



FAQ

Emily Carr Housing Office Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Does Emily Carr have a residence on campus?

Unfortunately, Emily Carr does not have a residence on campus, but the good news is that the new campus is located in a central location close to many great neighbourhoods. Transit in this area is also great, with the campus being located between 2 Skytrain lines and close to popular bus routes. Finding housing doesn't have to be just in Vancouver either, as the Skytrain lines connect to surrounding cities such as Burnaby and New West (see #10)

2. Can you find housing for me?

The housing office is here to help you in many ways, but unfortunately I cannot find housing on your behalf. What I can do is help you plan your search by telling you about the different neighbourhoods of Vancouver, by giving you tips and advice, and by telling you about the different kinds of housing options available, including Homestay.

I can also provide you with temporary housing options, and help you find compatible students to house-hunt with through the Roommate Matchmaker program. I am also happy to answer questions about your rights as a tenant, or any other questions pertaining to housing and Vancouver.

3. What is the Roommate Matchmaker program and how does it work?

You can find the Roommate Matchmaker form here:

<http://welcomeguide.ecuad.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Roommate-Matchmaker-20151.pdf>.

The Roommate Matchmaker program is a way for you to find other students that are also looking for housing, so you can house-hunt together. To participate in the program, simply fill out the form and send it back to the housing office at housing@ecuad.ca. Twice a month, I will sort through the forms and match students based on their likes, interests, intended major, sleeping style/schedule, location, price and neighbourhood preferences. It is best to give as much information as possible when filling out the form; that way you will have a better chance of being matched with someone who is compatible with you .

4. What if I want to change the person I was matched with?

If you would like a different match, or if you would like more options, make sure to politely let the person know, and email me to let me know that you would like to be re-matched. I will re-submit your form and will send you a new match after the next round. Keep in mind that finding the perfect roommate is hard; the first person you move in with may or may not become your best friend. Either way, you will meet lots of new people in your first year here, and you might find the perfect roommate later in your studies.

5. How do I begin to look for housing and how long should I allocate to do so?

A good way to start is to figure out what your priorities are. Do you care more about location, price, or privacy? Do you want to live by yourself, with a family, or with roommates? What is your budget? How much time are you willing to spend commuting? Which neighbourhoods are you attracted to? You will have to make some concessions later, but it will at least give you a place to start.

Once you have a better idea what you would like, start looking at ads online, and apply filters based on your pre-determined preferences. Craigslist is one of Vancouver's most used sites for housing ads, but other sites such as Kijiji, UVRentline, our Emily Carr Housing site and Emily Carr Housing Facebook Group are great places to look as well. Links: [Craigslist.com/vancouver](https://www.craigslist.com/vancouver), [Kijiji.com/Vancouver](https://www.kijiji.com/Vancouver), [Housing.ecuad.ca](https://www.housing.ecuad.ca), https://www.facebook.com/groups/144179049047211/?ref=br_tf.

Vacancies are typically advertised about a month or so before the move-in date, and good deals go fast! Because the rental market is very competitive in the summer, you will have to be persistent and quick on your feet. A good way to catch deals on classifieds sites is to set up an alert that will notify you when an ad fitting your preferences comes up. When you see something you like, contact the poster right away, and be ready to go check it out.

It's a smart idea to have 'application packages' with you when you meet landlords or building managers. These can include your contact info, references, your acceptance letter from Emily Carr... but most importantly, you want to be able to pay the damage deposit on the spot if the place is offered to you. By law, damage deposits should not exceed half of one month's rent. Make sure you ask for a receipt if you are paying with cash.

It is very important that you trust your instincts when looking at places. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't right. Landlords should not rush you to do anything; look through any document you are asked to sign. Make sure you do a thorough inspection of the suite/room with the landlord or manager, and write down any damage on the lease. This will ensure that you are not accused of causing the damage later on.

6. Can I secure housing from abroad?

It is very difficult (and not recommended) to secure housing from abroad, unless you go through a reputable agent or Homestay company. A good rule of thumb is: do not sign anything or send any money before you see the apartment or suite in person (this does not apply if you are using a trustworthy agent or Homestay company).

