



VFS

Housing Information



## WEBSITE LINKS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR MOVE

### LANDLORD TENANCY ACT INFORMATION

[www.rto.gov.bc.ca](http://www.rto.gov.bc.ca)

### NEWSPAPERS

The Vancouver Sun

[www.vancouversun.com](http://www.vancouversun.com)

The Province

[www.theprovince.com](http://www.theprovince.com)

The Georgia Straight

[www.straight.com](http://www.straight.com)

### PHONE COMPANIES

Bell

1.888.4MOBILE | [www.bell.ca](http://www.bell.ca)

Fido

1.888.481.FIDO | [www.fido.ca](http://www.fido.ca)

Student Phones

1.888.287.1835 | [www.studentphones.ca](http://www.studentphones.ca)

Telus

604.310.2255 | [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)

Telus Mobility

1.866.558.2273 | [www.telusmobility.com](http://www.telusmobility.com)

Rogers

1.800.565.6009 | [www.rogerswireless.ca](http://www.rogerswireless.ca)

### TELEVISION

Shaw Cable Systems

604.629.8888 | [www.shaw.ca](http://www.shaw.ca)

### INTERNET

Telus Dialup

1.877.310.4NET | [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)

Telus High Speed

1.877.310.4NET | [www.telus.com](http://www.telus.com)

Shaw Cable Internet

604.629.8888 | [www.shaw.ca](http://www.shaw.ca)

### BANKS

HSBC

1.888.310.4722 | [www.hsbc.ca](http://www.hsbc.ca)

Royal Bank of Canada

1.800.ROYAL.11 | [www.royalbank.com](http://www.royalbank.com)

Bank of Montreal

1.800.363.9992 | [www.bmo.com](http://www.bmo.com)

TD Canada Trust

1.866.222.3456 | [www.td.com](http://www.td.com)

### UTILITIES

BC Hydro

604.224.9376 | [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com)



## HOUSING WEBSITE LINKS

### preferred companies

#### BELL ACCOMMODATION

[www.bellacc.com](http://www.bellacc.com)

604.875.1742 | [info@bellacc.com](mailto:info@bellacc.com)

#### VANCOUVER HOMESTAY INTERNATIONAL (VHI)

604.929.9286 | [vhicanada@hotmail.com](mailto:vhicanada@hotmail.com)

### other resources

#### VANCOUVER HOMESTAY AGENCY INC (VHA)

604.328.4546 | [www.vancouverhomestayagency.com](http://www.vancouverhomestayagency.com)  
[contact@homestayagency.com](mailto:contact@homestayagency.com)

#### CONCERT PROPERTIES

604.681.0727 | [600Drake@concertproperties.com](mailto:600Drake@concertproperties.com)

#### HOLLYBURN PROPERTIES

604.878.8888 | [www.rentersguide.com](http://www.rentersguide.com)

#### APARTMENT RENTAL COMPANIES

[www.247apartments.com](http://www.247apartments.com)

[www.apartmentscanada.com](http://www.apartmentscanada.com)

[www.places4rent.com](http://www.places4rent.com)

[www.rentline.com](http://www.rentline.com)

[www.myidealhome.com](http://www.myidealhome.com)

#### BED & BREAKFAST

[www.bcacc.com](http://www.bcacc.com)

#### HOSTELS

YWCA Hotel, 733 Beatty Street

1.800.663.1424 | [www.ywcahotel.com](http://www.ywcahotel.com)

HI Hostels, 1114 Burnaby Street

1.888.203.4302 | [www.hihostels.ca](http://www.hihostels.ca)

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## HELPFUL HINTS

1.0 Be sure to read the information provided on the landlord tenancy website so that you are aware of your rights as a tenant.

2.0 Look at suites during the day since there are many things that can be hidden in the dark at night.

3.0 Talk to your potential landlord, and ask them any questions you may have about the suite, e.g.:

- Are the carpets going to be cleaned?
- Are they painting it before you move in?
- What are the terms of the lease – month to month or yearly?
- Have any of the suites been broken into?
- How many people rent in the building?
- How close are the amenities?
- What utilities are included in the rent (electricity, hot water, heat, etc)? Is there ensuite laundry or laundry facilities? If not, where is the closest laundromat?
- How far away from transit is the suite?
- How long has the previous tenant lived in this suite?
- Have there been problems with rodents?

This will help you to get a feel for the apartment as well as how the landlord will be if you lived there. Find out if it is possible to talk to the current tenant to see how they have liked living there.

4.0 Find out what your damage deposit is. Most places will require this to hold the suite for you. Unfortunately, when looking for an apartment you have to make a quick decision as to whether or not you want to live there as it will probably be rented very quickly after you leave if you do not talk to the landlord about renting it.

