

## Temporary Home Stays & Long-term Housing Assistance

**International Students, Inc. (ISI):** ISI is an independent Christian community service organization that serves international students at college and university campuses in the U.S. ISI is NOT a part of UNM.

ISI Albuquerque offers its services to new international students in the form of airport pick-up, providing temporary home stays and assistance with finding permanent housing.

For more information visit ISI's website <http://www.isiabq.org/> or email them at [ISIABQ@isionline.org](mailto:ISIABQ@isionline.org)

**Please inform the GEO office immediately if you feel any pressure from ISI volunteers to participate in religious activities.**



## Legal questions about housing?



Legal issues may arise while you live in your apartment or house. **Law Access New Mexico** is a non-profit organization that provides free telephone legal assistance for low-income individuals related to many issues including housing.

Law Access New Mexico has housing handouts on their webpage that provide some helpful information. Please see their website for more information: [www.lawhelp.org/Program/3577](http://www.lawhelp.org/Program/3577).

Law Access New Mexico can also be reached by phone at: **1-505-998-4529** or **1-800-340-9771**. They have interpreters available for many languages if you prefer to communicate in a language other than English.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

# Housing in Albuquerque



## TEMPORARY AND LONG-TERM OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

## Temporary Accommodation Near UNM and the Airport

Near UNM	Address	Telephone	Price per night	Other information
Hiway House (0.6 mile from UNM)	3200 Central Ave SE 87106	505-268-3971	1 bed \$70	Wi-Fi, microwave, refrigerator
University Lodge (1 mile from UNM)	3711 Central Ave NE 87106	505-266-7663	1 bed \$37	Wi-Fi, microwave, refrigerator
<b>Downtown and Airport Areas</b>				
Route 66 Hostel (Downtown) (2.3 miles from UNM, bus route 66 & 766)	1012 Central Ave SW 87102	505-247-1813	Dormitory: \$25 Private Room: \$30	Wi-Fi, must call for availability
Comfort Inn (Airport) (1.5 miles from UNM, bus route 50)	1801 Yale Blvd SE 87106	505-242-0036	1 bed \$76	Free breakfast, Wi-Fi, 19 years of age or older
Ramada Inn (Airport) (2 miles from UNM, bus route 50)	2300 Yale Blvd Ave SE 87106	505-243-2244	1 bed \$74	Free breakfast, Wi-Fi, shuttle service to UNM

## Where should I live?

You should think carefully about the kind of housing experience you want before deciding on a place to live. It is strongly recommended that all undergraduate students live on campus for their first year.

**Advantages to living on campus:**

- Meeting other students
- Getting to know campus
- Being able to easily access campus facilities and resources

**Disadvantages to living on campus:**

- Additional costs for housing between semesters
- Limited kitchen facilities
- Having to share living space

Visit [housing.unm.edu](http://housing.unm.edu) to learn more about specific residence halls and what is provided. If you decide to live off campus, read the enclosed information and ask about safety before you rent. DO NOT sign a lease for off campus housing before you arrive in Albuquerque.

## Finding a roommate

To look for a roommate for off-campus living, you can post to the international student listserv (send an email to [geo@unm.edu](mailto:geo@unm.edu)) or send a request to join our Facebook group **UNM GLOBAL**. Include a detailed description of your housing requirements and your contact information.

If you plan to have a roommate it is essential to choose carefully. Your housing situation may be very different from what you are used to, and it is important that you can trust your roommate. Communicate clearly with your potential roommates. Let them know your habits, what is important to you, and your expectations for day to day living (cleanliness, security, noise, etc.). Also, make sure that all roommates sign the lease or rental agreement so that you are not the only one responsible for the apartment or house. If you live on campus, you will be assigned a roommate and you will be expected to sign a roommate agreement which specifies the rules you both agree upon.

## On-Campus Housing

If you want to live on campus, you should submit your application as soon as possible since rooms are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are married or have a family, UNM Student Family Housing is an affordable option, but often has a wait list, so you should apply as soon as possible. All UNM housing options are at: [housing.unm.edu](http://housing.unm.edu) Here are some other things that you need to know about campus housing:

1. On-campus housing includes:

- University-managed housing
- Privately-managed housing. **“Casas del Rio” and “Lobo Village” are privately-managed housing.** These units have **different types of contracts** and requirements. They do NOT have early move-in dates or flexible housing contracts. It is CRITICAL that you fully understand your housing contract and agree to the terms BEFORE you sign (including the time period you are agreeing to live there, and payment information.) You will have to pay to get out of most contracts, so don't sign if you are not prepared to pay!

