

ADVICE FOR FINDING OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

- San Diego Geography:** San Diego is a large, urban city of approximately 1.2 million people. A very detailed map of the entire region can be found here: <http://tiny.cc/lerkp> San Diego State University is south of the 8 Freeway, and just east of the 15 Freeway (the yellow square near the words "College West").
 - Within San Diego are several small neighborhoods, each with their own name. A map of different areas of San Diego can be found here: <http://www.sandiego.gov/neighborhoodmaps/midcity.shtml>
 - These neighborhoods are close to SDSU: College Area ("College East" and "College West"), Del Cerro, Mission Valley, Allied Gardens, Kensington, La Mesa
 - If you want to live near the ocean, these areas are near the beach: Pacific Beach (mostly college students and young professionals), Mission Beach, Mission Bay, La Jolla, and Ocean Beach. **PLEASE NOTE:** Public transportation near beach areas is not very convenient. Therefore, we recommend that students who want to live in beach areas MUST have a car to commute to and from SDSU.
- Public Transportation:** maps.google.com displays maps and directions for any areas in San Diego. Enter starting address and destination address to get exact directions to anywhere using public transportation (bus and trolley).
- Application Fees:** All apartments charge an application fee, which ranges from \$25-\$50. The application fee is usually **per person**, not per apartment. So if you are looking for an apartment with a friend, you will both pay a separate application fee.
- Social Security Number** (sometimes abbreviated as "SS#" or "SSN"): On the apartment application, they might ask you for a Social Security Number. Most of you do not have a SS# and cannot get one unless you work legally in the U.S. The reason they want your SS# is to see your credit history (if you pay your bills and if you are in good financial standing). They want to make sure you will pay your rent on time. What we suggest is to tell them you do not have an SS# because you are an international student, but offer to pay either a higher security deposit OR pay the rent for your whole rental period in advance. Also make sure you tell the manager that you have an I-20. You may be required to show this document.

IMPORTANT! *If you HAVE a SS# (a number of students from Saudi Arabia do), but have NOT lived in the U.S. as an adult, it is best for you to tell the apartment people that you do not have a SS#, since you do not have any credit history here in the U.S. If you do give them your SS#, you will likely not be approved, and you will not be able to re-apply to the same apartment building. This is not being dishonest. I confirmed this information with an apartment manager, and this is what they prefer.*

- Security Deposit:** A security deposit is always required when renting an apartment. The security deposit is typically equal to one month's rent, although it may be higher.
- Paying Rent:** To protect yourself, use an American bank check to pay the rent and security deposit, if you have an American bank account. If you do not have an American bank account and have to pay by cash, ALWAYS get a receipt. **DO NOT pay any money without a contract!**
- Furnished / Unfurnished:** Most apartments are unfurnished, but you can buy used furniture in San Diego from private parties at www.sdreader.com or sandiego.craigslist.org/fua/. New economical furniture may be purchased at IKEA, Target, Wal-Mart, or Sears Essentials. You may also rent furniture at www.rentacenter.com, www.cort.com, or www.fashionfurniture.com.
- Appliances:** Apartments usually do include large appliances (refrigerator, stove) and may or may not include a microwave. You will be responsible for providing your own dishes, silverware, linens, television, stereo, etc. If you are trying to save money, thrift stores and Craig's List can be a good source for these items. Go to <http://www.bargainlink.com/thrift-stores.htm> to find a local thrift store.
- Utilities:** Utilities normally included in the apartment rent are water and trash. Occasionally, electricity and gas are included in the rent, but this is not normal. Renters must sign up and pay for telephone, internet, and cable television with the individual company. Or if you are renting a room in an apartment or house, normally, one of the other renters has already set up the utilities, and you all share the cost of utilities.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING RESOURCES

*PLEASE NOTE: This list is only meant to be an informational tool to help students find an off-campus apartment. **The ALI does not endorse any off-campus apartments exclusively.** Students must contact the manager of each apartment building directly with questions, current pricing and availability.*

APARTMENTS

(mostly unfurnished, convenient to SDSU)

(Short Term = 6 months or less; Long Term = 10-12 months)

1. **Adagio Apartments**

(unfurnished short-term apartments)

5441 Lake Murray Blvd

La Mesa, CA 91942

www.adagioapthomes.com

Phone number: 619-698-9144

15 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

2. **Dorado Plaza Apartments**

(long-term unfurnished apartments)