5.0 Apartments are advertised one month before they are vacated, and moving in normally happens on the 1st of the month. The best time to look for apartments is around the 1st of the month.

6.0 Go with your instincts! If you feel that there is something weird or uncomfortable about the landlord or the suite, move on to the next viewing.

7.0 When looking for a roommate, sit down and talk to them to make sure that you will be compatible. Use the above steps as well.

8.0 Generally apartment buildings that are run by companies are better than privately owned buildings as the landlords must be in compliance with the company's policies rather than their own.

9.0 Be sure to check out the area during the night and day to see how safe it is and to get a feel for the community.

10.0 If you are in Vancouver we recommend walking through the different neighbourhoods and inquiring with landlords. "For Rent" signs are often posted outside apartment buildings.

11.0 Furnished accommodations in many cases can be rented for a shorter term. You might consider the following:

11.1 rent a short term furnished suite for 3-4 months

11.2 try to find a roommate

11.3 stay in a hotel or hostel for the first couple of weeks. Try one of the above so that you can have some time to get familiar with Vancouver.

12.0 While living downtown is one option there are many neighbourhoods to choose from including Kitsilano, Mount Pleasant, Main Street, and Commercial Drive. These neighbourhoods provide a variety of living situations and are a short bus or bike ride from campus.

13.0 Cost of living in Vancouver varies depending on the neighbourhood you decide to live in, with Downtown and the Westside generally being more expensive than the Eastside of town.

14.0 According to Canadian Citizenship and Immigration, international students must prove that they can meet their living expenses after paying tuition and fees. You should budget at least \$1200 Canadian per month to cover housing, food, and public transportation.



## PUBLIC TRANSIT

### TRANSLINK

604.953.3333 | [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca)

### BUS PASSES

- 1 Zone Monthly Bus Pass: \$69
- 2 Zone Monthly Bus Pass: \$95
- 3 Zone Monthly Bus Pass: \$130

Can be purchased at 7-11, Safeway, some London Drugs and some Lottery centres

### WHAT KIND OF BUSS PASS DO I NEED?

The number of zones (colours) you touch during your trip will determine your fare and the type of bus pass you need to buy. For example, from Burnaby to Vancouver, you pass through two zones; from Surrey to Vancouver, three zones. For more detailed information contact Translink or visit their website (listed to the left).



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## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

### UNFURNISHED APARTMENT RATES

#### DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

1 Bedroom	\$800/mo
Shared	\$600/mo
Size	500 – 600 square feet
Driving Time to VFS	5 – 10 Minutes
Transit Time to VFS	10 Minutes
Walking Time to VFS	10 – 30 Minutes

#### KITSILANO/FALSE CREEK

1 Bedroom	\$900/mo
Shared	\$600/mo
Size	700 – 800 square feet
Driving Time to VFS	10 – 20 Minutes
Transit Time to VFS	15 - 30 Minutes
Walking Time to VFS	30 – 60 Minutes

#### VANCOUVER – EAST SIDE/COMMERCIAL DRIVE

1 Bedroom	\$600/mo
Shared	\$400 - \$500/mo
Size	400 – 500 square feet
Driving Time to VFS	10 – 20 Minutes
Transit Time to VFS	10 – 20 Minutes
Walking Time to VFS	Not suggested

#### BURNABY/COQUITLAM/NORTH VANCOUVER

1 Bedroom	\$600/mo
Shared	\$300 - \$400/mo
Size	500 – 800 square feet
Driving Time to VFS	15 – 60 Minutes
Transit Time to VFS	20 – 60 Minutes
Walking Time to VFS	Not suggested

### FURNISHED APARTMENT RATES

Bachelor/Studio	\$750-1000/mo
One Bedroom	\$850-\$1800/mo
Two Bedroom	\$1000-\$1800/mo
Three Bedroom	\$1500-\$2000/mo

### PARKING DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

\$5-\$10/day

### PHONE

Telus Landline	approx. \$39/mo
Mobile Phone	approx. \$30 - \$200/mo

### TV

Shaw Basic Cable	approx. \$25/mo
Shaw Extended	approx. \$49/mo+

### INTERNET

Shaw Cable Internet	approx. \$25 - \$50/mo
Telus DSL Line	approx. \$25 - \$50/mo
Telus Dialup	approx. \$13 - \$25/mo

\*these are all estimated averages and travel times.  
All estimates in Canadian funds.



## NEIGHBOURHOODS

### VANCOUVER | DOWNTOWN

The areas to stick to in downtown Vancouver are: the West End, English Bay, Yaletown and Robson. Try to stay away from the Gastown and Chinatown areas. Downtown Vancouver living is very fast paced. There are many things to do day and night 7 days a week. This is also the area that most festivals and parades take place.

