

# Housing in Albuquerque

1

## START EARLY

Starting early will increase your chances of finding a place you are happy with.

2

## DO YOUR RESEARCH

Knowing how much you can afford, transportation needs, and preferred location can help when searching multiple websites.

3

## ASK QUESTIONS

Ask questions about everything!!

## First-Year Freshman

All first-year, full-time undergraduate students are **REQUIRED** to live in UNM on-campus housing. For more information about this requirement and what residence halls will qualify, go to: <http://housing.unm.edu/living-on-campus/freshman-residency.html>. Freshman who meet certain conditions can file a "Freshman Residency Requirement Exception" application through their housing residence dashboard. If your exception is not filed and approved YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR UNM HOUSING!

## Where Should I live?

You should think carefully about the kind of housing experience you want before deciding on a place to live. You want to explore different areas when possible, consider how you will get to and from school, and think about the type of environment around your home (quiet, loud, accessible to groceries). Always be willing to reach out to other students to get their opinions.

## On-Campus Housing

Living on campus is perfect for single students who want to live close to campus with easy access to resources and facilities. This is a great option for students new to UNM and the Albuquerque area.

Submit your application as soon as possible if you're interested in living on campus. We do not generally recommend on-campus housing for graduate students, but if you are single this may be an option for you. You have the option of University-managed housing or on campus housing that is managed by ACC at Casas del Rio and Lobo Village.

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 housing contracts, so don't sign if you are not prepared to pay!

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community; Meeting other students</li> <li>• Close proximity to campus events</li> <li>• Easy access to campus resources</li> <li>• Minutes away from where classes are located</li> <li>• Meal Plan options available</li> <li>• Variety of rooms and living options</li> <li>• No additional utilities or internet fees</li> <li>• Gives you additional time to explore before finding off campus options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be more costly than living off campus</li> <li>• Limited kitchen facilities</li> <li>• You might need to make housing arrangements when campus housing is closed during breaks</li> <li>• Additional fees may apply during winter and summer breaks</li> <li>• Might be loud</li> <li>• Awarded based on first-come first-served basis</li> <li>• Limited move-in dates</li> <li>• Shared living spaces</li> </ul>

## When living On campus, consider these things:

**Living Learning Communities (LLC):** These communities 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. Global Focus LLC is for students interested in international studies and foreign languages.

**Roommates:** The housing questionnaire has a roommate matching feature to connect you with a compatible roommate. It is important to be honest when answering.

**Meal Plans:** You are required to purchase a meal plan if you live on main campus. You should purchase the cheapest plan first and can add on if you need additional meals. You cannot reduce your meal plan after you enroll.

**Early Arrival:** You are required to arrive early for orientation, so you need to be prepared to pay for temporary housing. Campus housing early move in is limited, requires additional fees, and should be requested as soon as possible. You can also choose to use the non-UNM ISI volunteer airport pick-up and temporary home-stay service listed on this brochure if you arrive before you can move in to campus housing.

## Housing Resources



**On Campus Housing**  
[housing.unm.edu](http://housing.unm.edu)



**Off Campus Housing International**  
[och.unm.edu](http://och.unm.edu)



**Students Inc.**  
[isiabq.org](http://isiabq.org)

## Off-Campus Housing

Off-campus housing can be cheaper than living on campus. However, you are responsible for buying your own furniture and household items and for setting up and paying for your own utilities. **DO NOT sign a lease for off campus housing before you arrive.**

### Estimated Prices for Off-Campus Housing

- Room in Private Home: \$500-\$700 a month
- Studio: \$800-\$1000 a month
- 1-Bedroom Apartment: \$900-\$1300 a month
- 2-Bedroom Apartment: \$1000-\$1800 a month
- House: \$1,800-3,500 per month (can be shared with other students)

### When living off campus, consider these things:

**Signing a Lease:** You are usually required to sign a year-long legally binding rental agreement or lease. Read the agreement carefully before you sign or put money down. Ask about anything you do not understand. Look for hidden charges or penalties. If you sign, you are responsible for paying.

**Damage/Security Deposits:** Normally you are required to pay a security deposit in addition to first month's rent before moving in. This money is intended to cover damage to the property beyond that from typical, ordinary use. You should also be sure to discuss any damage to the apartment with the landlord in advanced and record it in writing so that you are not held responsible. We recommend you do a "move-out inspection" at the end of your lease with your landlord.

**Utilities:** Some rental properties include utilities, cable and parking within the monthly rental cost, while other properties do not. Utilities are typically electricity, gas, water, internet, and trash. Ask what is included in your monthly rent before you sign the rental agreement. Any utilities not covered are your responsibility to set up and pay. Utility prices vary based on usage. Ask for average prices before renting.

**Late Payments:** Please review your lease and make sure you understand the date that your rent is due. You must pay your rent on time or you will have a late penalty. The late penalty should be listed in your lease.

**Roommates:** Having roommates can be the cheapest option for off campus housing. Make sure you are compatible with your potential roommates. Understand their schedule and preferences before you sign the lease. Make sure that all of the roommates sign the lease or rental agreement so that you are not the only one responsible for the apartment or house.

**Parking:** If you own or plan to own a car, you should ask your landlord where you can park and if there is a fee. Parking on and around campus is limited and usually requires paying a fee.

**Smoking Policy:** All apartments and houses have fire/smoke detectors. Some rentals may not allow smoking at all.

## Finding Off-Campus Housing

**Do your research but 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 (below) to locate off-campus housing that is affordable, safe and close to UNM. Public transportation can be inconvenient especially on nights and weekends.

### Where to look:

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

- **UNM Off-Campus Housing:** [och.unm.edu](http://och.unm.edu)
- **Albuquerque Craigslist:** Local classifieds and forums - community moderated, and largely free. If you decide to use Craigslist be aware that you are communicating with a stranger. Do not send any money without touring the property and meeting the landlord. [www.Albuquerque.craigslist.org](http://www.Albuquerque.craigslist.org)
- **UNMGlobal Facebook Group:** UNM international students looking for roommates or selling furniture post here. Request to join the group.
- **Trulia:** Provides information on safety, transportation, and local amenities. The website allows you to set up housing search alerts that will email you when a new home is listed. [www.trulia.com](http://www.trulia.com)
- **Zumper:** Offers information on apartment rentals and houses including the ability to contact apartments directly from the website. This site is often cross posted with homes on Facebook marketplace. [www.Zumper.com](http://www.Zumper.com)

## TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS

### Paid

- **AirBnb:** Offers flexible and affordable bookings online close to UNM and Albuquerque Airport. [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)
- **Local Hotels:** Look for hotels near the Albuquerque airport or the university area. Ask about discounts for UNM students.
- **Living on Campus:** If you will live on campus, contact housing directly to check for early arrival dates and fees.

### Free

- **ISI HomeStay:** ISI offers limited opportunities to briefly stay with a US host family. Contact ISI directly at least two weeks before your estimated arrival. [www.isiabq.org](http://www.isiabq.org)
- **Other Students:** If there is a student group from your country, they may offer temporary housing. Check the *Student Orgs* link at [sac.unm.edu](http://sac.unm.edu). Graduate Students can check with their academic department to see if other students provide temporary housing.

## 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 but serves UNM students.**

ISI Albuquerque offers airport pick-up, temporary home stays, assistance with finding permanent housing, free furniture, free household goods, and provides other services to international students. The ISI student welcome center is open in the two weeks before classes begin each semester at 401 University Blvd, NE.

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

