

www.cambridgehealth.edu

HOUSING GUIDE

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



CAMBRIDGE
COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE & TECHNOLOGY



Welcome to Cambridge! This guide provides detailed information about your move to the Altamonte Springs area, including international-friendly apartments, setting up utilities, finding a roommate, and more. We know that international students have unique challenges when it comes to moving resources, so this guide should hopefully address many of your questions and concerns.

ROOMMATES

Cambridge does not have on-campus housing, but is located close to many area apartment complexes. You have the option of living alone, or you can find a roommate. If you want a roommate, Cambridge can provide you with a list – and you can be added to this list by contacting us directly.

AMENITIES

Apartments often include amenities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, laundry facilities, exercise facilities, and barbecue areas. The amenities for each complex are listed by their specific owners/managers.

APPLICATIONS

You will be required to sign a lease in order to move into your apartment. The term of this contract is normally 12 months in length, although shorter or longer leases may be available. Because you are legally and financially obligated to your apartment for the length of the lease, you will want to be sure that you pick your apartment and roommates very carefully. Ending your lease early can be very expensive, due to fees and loss of deposits, and should be avoided whenever possible.

IMPORTANT INFO

The material enclosed in this guide is provided by Cambridge for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation or endorsement of any particular facility, management, staff or service. Any prices are subject to change at the discretion of apartment owner/managers. All terms and conditions of rentals are subject to change. Projected costs of utilities are approximations and should not be construed as guaranteed monthly amounts when calculating monthly expenses as individual use will vary.



CHOOSING AN APARTMENT

APARTMENT QUALIFICATIONS AND FEES

You will need to qualify for your apartment. The apartment complex will ask you to provide a copy of your passport, your I-20, your visa and bank letter demonstrating adequate savings or income.

You will also be expected to pay for your application fees and a security deposit at the time you apply for your apartment. Deposits for international students are normally equal to one or two month's rent. This is because apartment complexes are unable to perform credit and background checks on international students who do not have a Social Security number.

UTILITIES AND FURNITURE

In most cases, utilities and furniture are not included in the cost of your rent. You will need to add electricity, water/sewer and Internet services for your apartment, and may choose to add television and landline telephone service.

If these utilities are not already included in the cost of your rent, you have the option of setting up your utilities on your own with each individual utility company. Many utility companies expect customers to pay a deposit to set up services, based on a credit check. Since most international students do not have a U.S. Social Security number, international students are often required to provide higher security deposits. You may contact the utility company directly to obtain this information.

The apartments near Cambridge usually include a refrigerator, a stove/oven, and a dishwasher, and some may include a washer and dryer. Most do not include furniture. You have the option of either renting or purchasing furniture for your apartment – we normally recommend area stores such as Walmart, IKEA, and Target to provide affordable options if you want to purchase your own.

RENTERS INSURANCE

Many apartment complexes require their tenants to carry a certain amount of renters insurance coverage. This will not only protect your belongings from theft, but also from natural disasters such as flood or fire. Remember, the apartment complex is not liable for your personal belongings under any circumstances.



CHOOSING AN APARTMENT

MOVING IN

Prior to moving in, you should be prepared to show your identification, sign the lease, pay any necessary fees, and pay the first month's rent (which may be prorated for the balance of the month). Depending on your move-in date, the second month's rent may be required as well.

You will also sit with a leasing agent to review and sign your lease. This process takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes.

APARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each apartment complex has published rules and regulations. You may be evicted if you do not make your rent payment or fail to comply with the rules and regulations stated in your lease paperwork. An eviction from any property will prevent you from renting at another apartment complex later on.

If for any reason you feel you may need to terminate your lease, please contact the leasing office at your apartment. Prior to moving out, you must give at least 30 to 60 days written notice to your apartment manager that you plan to vacate the apartment. It will be your responsibility to return the keys to their office before you leave.

We strongly suggest that you request a walk-through of your apartment with a representative of the property to ensure that all is in order. This will help to determine if anything needs to be fixed in order for you to receive all or a portion of your security deposit back. You may also need to make arrangements to disconnect your various utilities and provide the companies with a forwarding address.



ROOMMATES

You always have the option of living alone; however, if you are interested in finding a roommate, Cambridge will be happy to assist you. Your I-20 must be issued before you can receive the roommate list. As soon as you receive it, please submit answers to the questions on the following page and submit to Cambridge to receive a copy of the roommate list.





SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL ROOMMATES

Since you will choose your own roommate, it is important for you to ask a lot of questions to anyone you are considering as a potential roommate. Discuss anything you can think of that might compromise a friendly living relationship.

Whenever possible, we suggest that you try to make initial contact with a potential roommate by phone and then follow up with them and interview them thoroughly.

If you are considering moving in with a student who has already started classes, you should keep the following in mind that you will need to be added to the lease. Apartment complexes require that everyone who lives in the apartment be on the lease. Also, moving in with a current student means that your roommate is likely to graduate before you. This means that at some point during your studies, you will likely need to find a new roommate and possibly a new apartment.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ROOMMATE PROFILE

Send this information to Cambridge via email at info@cambridgehealth.edu

Name:

Email:

Skype username:

Age:

Phone number:

Gender:

Country of origin:

Have you already secured an apartment?

