

Housing Options

This document has been created to aid students in finding safe, affordable, and convenient housing while visiting the FDA. Most of the living situations available involve people who rent out single rooms in their own homes. Since you will be living with someone else, it is important to ask about lifestyle factors that are important to you. This first page includes a list of potential questions you may want to ask the renter.

The following website is a listing of people who rent out single rooms primarily to people visiting the NIH or the FDA: <http://www.recgov.org/housing/Roomrent.html>. The coordinators of the list do not investigate the renters; therefore you should be more cautious when contacting these people.

1. Location, Location, Location

- How far from the FDA are they located?

Note: There are multiple FDA locations, so make sure you know where your office is located.

- What is the best way to get there (i.e. Metro, bus, car, walk, etc.)?
- How far do they live from the Metro?
- Is a car required? Is parking available?

Here is a useful website with Metro and bus information: <http://www.wmata.com/>

2. Living Situation

- How many people live in the house?
- Would you be living with people other than the owner?

Note: In order for a landlord to rent single rooms in a house where they are not living, they will need a special license.

- What facilities (i.e. bathroom, kitchen, TV, telephone) do you share and how does sharing usually work?

- Do they have pets or children? Will you be expected to take care of the pets or babysit for them?

3. Payment

- Are you expected to pay utilities?
- Do they require a security deposit?
- Will they prorate the rent to reflect only the time you are there?

Note: Be aware that some people will require you to pay an entire month's rent, even if you will only be there for two weeks of the month.

4. Safety

- How safe is the neighborhood (especially at night)?
- Is there a lock on your bedroom door?

5. Shopping

- Is there a grocery store nearby?

6. References

- Do they have any references (i.e. students who have lived there in the past or FDA employees) you can contact?