6263 Acorn Street

San Diego, CA 92115

www.rentnet.com

Email: dorado_plaza@yahoo.com

Phone number: 619-583-0662 (ask for the manager)

5 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

3. **Villa Del Cerro Apartments**

(unfurnished short-term apartments)

5757 College Avenue

San Diego, CA 92120

Email: villadelcerro02@aol.com

Phone number: 619-286-1777 (ask for the manager)

4 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

4. **Corinthian Apartments**

(unfurnished short and long term leases)

4981 Catocin Dr.

San Diego, CA 92115

www.corinthianapartments.net

Phone & fax number: 619-286-0441

11 minute bus ride or 20 minute walk to ALI/SDSU

5. **Albert's College Apartments**

(unfurnished long term leases)

5460 55th Street

San Diego, CA 92115

www.apartmentguide.com

Email: albertcollege@gables.com

Phone number: 619-583-7402

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

6. **Archstone La Mesa**

(unfurnished, short and long term leases)

5679 Amaya Drive

La Mesa, CA 91942

www.archstoneapartments.com

Phone number: (866) 740-2106

11 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

7. **Archstone Mission Valley**

(unfurnished, short and long term leases)

2288 Fenton Parkway

San Diego, CA 92108

www.archstoneapartments.com

Phone number: 619-280-0838

10 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

8. **College View Apartments**

(unfurnished and furnished short term and long term leases)

5420 55th Street

San Diego, CA 92115

www.collegeviewapartments-sdsu.com

Email: collegeviewapartments@gmail.com

Phone number: (619) 287-6456 - Resident Manager

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

9. **Alterra Apartments**

(unfurnished short and long term leases)

8727 Fletcher Pkwy.

La Mesa CA 91942

(888)353-1471

20 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

10. **The Dorchester Apartments**

(unfurnished short and long term leases)

6595 Montezuma Rd.

San Diego, CA 92115

Phone number: (619) 583-8084

collegecampanile@hcares.com

20 minute walk to ALI/SDSU

11. Sterling Collwood Apartments

(furnished and unfurnished short and long term leases)
5015 Collwood Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92115
Phone number: (619) 434-0135
<http://www.sterlinghousing.com/California/San-Diego/Sterling-Collwood/Home-1706.html>

10 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

12. Diplomat Apartments

(unfurnished long term leases)
6621 Montezuma Rd.
San Diego, CA 92115
Phone number: (888) 893-6953
collegecampanile@hcares.com

20 minute walk to ALI/SDSU

13. Tallmadge Canyon Park

(unfurnished short term and long term leases)
4850 Tallmadge Park Row
San Diego, CA 92115
Phone number: (888) 766-4173

10 minute bus ride to ALI/ SDSU

14. Avalon Fashion Valley

(unfurnished short term and long term leases)
7084 Friars Road
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone number: (888) 842- 4017

35 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

15. Hardy Avenue Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
5584 Hardy Ave.
San Diego CA 92115
Phone number: (619) 582-9830
collegecampanile@hcares.com

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

16. Prado Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
6304 Rancho Mission Road
San Diego CA 92108
Phone number: (888) 814-1409

19 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

17. River Run Village Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
2265 River Run Drive
San Diego CA 92108
Phone number: (619) 280-4988

23 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

18. Aztec Campus Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
5650 Hardy Avenue
San Diego CA 92115
Phone number: (619) 582-4526
collegecampanile@hcares.com

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

19. College Campanile Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
5691 Montezuma Road
San Diego CA 92115
Phone number: (619) 582-7158
collegecampanile@hcares.com

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

20. The Granada on Hardy

(furnished short and long term leases)
5525 Hardy Avenue
San Diego CA 92115
Phone number: (866) 476-2915
Granada@PeakCampus.com

www.thegranadaonhardy.com

Walking distance to ALI/SDSU

21. Stadium Arms Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
4525 Twain Ave
San Diego, CA 92120
Phone number: (619) 284-4457

18 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

22. Heatherwood Garden Apartments

(unfurnished short and long term leases)
5333 Baltimore Drive
La Mesa, CA 91941
Email: heatherwoodapartments@att.net

Phone number: 619-461-3541

15 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU

RESIDENTIAL HOTELS / FURNISHED SHORT TERM (various areas in San Diego)

A residential hotel rents single rooms with a bed, small refrigerator, microwave, and sink. Most rooms also have a private bathroom and shower. Rental is usually by the month.

