



HOUSING GUIDE

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AT F.I.R.S.T. INSTITUTE, WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS.

It is that commitment that has led us to create a Housing Guide for our students who are making the transition to Orlando, FL to attend school. The housing guide offers information on the Altamonte Springs, Maitland, and College Park area of Orlando, as well as tips and tools for apartment and roommate searching. This area is approximately 12-15 minutes driving distance to F.I.R.S.T. Institute. We can not guarantee the type of living experience you will have. This guide does not indicate all of the housing providers in the Altamonte Springs, Maitland, and College Park area, but it does have a few resources for you to explore as a starting point for you in your search.

Any student looking for student housing is urged to create a free account on edurent.com. EDUrent works with all F.I.R.S.T. Institute students to assist in securing housing as well as roommate pairing.

Congratulations on this new chapter in your life. We look forward to seeing you on the F.I.R.S.T. Institute campus soon.

*IMPORTANT INFORMATION: The material enclosed in this housing guide is for informational purposes only. F.I.R.S.T. Institute makes no recommendations or endorsements of any particular area or service.



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AREA
INFORMATION

MAITLAND

WWW.ITSMYMAITLAND.COM



Maitland, one of the oldest incorporated municipalities in Central Florida, is a city rich in history. While growth continues, residents of the city are proud of the city's past and actively pursue preservation of historical residences. A "historical corridor" has been established. This corridor encompasses old residences still standing and occupied in the Lake Lily-Lake Catherine area and extending through the Central portion of the city. Examples of these homes are: the Arthur O'Heir House (1885), Chadburne Hall or High Oaks (1890), the James Arch House (1885), the Robert L. Wagner House (1881) and the Hill-Stone House (1908). Also, the Florida Audubon Society was founded in Maitland and continues in its protection of wild birds on Lake Sybelia. The City of Maitland has a history of strong residential identity, sustained by the beauty of the area and the diverse economy in the region. This history continues today, and the City will maintain and advance this tradition well into the future.

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

WWW.ALTAMONTE.ORG



Altamonte Springs is a wonderful place to stay, offering a wealth of fine hotels, shops, restaurants, spas, and lakeside parks. Visit Altamonte Mall for the ultimate one-stop shopping experience, offering more than 180 specialty shops, department stores, and restaurants. Another must-see is the city's newly developed Crane's Roost Park, a beautifully landscaped 37-acre lakeside park featuring a floating stage and a 900-seat amphitheater. Here you can stroll along the boardwalk and enjoy concerts, art shows, and festivals. There's even a nightly fountain show, a spectacular choreography of music, light and water. For an equally impressive show from Mother Nature, visit Lake Lotus Nature Park. Located on one of the area's wetlands, this park offers extensive nature trails to explore, a fishing pier, picnic pavilions, and playgrounds for the kids. A great time to visit Altamonte Springs is on Fourth of July weekend, when the city hosts its annual Red Hot & Boom celebration, promising even more excitement.

COLLEGE PARK

WWW.COLLEGE PARK PARTNERSHIP.COM



College Park has long been one of Orlando's traditional, family oriented neighborhoods, but has in recent years, taken on the cachet of "cool, hip and trendy." This unique community, located just northwest of Downtown Orlando, is filled with bungalow style homes built in the early 1900s, lakes, shops, restaurants and so much more. You'll notice from a casual drive along its brick-lined streets that many of the streets have been named after famous colleges like Princeton, Harvard and Yale – just another quaint aspect to this one-of-a-kind neighborhood. College Park, while well known as a shopping and dining destination, is now considered a trendy and popular place to call home — a place you'll want to call "home."

EDURENT

EDUrent has partnered with all of the best student housing options in the vicinity of F.I.R.S.T. Institute. Tell EDUrent what you're looking for and they will narrow down your search. You will get an inside view of the best features and amenities of each property. From there you can save your favorites and make an appointment to visit the apartments and get a better feel for your living quarters. If you happen to get lost while searching around, you'll have one of EDUrent's housing consultants to help you out.

By typing F.I.R.S.T. Institute in the search bar, you can see all of the apartments that EDUrent recommends in close proximity to campus. Choose from about 50 apartment complexes that are constantly being updated to give you the best match.

<http://www.edurent.com>



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STUDENT HOUSING SHOULD BE THIS EASY



APARTMENT
SEARCHING 101

STEP 1

Register On EDUrent.com

If you are making the transition to Orlando, FL, begin by registering on EDUrent.com for student housing. New students should plan to arrive in Orlando 15 to 30 days before the beginning of the program start date. By avoiding the rush, you will be more likely to find a living arrangement that you will be pleased with. Housing is offered in Orlando year round. However, you want to give yourself as much time as possible to find the best fit for you.

