

Housing

Early Housing for International Students On Campus:



If you have requested on-campus housing, because you are an international student, you will be able to move into your room as early as the report date in item #5 on your Form I-20. Housing and Residence Life staff will give you a housing contract to complete before you move into your room. *(Before you sign the contract, be sure to ask questions if you do not understand. You will be legally and financially responsible for what you sign).*

You will be able to obtain the key to your residence hall room on the report date in item #5 of your I-20 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm at the Residence Tower. If you arrive at the Residence Tower before 1:00 pm or after 8:00 pm, please call the Office of Housing and Residence Life at 4-2516 from the on-campus telephone located outside of the Residence Tower, or from off-campus at 410-704-2516 to make arrangements for check-in. If you arrive at a later date, you will only be able to check in from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

It is recommended that you schedule a flight to arrive early in the morning, so that even if your flight is delayed, you will have enough time to get to campus before the Office of Housing and Residence Life closes. You should check with a local hotel if the Housing and Residence Life schedule will not accommodate your travel itinerary.

Off-Campus Housing:

(Please see separate off-campus housing handout for more information)

If you are interested in living off campus, there are resources within the University and in the community to help you locate living accommodations. The Office of Student Activities offers a free off-campus housing service (a comprehensive list of available off-campus housing) for students seeking places to live. They also provide a listing of apartment complexes in Baltimore. Towson University does not screen, qualify, verify or otherwise accept responsibility for listings provided through this free service. Using the off-campus housing list is quick and easy. You can access this list through their web site at www.towson.edu/commuter. (Once the website has been accessed select "Off Campus Housing", which appears on the left. Select "Available Housing" to find available rooms and apartments in the area.) If you are unable to come to campus and unable to access the information via this website, you may request that the information be mailed to you.

Housing can have a significant impact on your life in the U.S. Remember to interview potential roommates for lifestyle compatibility. Other factors you should consider are: the size of the apartment (studio/efficiency, one bedroom, or a multi-bedroom), the monthly rent, security deposit requirement, utilities (such as gas, electric, and water) location, access to public transportation, and whether you would like to have roommates or apartment-mates. Good luck in your apartment search. Remember to be patient and check all of the options!

Please pick up an Off-Campus Housing handbook from Student Activities or the ISSO and read this important information before signing a lease.

Temporary Housing: If your housing accommodations will not be available immediately upon arrival, you should make arrangements to stay at one of the local hotels. We have listed some options below and noted the costs, but the amounts may have changed. Be sure to ask for the current price and request any possible student discounts when you make a reservation.

<p>Burkshire Marriott Hotel 10 West Burke Avenue Towson, MD 21204 Tel. 410-324-8100 Contact the Burkshire to find out the Towson University rate. Highly recommended due to location within walking distance to TU campus (across the street).</p>	<p>Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel 903 Dulaney Valley Road Towson, MD 21204 Tel. 410-321-7400 Contact the hotel to find out the Towson University "college student" rate – based upon availability is approximately \$133 per night plus tax. Highly recommended: located close to TU campus (short bus ride) and within walking distance to Towson Town Mall.</p>	<p>The Red Roof Inn 111 W. Timonium Road Timonium, MD 21093 Tel. 410-666-0380 (or 1-800-733-7663 toll free for callers within the U.S.) Located about 15 minutes to TU campus by car. Approximately \$92 (August)/ \$70 (January) per night plus tax. Weekly rates available.</p>
<p>Ramada Inn 8712 Loch Raven Blvd. Towson, MD 21286 Tel. 410-823-8750 Ask for the "college rate," which is approximately \$80 per night plus tax.</p>	<p>Comfort Inn Hotel 8801 Loch Raven Blvd. Towson, MD 21286 Tel. 410-882-0900 (or 1-877-424-6423 toll free for callers within the U.S.) Ask for the <u>Towson</u> Comfort Inn on Loch Raven Blvd. Approximately \$130 (August)/ \$80 (January) per night plus tax.</p>	<p>Holiday Inn 1100 Cromwell Bridge Rd Towson, MD 21286 Tel. 410-823-4410 Located 15 minutes to TU campus by car. Approximately \$135 (August)/ \$125 (January) per night plus tax.</p>

The ISSO does not ensure the quality of the accommodations or otherwise accept responsibility for listings provided.

