



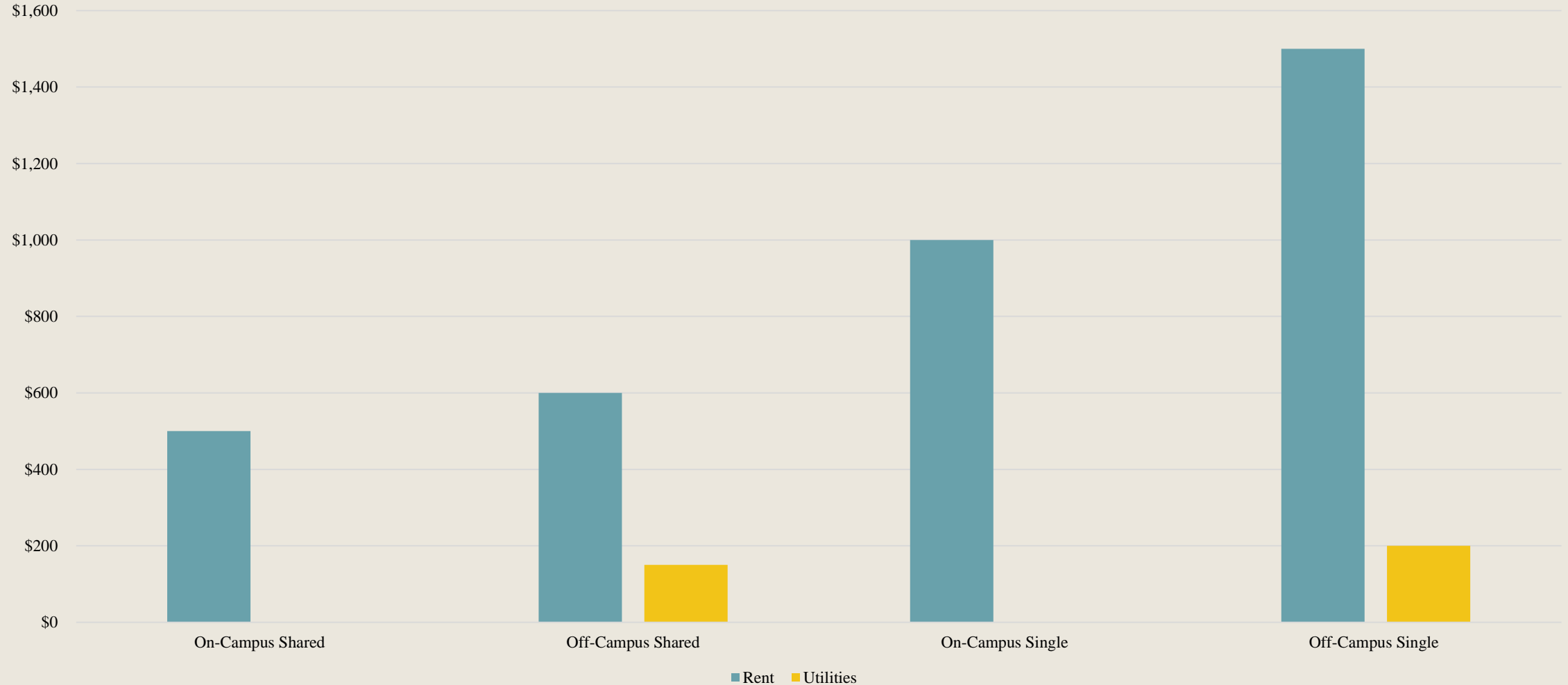
HOUSING COMPARISONS

Student Affairs Department
Virginia International University

	Full Apartment Rental	VIU Apartment Rental	Room Rental/Rental with landlord	Homestay	Hotel/Extended Stay
Price (estimate in USD)	\$1,000 - \$2,000/month; varies depending on # of rooms; cost could be shared with roommates	\$500 - \$550/month/student *Shared rooms \$1000 - \$1200/month/student *Individual Rooms	\$500 - \$800/month	\$700 - \$1,000/month	\$50 - %150/night (+9%tax); cost of stay may be shared with roommate(s); cost varies with length of stay
Privacy & Independence	Moderate-High: You may or may not live with a roommate , but it is a very independent living style.	Moderate: You will live with a roommate , but it is a very independent living style.	Moderate: You may or may not live with a roommate , but it is a very independent living style.	Low: You will probably have your own bedroom , but you will be living with a family.	Moderate-High: You may or may not live with a roommate , but it is a very independent living style.
Advantages & Challenges	Your own private living space; no “family rules” to obey; authentic “American” lifestyle.	Your own private living space; no “family rules” to obey; authentic “American” lifestyle.	Moderately private living space without the added expenses of renting an apartment; may be a room in a family’s house; family or housemates to interact with, but interaction may be limited, there may be some rules to obey.	Opportunity to improve your English or learn more about American culture; you will likely be required to obey some “family rules”; some meals may be included depending on your plan.	All amenities and furnishings are included; no long-term commitment; get to know the area before choosing a long-term housing option.
Hidden Costs (Additional fees and expenses you should consider)	Application fees, security deposit, utilities (electricity, water, gas), internet & tv, furniture, and others (linens, kitchen tools, etc.)	Security Deposit (\$400) *All utilities are included in monthly rent. Others: Linens, Kitchen tools, etc.	Varies: You may be required to pay a security deposit (usually in the amount of a month’s rent), utilities, and other expenses. Ask your landlord!	Application Fees.	None
Contract/Lease Required?	Yes, usually 6 months or a year.	Yes, 2 semesters	Yes, usually 6 months or a year.	No	No
Documents Required	Varies: You may have to provide passport, I-20, proof of financial stability (you may need a co-signer who is a Green Card holder or a US citizen)	None	Varies: May require background check	Varies	Passport; I-20
Distance from VIU	Varies: To stay close to VIU, look in Fairfax or Vienna.	Less than 1 mile	Varies: To stay close to VIU, look in Fairfax or Vienna.	Varies: To stay close to VIU, look in Fairfax or Vienna	Varies: Usually less than 2 miles
Time to make arrangements	Varies: Up to 1 month & need to be in US to make arrangements	1 day & can be reserved via internet (based on availability)	A few days to a week (based on availability)	3 days	Same Day

On-Campus Housing vs. Off-Campus Housing

Housing in Fairfax, Virginia



Living with roommates

- Good way to cut costs on rent
- Have to follow roommate guidelines based on the apartment
- Cannot have extra people living in an apartment or house that the landlord or apartment company does not know about
- Breaking roommate rules will result in termination of a lease, added fees, losing your deposit, and can create challenges when looking for a new place to live.