While Vancouver is a very safe place to live, scams are more prominent at this time of year due to the influx of new students in the lower mainland. It is also important for you to do an in-person inspection of the suite before you sign a lease or give the landlord any money. To get a head start, you can begin your search from home--start looking a few days before you leave for Vancouver, and contact landlords to set up viewings. That way, you can check out listings shortly after you arrive. If you are lucky you will find a good place fast, if not you can continue your search with a bit of experience under your belt.

I suggest you arrive in Vancouver at least a month before the start of the semester so you can dedicate lots of time to finding housing. Arriving early will also ensure that you won't need to search for housing when classes start, allowing you to concentrate on school.

7. What is temporary housing?

Temporary housing means short-term places to stay in when you first arrive in Vancouver. There are many options, like hotels, hostels, Air Bnb or Homestays. For a list of options, see http://findhousing.ecuad.ca/?page_id=66. Opting for temporary housing during your first few days or weeks in Vancouver is a great idea, as it allows you to see new neighborhoods and be more efficient while you search for a place of your own. It will also make your arrival in Vancouver less stressful—nothing beats a comfy bed after a long journey! I highly recommend you book your temporary accommodation ahead of time, as hotel rooms and hostel beds are in high demand during the summer months.

8. What are the tenancy rights and regulations, and should I know them?

As a tenant in British Columbia, you have legal rights. These rights are explained in the Human Rights Code and the Residential Tenancies Act. The Human Rights Code applies to every person in British Columbia. The Residential Tenancies Act applies to most people who rent their housing. You should read and know the tenancy act before renting in BC to know what rights you have and to help protect yourself in the case of anything happening. You can find information on tenancy rights on our find housing website: findhousing.ecuad.ca website: http://findhousing.ecuad.ca/?page_id=71.

9. What type of housing options would you recommend for an exchange student?

There are some great options out there for students who are here for one semester only and are not too keen on getting into a lease and buying all new furniture. The first would be to find a sublet, as many Emily Carr and other university students are also going on exchange to other countries. Looking on Craigslist or on other university housing pages, like UVRentsline, is a good place to start. You can make your own post, asking around if anyone is interested in subletting their place. A second great option is to look into a homestay, as they also come fully furnished and can be arranged for however many months you need.



10. Which neighbourhood should I live in?

While many new students want to live as close to campus as possible, sometimes it can be hard to secure a place in the area of your choice. Vancouver is a large city, but it is very easily accessible via public transit. Taking a look at the neighbourhood description page on our housing site will allow you to know what each area has to offer:

http://findhousing.ecuad.ca/?page_id=68

Keep in mind that the first place you move into doesn't have to be the last. If you find the neighbourhood you're living in doesn't suit you, then know that there are plenty of other options available. Looking up neighbourhoods on the internet is also a way to learn more about them. The city of Vancouver has detailed descriptions on their website, and Scout Magazine has a great 'Hoods' section online, including lots of pictures:

<http://scoutmagazine.ca/#hoods>.

If you can't find housing in your preferred area, don't worry! Try expanding your search to communities such as New West and Burnaby. These cities are very easy to access from campus using public transit. If you are wondering what a possible commute might look like from a neighbourhood or city that is farther than your preferred area, try using Google maps or Translink.ca to find the most efficient route and see how long your commute might be.

11. What is a homestay and how do I get one?

Homestay is an awesome option for anyone, whether you are a short or long-term students. To set up a Homestay, we recommend you get in touch with a homestay agency, which will then pair you with a family. Homestays provide furnished rooms with bedding, as well as meals. Utilities and internet are also included. They can also provide airport pick-up if you want, which can be nice if you've never been to Vancouver or are landing late at night. Homestays are a great way to get to know a new city, practice your English, interact with a local family, and have a support system behind you when you start classes. You can arrange a homestay for as long or short as you need. Agencies are typically able to find a different family for you if the one you have been assigned to is not a good fit.

