

# CHECKLIST FOR YOUR HOUSING SEARCH

**\*\* It is important that you never arrange to meet a stranger at a property by yourself. It is important that you always bring someone with you.\*\***

## Gas and Electricity

- Check electrical sockets, do they work?
- Are there light fixtures in each room?
- Is there enough electrical sockets and are they properly located?
- Does the heating system work properly?
- Do the appliances work (fridge, stove, washing machine and dryer)?

## Plumbing

- Note any leaks or noises
- Does the plumbing work?
  - Taps
  - Toilets
  - Bathtub
  - Shower
- Is there hot water?
- Is the water pressure good?
- Is there an exhaust fan in the bathroom, or a window?

## Utilities (What is included?)

- Hydro (electricity)
- Internet
- Water
- Gas
- Heat
- Cable (Television)

## Safety and Security

- Is the apartment secure?
- Are smoke detectors and fire alarms working?
- Is there a fire escape?
- Are the external doors solid?
- Do all external doors have locks that work properly?
- Do all the ground floor and basement windows lock?

## Furniture

- If the apartment comes furnished, is there enough furniture for the occupants?
- Is there sufficient storage?

## Services

- What services is the landlord providing you, if any?
- Is there a 24-hour call-in service?
- How long before the repairs will be completed?
- What repairs will you be responsible for?
- What will be the landlord's expectations of you? What responsibilities will you have?

## Other Things to Ask About

- Is a lease required?
- What is the length of the required lease?
- What is the monthly rental amount?
- Are you required to pay a deposit?
- What are the heating costs for the previous year (if you are responsible for paying the heating bill)?
- Where is the closest grocery store?
- Where is the closest bus stop?
- How long would it take you to walk, or take the bus to the college from the apartment?
- Are pets allowed?
- Is there parking for guests?
- Who is responsible for the lawn maintenance and snow removal?
- Can you sublet for a semester?
- Can you have a roommate?
- Can you paint or redecorate?

## ASK YOURSELF

- Can I afford this?
- Is this the kind of environment I want?
- Does this meet my accommodation priorities?