

# Housing Comparisons

	Full Apartment Rental	VIU Apartment Room Rental	Room Rental/Rental with Landlord	Homestay	Hotel/Extended-Stay
<b>Price</b> (Amount USD you can expect to pay.)	\$1000-2000/month; varies depending on # of rooms; cost of rent may be shared with roommate(s)	\$525/month /Student	\$400-700/month	\$775-1200/month	\$32-119/night (+ 9% tax); cost of stay may be shared with roommate(s); cost varies with length of stay
<b>Privacy/Independence</b>	Moderate-High: <b>You may or may not live with a roommate</b> , but it is a very independent living style.	Moderate: <b>You will live with a roommate</b> , but it is a very independent living style.	Moderate: <b>You may or may not live with a roommate</b> , but it is a very independent living style.	Low: <b>You will probably have your own bedroom</b> , but you will be living with a family.	Moderate-High: <b>You may or may not live with a roommate</b> , but it is a very independent living style.
<b>Advantages, Challenges, and Contrasts</b>	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 "family rules" to obey.	Opportunity to perfect your English or learn more about American culture; you will likely be required to obey some "family rules"; some meals may be included depending upon your plan.	All amenities and furnishings are included; no long-term commitment; get to know the area before choosing a long-term housing option.
<b>Hidden Costs</b> (Additional fees and expenses you should consider!)	Application fees; security deposit; utilities (electricity, water, gas); internet & TV; furniture; others (linens, kitchen tools, etc.)	Security deposit; internet & TV; others (linens, kitchen tools, etc.)	Varies: You may be required to pay for a security deposit, utilities, and other expenses. Ask your landlord!	Application fees.	None
<b>Contract/Lease Required?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Documents Required</b>	Varies: You may have to provide passport, I-20, proof of financial sustainability (you may need a co-signee who is a Green Card holder or a US Citizen).	None	None	Varies	Passport, I-20
<b>Distance from VIU</b> (Note: Public transportation is available!)	Varies	2 miles (3.2km)	Varies: Usually less than 5 miles (8km)	Varies: Usually less than 5 miles (8km)	Varies: Usually less than 2 miles (3.2km)
<b>Approximate Time Required to Arrange</b>	Varies (up to 1 month)	1 day (based on availability)	1-3 days (based on availability)	3 days	Same day