Financial Matters—International Exchange Students

Estimated Expenses:

All international students who wish to study in the U.S. **MUST** demonstrate the ability to afford all education and living expenses. Students participating in the TU International Student Exchange Program must submit proof of financial ability for the total amount shown below.

The following are estimated costs (in U.S. dollars) for students participating in the TU International Student Exchange program during the 2008-2009 academic year:

ON CAMPUS	COSTS	
Housing and Meals	\$4,300 (one semester)	\$8,600 (Academic Year)
Books/Supplies	\$ 500 (one semester)	\$1,000 (Academic Year)
Medical insurance and shots	about \$562* (one semester)	\$1,100 (Academic Year)
Public transportation **	\$0	
Personal Expenses	\$1,000 (one semester)	\$2,300 (Academic Year)
TOTAL	\$6,350 (one semester)	\$13,000 (Academic Year)

* Health insurance rate varies depending on age classification.

** Your estimated expenses will increase if you plan to purchase a car, which also requires registration fees, insurance (at least \$1,000 per year), and a campus parking fee of \$225.00 (estimated).

Married students: If you are accompanied by dependents, your living expenses will also increase. The living expenses (housing, food, transportation) for a spouse (husband or wife) are approximately one-half those of a student; expenses for children are typically one-quarter those of a student. In addition, there are costs for health insurance for dependents.

Wiring Money:

If you already have a bank in the U.S., you may wire money from your bank at home directly to your account in the U.S. Be aware that it can take up to a week for a wired transfer to be processed and that most banks charge a fee for this service. If you want to wire money,

- Instruct the bank to "pay upon proper identification" and give your name as the recipient.
- It is best to send the wire transfer in US dollars instead of your country's own currency.

You may collect the money at the bank with proper identification (an identity document bearing a photograph) after you arrive.

Wiring Money to the University:



Wire transfers can be sent directly to Towson University. However, only amounts to cover tuition, University fees (those mandatory fees paid each semester along with tuition), and campus room and board should be wired. Please be aware that you cannot get cash back from the Bursar's Office to pay other expenses (for example, books, room deposit, enrollment fee, room application fee, admission application fee, and spending money). Money for these expenses **should not** be included in the wire transfer amount. If you intend to wire payment to TU, tell your bank official the following "my name and/or University identification number must be included in the electronic transfer and my funds deposited into the Bursar's Imprest Fund account (account number 006010116431/swift code BOFAUS3N) at the Bank of America". You must then inform the Bursar's Office that a wire transfer was made, in what amount, and on what day. An associate in the Bursar's

Office will then verify the amount deposited and apply the payment onto your University account. (The Bursar's Office phone number is 410-704-5239 and the fax number is 410-704-2185.)

Foreign Checks and Traveler's Checks:

We do **not** advise you to bring foreign checks in either U.S. dollars or another currency. While banks accept foreign checks, there may be a delay of several weeks before the money is available to you. You should bring traveler's checks in U.S. dollars so that funds will be immediately available to you. You will need this money during your first week in the U.S. to pay for temporary housing, meals, tuition and fees and one month's rent plus housing security deposit. The security deposit is typically the amount equal to one month's rent.

Paying Your Tuition:

As a new student, your bill will be due on the day of registration or by the end of the first week of classes. **However, in future semesters, bills are due approximately four weeks before the first day of the semester.** The Office of the Bursar (where you pay tuition) will accept cash (US\$), personal checks (from a U.S. bank), money orders, credit cards (Discover, MasterCard, VISA via the phone or the internet), and wire transfer (see above).