1. Studio 819

819 University Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Website: www.studio819.com
E-mail: info@studio819.com
Phone number: (619) 542-0819
25 minute bus ride to ALI/SDSU or 13 minute car ride

2. Villa Caterina (for students who like a quiet environment)

1654 Columbia Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone number: (619) 232-3400
NOTE: Call in advance to make an appointment. Office is open Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm.
45 minute trolley & bus ride to ALI/SDSU or 25 minute car ride

3. Vantaggio Suites (for students who like a louder environment)

1736 State Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Website: www.vantaggiosuites.com
Phone number: (619) 595-0111
45 minute trolley & bus ride to ALI/SDSU or 25 minute car ride

4. Newport Place (short-term furnished studios and rooms)

1343 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101
Website: www.newportplace.com
Email: info@newportplace.com
Phone number: (619) 269-6298
1 hour bus ride to ALI/SDSU or 25 minute car ride

5. Old Town Place (short-term furnished studios and rooms)

2377-2383 Jefferson Street
San Diego, CA 92110
Website: www.oldtownplace.com
Phone & fax number: (858) 490-6282
22 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

6. 500 West Hotel

500 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
Website: www.500westhotel.com
Phone number: (619) 234-5252
40 minute trolley ride to ALI/SDSU

7. Hotel Occidental

410 Elm Street
Website: www.hoteloccidental-sandiego.com
Email: hoteloccidental@sbcglobal.net
Phone number: (619) 232-1336
40 minutes by 1 bus or 45 minutes by 1 bus + 1 trolley

8. PC Housing San Diego

(various areas in San Diego)
Website: http://www.pchousing.com/locations.aspx?state=California&city=San_Diego
Phone: (866) 763-4564

OTHER HELPFUL HOUSING WEBSITES

1. SDSU Housing & Roommate Connection

-You may view ads of people looking for roommates
-Most places are in the SDSU area
Website: www.offcampushousing101.com/sdsu/

2. The San Diego Reader

-Apartments and roommates all around San Diego County
Website: www.sdreader.com

3. Sign On San Diego

-Apartments and roommates all around San Diego County
-SDSU is located in "Central Inland"
Website: www.sdhomesearch.signonsandiego.com/Rentals

4. ForRent.com

-You may view a list of apartment communities that are for rent throughout San Diego
Website: www.forrent.com

5. Sublet.com

-You may view ads for sublets of apartments or rooms around San Diego County
Website: www.sublet.com

6. Apartments.com

-You may view a list of apartment communities that are for rent throughout San Diego
Website: www.apartments.com

7. Craig's List

-Apartments and roommates all around San Diego County
Website: www.sandiego.craigslist.org/hhh

8. My Cheap Apartments

-Search by location and price range
Website: www.mycheapapartments.com

Renting a Room in a House: *Is it a Mini-Dorm?*

“Mini-dorms” are normal family houses that have been converted to have a lot of bedrooms which are rented out to students. These houses then become a residence for multiple students. Sometimes, living rooms and even garages are changed into bedrooms.

These are questions to **ask yourself** if you are not sure if the room you want to rent is in a mini-dorm:

- Are there six or more students living in this house?
- Does it look like some of the rooms used to have another purpose?
- Is the garage now being used as a room?
- Is the parking on the side of the house or in back?
- Are there more than four cars parked in the driveway?

Reasons you need to know if you are living in a mini-dorm:

- Residents of mini-dorms can be fined up to \$1000 for a noise disturbance and need to be more careful about making noise in their home.
- Residents may get ticketed for a house that does not have a permit.
- Residents may have to pay more to rent in a home that does have a permit.
- Residents need to be aware of the changing laws regarding mini-dorms in San Diego because they may affect them.

If you think that the house may be a mini-dorm you should **ask the landlord** these questions:

- Do you have a Residential High Occupancy Permit?
- Is the house in accordance with the Rooming House Ordinance?
- Has anyone in the house been ticketed for a noise disturbance?
- How do the neighbors feel about this mini-dorm?

If you have any questions about mini-dorms please ask Kelsey or Kim in the ALI Office, or by sending an email to alihousing@mail.sdsu.edu.