

RENTING TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The role of the Office of International Affairs

- ◆ Provide apartment/housing rental information and resources to international undergraduate or ESL students, and visiting international scholars.
- ◆ Provide information on tenant rights and responsibilities. (http://www.longwood.edu/assets/studyabroad/Off_campus_living_information_for_International_Students.pdf)
- ◆ Review handbook at new international student orientation and discuss expectations of tenants and consequences of negative behavior.
- ◆ Serve as a resource for students and landlords.
- ◆ Maintain communication with Commuter Student Life staff
- ◆ Report delinquent tenants to scholarship sponsors, parents, etc.

The role of the Landlord

- ◆ Follow the Housing laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- ◆ Create a fee structure that is non-discriminatory yet reflective of the reality of international tenants (require additional deposit or fee for cleaning, security; state allow allows for up to 2 months rent).
- ◆ Align expectations and consequences with those of all tenants.
- ◆ Clearly explain all aspects of the rental agreement, including utilities, cable, water, appliances. Share information on the steps to take in case of emergencies with appliances, utilities, thermostat, etc.
- ◆ Contact the office of international affairs for help with communication. Understand that the OIA is not any more liable for problems or damages than Longwood is for domestic students.
- ◆ Be prepared to report negligent tenants to the Longwood Judicial board.

Tips for Landlords

- ◆ Create a separate rental/lease agreement for internationals. Most internationals will not have a social security number. You can ask for the passport number instead.
- ◆ Understand that a co-signer will not be available in most cases. International affairs staff at Longwood cannot serve as co-signer. Research options on the Internet. Places like Charlottesville, Blacksburg, Harrisonburg, Fredericksburg, have a greater number of international students and scholars renting in the community. Consider contacting resources in those communities.
- ◆ Provide detailed instructions on cleaning expectations. Provide information on cleaning services that you use or recommend. Be specific with your expectations for cleaning/state of the house/apartment at the end of the lease.