



How to avoid rental scams

Finding housing in a new country can be stressful, and unfortunately, scammers often target international students who may not be familiar with local rental practices. This guide provides tips on how to recognize and avoid common rental scams.

(1) Do not pay before viewing the apartment

Legitimate landlords or agencies will not demand full payment before you have seen the apartment. Avoid offers that require upfront deposits or rent transfers without any contract or viewing.

(2) Verify the landlord or agency

Always check whether the landlord or rental agency is legitimate. Look up reviews, confirm the contact details, and verify that the property exists. Be cautious if the landlord only communicates through email or messaging apps.

(3) Watch out for deals that are too good to be true

If the rent is far below the average price in the area, it could be a scam. Research typical rental prices in the neighborhood to avoid suspicious offers.

(4) Use trusted housing platforms

Rely on official university housing services, well-known rental platforms, or verified student housing providers. Avoid unregulated websites or social media posts with little information.

(5) Never share personal documents too early

Scammers may ask for copies of your passport, visa, or bank statements before any formal agreement. Do not share sensitive information until you have verified the legitimacy of the landlord or agency.

(6) Get everything in writing

Make sure you receive a signed rental contract before transferring money. Carefully read the terms and keep a copy of all correspondence and payment receipts.