Degree program of study:

How often do you study?

Do you have a car available?

Are you ok with pets?

Do you smoke, or drink alcohol?

If you are a smoker, would you be willing to smoke outside?

If you are not a smoker, are you willing to live with a smoker?

What's your preference for TV/music volume?

How neat and clean do you like to keep your surroundings?

If you consider yourself messy, are you willing to keep the common areas clean?

Do you consider yourself a partier?

How often do you entertain friends at home?

How often do you go out for fun?

List any hobbies/habits you have, sports/instruments you play, musical tastes, or any other unique information about yourself:

Additional comments:



HOUSING CHECKLIST

- Read this handbook and contact Cambridge to discuss potential apartment complex options – as well as any other questions related to your transition.
- Complete and email the roommate profile information.
- Discuss your living needs with Cambridge.
- Contact your apartment complex to complete the application process. They will tell you what documentation they require and help you determine your move-in date. All of your deposits and paperwork will be submitted directly to the apartment complex; your apartment is not reserved until you have submitted your application and necessary fees.
- Contact Cambridge to discuss your plans to arrive in Altamonte Springs, including how you will get from the airport to your hotel or apartment.
- Update Cambridge with your finalized travel plans to arrive in Altamonte Springs.
- The week before you arrive, contact your apartment complex to verify that everything is in order for you to move in. If you do not have housing arrangements in place before you arrive, you will need to make arrangements to stay in a hotel.
- Make arrangements for utilities and furniture for your apartment unless they are already included in the cost of your rent.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE LIVING EXPENSE?

Your cost of living can vary greatly based on your specific needs and options. Please contact Cambridge to get a basic idea of area living expenses.

DOES I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY I-20 TO START LOOKING FOR HOUSING?

No – you should start your housing process as soon as possible. However, a student's I-20 needs to be sent before you can be added to the roommate list.

DOES A STUDENT NEED TO HAVE A VEHICLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL?

No, having a car is not necessary in order to attend school. Any student who does not have a vehicle should live within 1.5 miles of campus so that they can walk or bike to school.

WHERE SHOULD I STAY IF MY MOVE IN DATE IS AFTER MY ARRIVAL?

If your apartment has not been secured by the time of your arrival, you will need to find a temporary option. Cambridge will be able to provide a listing of hotel recommendations.

HOW DO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SET UP THEIR UTILITIES?

PaySmartUSA offers an option of bundling utilities such as electric, Internet service, water and additional services into one monthly bill. For additional info, call 888.381.8020 or go to www.PaySmartUSA.com.

DO I NEED TO HAVE MY HOUSING SECURED BEFORE COMING TO REGISTRATION?

While it is not required for a student to secure housing before coming to registration, it is strongly suggested. If you must wait until you come to campus to choose housing, you should arrive a week before registration so that you can take care of all of your housing arrangements before registration.



APARTMENTS CLOSE TO CAMPUS

LOFTS AT UPTOWN ALTAMONTE

The Lofts at Uptown Altamonte, where urban living meets sophistication, amazing views, sleek lines, a dynamic lifestyle, and exceptional is defined. Don't just tell your family and friends it's a "luxury apartment community;" it's more like an urban oasis. When other people try to figure out what there is to do where they live, at our community all you have to do is decide which stop is first!

<http://www.loftsatuptown.com>

EMERSON PLAZA APARTMENTS

Emerson Plaza is the name of Emerson International, Inc.'s two 12-story luxury residential towers at CenterPointe On The Park. Overlooking the scenic beauty of Cranes Roost Park, the luxurious condominiums of Emerson Plaza have been designed to combine a sophisticated urban lifestyle with the natural pleasures of lakeside living.

<http://www.emerson-us.com/orlando-home-builder/8/emerson-plaza>

ALTAMIRA PLACE

The first impression says it all. The pool and spa, all curves and sharp angles. The stucco buildings shimmering with warm light as evening descends. Altamira Place Apartment Homes welcomes you home. Here is a landscape thoughtfully laid out and ornamented with palms that lend color and definition to the open space of the central courtyard.

<http://www.udr.com/orlando-apartments/altamonte-springs/altamira-place-apartment-homes/>

CENTRAL PARK

Central Park, a beautiful apartment community with superb location to I-4, shopping, movies, retail, and more, is ideally situated in Uptown Altamonte Springs, minutes from prestigious Crane's Roost. Central Park offers a unique blend of style and sophistication in luxury apartment living. Our community features an expansive lap pool, 24-hour fitness center, sand volley ball court, Bark Park, and business center, perfect for both work and play.

<http://gables.com/find/apartment/2241-central-park-florida-altamonte-springs-fl>

LOS ALTOS

This is the Orlando area at its best: good schools, fun times, and an easy commute. A short drive from downtown Orlando, you'll love coming home to our beautifully appointed Altamonte Springs apartments. Spacious living rooms and bedrooms let you breathe in the fresh air coming in from your screened-in patio. Or curl up next to your wood-burning fireplace for conversation with good friends.

<http://www.udr.com/orlando-apartments/altamonte-springs/los-altos-at-altamonte-springs>



CAMBRIDGE

COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE & TECHNOLOGY

ORLANDO, FLORIDA CAMPUS
460 E ALTAMONTE DR
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701
(407) 265-8383

