when browsing sites like Craigslist because you don’t want to be cheated of your money; tread carefully, but don’t be afraid to look!
  - Ask your friends who are graduating! Sometimes they are willing to sell their furniture to you or even give it away for free!

Getting rid of furniture when you move out:
  - Sell it on Craigslist
  - Sell it on UCI websites made specifically for selling your items
  - Give it away for free!