#### Shopping

Robson Street

Pacific Center Mall

604.688.7235 | [www.pacificcentre.com](http://www.pacificcentre.com)

Harbour Center

604.689.0421 | [www.vancouverlookout.com](http://www.vancouverlookout.com)

### KITSILANO/FALSE CREEK

This is one of the nicest areas to live in the lower mainland. This is more of a funky young suburb area with an abundance of shops and fitness facilities. This is also the main area where a lot of the university students live.

#### Shopping

4th Avenue

Granville Island

### VANCOUVER | EAST SIDE/COMMERCIAL DRIVE

This area, also known as Little Italy, is very funky with many coffee shops. It is a very relaxed area and has a bit of a retro-hippie feel to it. You will find people from all different walks of life in this area.

#### Shopping

Main Street

Commercial Drive

### BURNABY/COQUITLAM/NORTH VANCOUVER

These three cities are suburbs of the lower mainland. They are very community and family oriented.

#### Shopping

Metrotown Mall

604.438.4715 | [www.metropolisatmetrotown.com](http://www.metropolisatmetrotown.com)

Brentwood Town Centre

604.298.7314 | [www.brentwoodmall.com](http://www.brentwoodmall.com)

Lougheed Town Centre

604.421.3434 | [www.lougheedmall.com](http://www.lougheedmall.com)

Coquitlam Centre

604.464.1414

## BUDGET WORKSHEET

APPROX \$15K CAD TOTAL BUDGET		MO COST	YEARLY COST
<b>LIVING EXPENSES</b>		<b>1030</b>	<b>12360</b>
RENT	ROOMMATE/BACHELOR	600	7200
PHONE	LANDLINE	30	360
CABLE	BASIC	25	300
INTERNET	DIALUP	25	300
UTILITIES	BC HYDRO	25	300
LAUNDRY	COIN LAUNDRY	25	300
GROCERIES		300	3600
<b>TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>756</b>
TRANSIT	1 ZONE	63	756
<b>FUN MONEY</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>1250</b>
EATING OUT	1 NIGHT/MO	50	600
ENTERTAINMENT		50	600
CLOTHING	N/A	0	0
HAIR CUTS	1 CUT/YR	0	50
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>660</b>
MEDICAL INSURANCE		30	360
MISC.SCHOOL SUPPLIES		25	300
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1248</b>	<b>15026</b>

APPROX \$20K CAD TOTAL BUDGET		MO COST	YEARLY COST
<b>LIVING EXPENSES</b>		<b>1285</b>	<b>15420</b>
RENT	BACHELOR/1 BEDROOM	750	9000
PHONE	LANDLINE	30	360
CABLE	BASIC	25	300
INTERNET	HIGH SPEED	30	360
UTILITIES	BC HYDRO	25	300
LAUNDRY	COIN LAUNDRY	25	300
GROCERIES		400	4800
<b>TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>756</b>
TRANSIT	1 ZONE	63	756
<b>FUN MONEY</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>2600</b>
EATING OUT	1 NIGHT/MO	50	600
ENTERTAINMENT		100	600
CLOTHING	1 PIECE/MO	50	600
HAIR CUTS	2 CUTS/YR	0	200
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>960</b>
MEDICAL INSURANCE		30	360
MISC.SCHOOL SUPPLIES		50	600
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1628</b>	<b>19736</b>

APPROX \$30K CAD TOTAL BUDGET		MO COST	YEARLY COST
<b>LIVING EXPENSES</b>		<b>1580</b>	<b>18960</b>
RENT	1 BEDROOM	900	10800
PHONE	LANDLINE & CELL PHONE	100	1200
CABLE	FULL CABLE	50	600
INTERNET	HIGH SPEED	30	360
UTILITIES	BC HYDRO	25	300
LAUNDRY	COIN LAUNDRY	25	300
GROCERIES		450	5400
<b>TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES</b>		<b>330</b>	<b>5460</b>
TRANSIT	N/A	0	0
VEHICLE INSURANCE	RATES VARY	200	2400
GAS	FILLED 2X/MO (50 L TANK)	80	960
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	VARIES	50	600
TRIPS	1 TRIP HOME	0	1500
<b>FUN MONEY</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>4500</b>
EATING OUT	3 NIGHTS/MO	100	1200
ENTERTAINMENT		200	2400
CLOTHING	1 PIECE/MO	50	600
HAIR CUTS	3 CUTS/YR	0	300
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>960</b>
MEDICAL INSURANCE		30	360
MISC.SCHOOL SUPPLIES		50	600
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2340</b>	<b>29880</b>