The Questions You Should Ask When Searching for an Apartment

Feeling confused about what you should know when looking for an apartment? This guide will help you simplify and organize the information you need to make a sound decision.

Rental price

1) What is the rental price? _______________________________________________________________

2) How many bedrooms and bathrooms does the apartment have? ______ bedrooms ______ bathrooms

3) How many people may legally share the apartment? _________________________________________

4) Is the lease an individual lease or a joint lease? _____________________________________________

5) What utilities are included? How are excluded utilities billed? _________________________________

   6) What amenities are included?

   _____ bicycle storage  _____ garbage collection  _____ parking
   _____ cable TV  _____ community/party room  _____ pest control service
   _____ ceiling fans  _____ exercise room  _____ swimming pool
   _____ electricity  _____ on-site laundry facility  other: ____________

7) What appliances and/or furniture are in the apartment?

   _____ dishwasher  _____ stove  _____ garbage disposal unit
   _____ refrigerator  _____ microwave oven
   _____ furniture  other: _____________________________________________
   _____ other  _____________________________________________

8) What form of rental payment is acceptable?

   _____ cash / _____ credit / _____ money order / _____ traveler’s check

   Do they offer roommate-matching assistance? _______________________________________________

Apartment location

9) How close is it to the University? _________________________________________________________

10) How close is it to the nearest bus stop? _______________________________________________________

11) What is the bus schedule? ________________________________________________________________

   City Bus Service:  UH Shuttle Bus:
   _____ weekdays  _____ weekdays
   _____ evenings  _____ evenings
   _____ weekends  _____ weekends
   _____ summer  _____ summer
   _____ holidays  _____ holidays

12) How close is the grocery store? Which one(s)? _______________________________________________

13) Do they offer roommate-matching assistance? _______________________________________________
Application and lease terms

14) What are the application requirements? __________________________
   Is there an application fee? □ __________________________
   □ Is the application binding? __________
   Is the application fee credited to the security deposit? ______

15) How much is the security deposit? ____________________________

16) What form of payment is acceptable?
   ____ cash      ____ credit      ____ money order      ____ traveler’s check

17) Who is responsible for appliance repairs and maintenance? ____________________________

18) Is there a written move-out policy? May I have a look at it? May I have a copy? __________

19) What is the sublet policy? ____________________________

20) Is short-term lease available? What’s the difference in monthly rent between short-term & 1 year lease?
    ____________________________

21) What is the policy for early termination of the lease? ____________________________

22) What is the pet policy? ____________________________

For children

23) What is the name of the neighborhood school my children would attend? How near is it?
    Pre-school __________________________
    Kindergarten / Elementary __________________________
    Middle/Junior high school __________________________
    High school __________________________

24) How near is a public park with playground facilities? ____________________________

Additional notes

25) What additional living expenses will I have to consider if I select this rental option?
    ____________________________
    ____________________________

26) Other additional information:
    ____________________________
    ____________________________

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