2. There are many different options for on-campus living within the University-managed residence halls, including international and academic **Living Learning Communities**, which provide students with the opportunity to live with other individuals with similar interests, connect to academic & extracurricular resources through university departments, and integrate classroom life with campus life. Among the twelve Living Learning Communities (LLCs) is the **Global Focus LLC** for students interested in international studies and foreign languages. To learn more about the Living Learning Program, go to <https://housing.unm.edu/living-on-campus/housing-options/living-learning-program.html> Sign up soon as possible as spaces will disappear quickly.

3. Since you are required to arrive early for orientation, you need to be prepared to pay for temporary housing (early move in for on-campus residents, hotel, etc. - information on the new student welcome letter, enclosed). Or you can also choose to use the non-UNM ISI volunteer airport pick-up and temporary home-stay service listed on this brochure.

**MEAL PLAN:** Freshman students living on campus have to purchase some type of a meal plan. We recommend that you start with the minimum plan until you know how much you will need. You can always switch to a more expensive meal plan, but you cannot change to a cheaper plan after you have signed your contract.

## Off-Campus Housing

Off-campus housing can be cheaper than living on campus and you can cook your own food. However, you are responsible for buying your own furniture and household items and in many cases for setting up and paying for your own utilities. You can check rental listings at the UNM off-campus housing website at: [och.unm.edu](http://och.unm.edu) to get an idea of what is available. There is a moderate amount of inexpensive off-campus housing near UNM. However, quality varies a great deal! BEWARE that the area immediately south of the UNM campus has a HIGHER crime rate than the other areas.

Estimated price ranges for Off-campus Housing:

- Room in Private Home: \$295-\$525 a month
- Studio: \$415-\$650 a month
- 1-Bedroom Apartment: \$500-\$795 a month
- 2-Bedroom Apartment: \$900-\$1200 a month
- House: \$950-1750 per month (can be shared with other students)

**While you can get an idea of costs now, we do NOT recommend that you rent off-campus housing until you arrive at UNM.** When you arrive, you can walk around the UNM area or get help from the ISI volunteers to locate off-campus housing that is affordable, safe and close to UNM since public transportation can be inconvenient especially on nights and weekends.

The following websites include houses, rooms, and apartments for rent in Albuquerque. Generally, they provide information about rent, location, and a detailed description of the property:

- <https://och.unm.edu/list.php>
- <https://och.unm.edu/complexes.php>
- <https://albuquerque.craigslist.org/search/hhh>
- <http://www.apartments.com/albuquerque-nm/>

Most landlords expect you to pay first and last month's rent in addition to a security deposit. You will also be required to sign a legally binding "lease" or contract before you can move in (usually one year long.) BEFORE you rent an apartment and sign a lease, you must read and agree to the written terms as you will be bound to the terms of the lease. You should also be sure to discuss any damage to the apartment with the landlord in advance and record it in writing so that you are not held responsible for any preexisting damage when you move out.

## Lease Agreement

A lease is a legally binding contract between you and your landlord. It is very important for you to read it and ask questions before you agree to the terms of the lease and before you sign it. Before signing a lease, we advise students to pay special attention to the following:

**1) Length of time on the lease.** It can be for a specific time period, such as one calendar year, or it can be a month-to-month lease. If you sign a lease for a specific time period, you are required to live at that residence for the entire time. Also, be sure you understand when you have to inform the landlord if you intend to move out during or after the lease expires.

**2) Damage deposit/Security deposit.** Most landlords require you to pay a "security deposit" for damage that you may cause. We recommend that you do a "walk through inspection" with the landlord before signing a lease and document any damage you see. Bring a camera with you to take pictures. You should also do a "move-out inspection" at the end of your lease with your landlord for the same reasons.

**3) Late payment.** Please review your lease and make sure you understand the date your rent is due. **You MUST pay rent on time.** If you fail to pay on time, you will usually be charged a late payment fee.

**4) Utilities.** Utilities are services, such as electricity, gas, water and internet. Some apartment complexes include the price for utilities in your monthly rent. Ask your landlord who is responsible for paying the utilities. You should expect to pay more for gas and electricity in the winter due to the seasonal change in weather in Albuquerque.

**5) Parking.** If you own a car or plan on owning a car, you should ask your landlord where you can park. Many apartment complexes offer free parking for their tenants. If not, ask your landlord about parking arrangements in your neighborhood.

**6) Smoking Policy.** All apartments and houses in Albuquerque have fire/smoke alarms. It is the resident's responsibility to change batteries regularly. If you forget to do it and there is an emergency you will be held responsible for any damage done to the building.