STEP 2

Plan Your Budget

What will your expenses be? Include rent, utilities, groceries, transportation, and dining out expenses; use the budgeting form to the right to estimate your expenses.

STEP 3

Determine Your Roommate Preference

Determine how many roommates you would like to have and who they are. Be very careful in picking roommates. You may not really know a person until you move in, and once you sign the lease you are forming a legally binding agreement. Renting an apartment with several other people could help with costs, but also has disadvantages. Roommate problems, which may be minor if you have one roommate, can become quite complicated if they involve three or four others. Be sure to take this into account when you are considering roommates.

STEP 4

Visit Different Apartments

The best way to see an apartment is to visit it in person. So, hit the road to narrow down the apartment you would like to live in. Walk or drive through that complex to see the amenities and speak with a leasing specialist from the apartment complex. They can assist you every step of the way from taking a guided tour to signing your lease.

MONTHLY BUDGET ESTIMATE	
Expenses	Monthly Cost
Rent	\$
Phone (Long distance & Cell)	\$
Electricity	\$
Water	\$
Gas	\$
Internet/Cable/Media	\$
Groceries	\$
Laundry	\$
Transportation (Bus Pass, Parking Permits)	\$
Entertainment (Dining Out, Movies)	\$
Rental Insurance	\$
Other Expenses	\$
Total	\$

TRANSPORTATION

LYNX provides public bus transportation services for Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties. Small portions of Lake, Polk, and Volusia counties are served as well. The nearest line to F.I.R.S.T. Institute is LYNX 125. To figure out a specific bus route, visit the LYNX website, enter the starting address and final destination (2309 Silver Star Road, Orlando 32804), and the route will be outlined along with a cost estimate.



BEFORE YOU MOVE IN...

Establish your program start date by completing your enrollment agreement and all necessary forms needed to start class.

Make sure you register for student housing on EDUrent.com. EDUrent will assist you with finding an apartment & roommate.

Let your Admissions Representative know if you have any further questions after reading the Housing Guide.

Obtain renters insurance to protect yourself against thefts, fires, natural disasters, etc.

Finalize all applications, paperwork, and deposits with the apartment complex of your choice in a timely manner.

Make sure you have all of your utilities in place such as electricity, water, and cable.



10 ROOMMATE SEARCHING TIPS

1 KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

Making a list of traits you are, or are not, looking for in a roommate will help you to make a better choice. Finding the right roommate is not easy, but this step can make it a lot easier.

2 FURNISH THE ROOM

If you are looking for a roommate for a room you already have, the first thing you should do is furnish the room. By furnishing the room you make it easier to rent out and increase the amount of money you can ask for as well.

3 USE EDURENT

Let EDUrent get you a deal on housing that suits you. They can even pair you with an awesome roommate if you need it. EDUrent also gives you the tools to raise funds and pay for your housing. Refer to page 8 for more information.

4 ROOMMATE LIST FROM F.I.R.S.T. INSTITUTE

There are many new students that are moving to the area, or currently attend F.I.R.S.T. Institute, that are looking for a great roommate. Make sure to ask your admissions representative for a list of potential roommates to contact.

5 ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

During the process of finding the right roommate, you are going to want to interview candidates over the phone and in person. Be sure to have about 5 good questions prepared. This will help you figure out who they are and whether or not they will be a good fit for you.

6 TALK ON THE PHONE FIRST

When you are looking for the right roommate, one of the best things to do is talk over the phone first. You may find out everything you need to know on the phone, which can help you weed out those who will definitely not work well as your roommate.

7 MEET IN PUBLIC FIRST

For your own safety, you should always meet a potential roommate in a public place before you go see the apartment or show the rooms you have for rent. This protects both of you. Most people who are serious about finding a roommate will meet you in public. Those who aren't won't.

8 HOW WILL YOUR ROOMMATE PAY FOR THEIR PORTION?

Make sure you take a moment to discuss this aspect. Even the best roommate in the world will put you in a bad position if they do not have a financial plan to pay their portion of the rent and bills.

9 INTERVIEW AT LEAST 3 PEOPLE

Even if you think the first person you interview is a great fit, be sure to meet with at least two more just to be sure. Having at least three people to base your decision on helps you to choose the one who stands out overall.

10 PERSONAL SPACE

Setting clear boundaries regarding personal space from the get-go can eliminate a lot of issues down the road. Do you want them using your bathroom? Do you want them going into your room to borrow something? Be sure to have this discussion early on.



STAY CONNECTED

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW BLOGS, VIDEOS, ADMISSIONS AND MORE.



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