

HOW TO SEARCH FOR AN ACCOMMODATION

Finding a place to live can take time. Be prepared for it to take up to three weeks or more. Remember that you may not be allowed to move in until the first day of the month.

Bring this sheet with you! Our checklist will help you remember what to look for.

1. Search local listings by following the links provided on page 2 of this guide. Check back for updates daily.
2. Use a **Thunder Bay Transit Map** to mark where the apartments are located. This will help you see how close they are to school and bus routes.
3. Contact the landlord to set up a viewing. Bring a friend who will not be living with you when you go to look at the apartment. They will be able to help you look at the place objectively.
4. Make sure you choose a place where you will be happy, healthy, successful and safe. Remember the staff at the International Education Centre are happy to provide guidance if you have questions

PRICING

Single Bedroom Rental \$500 - \$650

1 Bedroom Apartment \$1000 - \$1100

2 Bedroom Apartment \$1300 - \$1600



NEIGHBOURHOODS TO CONSIDER

Academy/Ravenwood/Lakehead University:

These are largely student neighborhoods and are right on bus routes that come to the college.

Northwood/College Park/Green Acres:

This neighborhood is very close to the college.

Bay/Algoma:

This is the cultural center of the north side of town. It has many rental properties.

Intercity Mall:

Rentals close to Intercity Mall are likely in a safe neighborhood.

PLACES TO AVOID

Simpson St/Downtown Fort William:

Accommodation is extremely cheap in this neighborhood but it is not an area recommended for students.

This area is prone to flooding. If looking here, check very carefully for water damage.

PLACES FAR FROM THE COLLEGE

These places are generally safe, but will have longer commutes to the college via public transit:

Westfort (close to ACE)

Shuniah/Current River

County Park/Jumbo Gardens

Needing (close to ACE, but limited bus routes)

Consider the following:



Location

How far from the college are you? Make sure you are close to bus routes that take you to the college ([Thunder Bay Transit information](#)).



Utilities

Are utilities included in the monthly rent? If not, ask the landlord how much you can expect to pay per month for utilities (i.e. hydro, water, gas, etc.).



Furnishing

Consider the cost involved with furnishing an apartment versus the cost of renting an already furnished place. If it is unfurnished, you can often find inexpensive or free furniture on [Kijiji.ca](#), or at [Value Village](#) and [Salvation Army](#).



Lease

If you have to sign a lease, read it very carefully and make sure you are not agreeing to anything unreasonable. Always keep a copy for your records.



Personal Identification

Do not share copies of your SIN number or passport with your landlord.



Infrastructure

Is the house or apartment in good shape? Make sure you inspect the property before moving in. Check for signs of mould, water damage or poor quality repairs. Make sure this is a place you want to live.



First and Last

Once you find a place, your landlord often requires you to pay the first month's and the last month's rent at the same time. Be ready to have this amount of money.



Internet and Cable TV

Rentals normally do not include cable and internet services. This is an extra expense you have to pay for. You will have to call a provider yourself to set up these services. See [Shaw](#) or [Tbaytel](#) for details.



Moving out

Be aware that, by law, at least 60 days written notice must be given before moving out. This may be different if a lease is signed. Talk to your landlord about what they require.



- [rentpanda.ca](#)
- [homesweethomerentals.ca](#)
- [offcampus.lakeheadu.ca](#)
- Facebook Marketplace
- [rentals.ca](#)
- [kijiji.ca](#)
- [rentfaster.ca](#)

WHERE TO STAY WHEN YOU ARRIVE !?

List of hotel & motels in Thunder Bay

(You can compare the prices by yourself)

Econo Lodge

1 (807) 344-6688

Kingsway Motel

1 (807) 623-1223

Super 8 by Wyndham

1 (807) 344-2612

Travelodge by Wyndham

1 (807) 788-0993

The Haven Hostel

1 (807) 285-1142

Days Inn & Suites

1 (807) 622-3297

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

1 (807) 346-0220



GOOD HABITS

FOR A SUCCESSFUL RENTAL EXPERIENCE

- **Final Viewing**

Take a good look at the place before finalizing the lease, and take photos of each room before and after your stay. Ensure you leave the unit in the same condition that you found it.

- **Monthly Rent**

Always pay rent in full and on time to avoid being at risk of eviction.

- **Payments**

Never pay the landlord in cash. Use a form of payment that is traceable such as an electronic funds transfer or cheque/bank draft. Always request a receipt.

- **Tenants**

All occupants of the property must be identified to the landlord prior to moving in. Ensure your landlord always knows who and how many people are living at the property.

- **Maintenance**

Inform your landlord of maintenance issues right away, so they can be fixed. You must still pay rent, even if something is waiting to be fixed.

- **Communication**

Document all communication between you and your landlord by making notes or communicating with them electronically.

- **Damages**

If you damage something in your unit, inform your landlord immediately and be prepared to pay for repairs.

Canadian Etiquette

- **Washrooms**

In Canadian washrooms, water stays in the sink or bathtub/ shower, and should never be on the floor.

- **Temperature**

Although the winter months in Canada can get cold, the temperature in your home should not be set higher than 22° Celsius, as the energy bills can become very expensive. Canadians typically wear layers of clothing to keep warm during these months.



Note: If the rent is cheap, check the location - it may not be safe for students. If in doubt, ask us at the IEC.