

# Living On-Campus vs. Living Off-Campus

## Which is Right for Me?

When attending college, the most important decision you will make next to what academic program you are going to study is where you are going to live. Whether this is the first time you have ever lived away from home or not, you need to educate yourself on the pros and cons of all living options in order to make an informed decision. This brochure is designed to provide you with the information and resources to be able to make an informed decision.

### Living in Residence Makes Sense

- Your own private bedroom and the door locks!
- You share a suite with only 1 other person (2 others in the 3 bedroom suites)
- Security
  - Campus security patrols the campus 24 hours per day
  - 24 hour controlled entrance to the residence
  - Residence Front Desk is staffed 24 hours per day
- Leadership opportunities
- Opportunities to get involved in volunteer organizations and fundraising activities for various charities and causes.
- Educational and Social programming
- Convenient access to classes, computer labs, library, recreational facilities, etc.
- Common areas are cleaned daily
- No hidden costs – your residence fees include all utilities, internet, phone, satellite service, furniture and appliances and every bedroom has a TV.
- Phones – every bedroom has a phone with local service included and it is already installed ... no waiting for Bell to hook-up a phone
- An 8 month contract that coincides with the academic year ... no worrying about what to do with your apartment during the summer
- Maintenance and repairs – submit your work orders online any time of the day or night ... try calling your landlord at 4am!
- Garbage and recycling is located on every floor. No need to worry about missing a weekly pickup or having to buy garbage tags if you have more than 1 bag of garbage.
- Your suite comes fully furnished ... no need to go to Ikea or raid your parents house for old furniture
- Better grades!! According to the American Council on Education, *“Students who live on campus have a 10 to 15 percent better chance of doing well in college than students living off-campus. On-campus students have better grades, take more units, and are more likely to persevere to achieve a university degree.”*

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### Programming in Residence

The Resident Assistants (RAs) and Community Advisors (CAs) are responsible for creating a variety of programs, both educational and social, in the residence. In addition to these programs the Residence Students' Council (RSC) organize a number of activities, programs and services for the students living in residence.

Educational programs vary from year to year, but often include topics such as test taking, study skills, time management, eating healthy, etc.

Social programs and activities are designed to get students out of their rooms and to meet and interact with other students on their floor and throughout the building.

The RSC organizes a number of social events each year which range from ski trips to shopping trips to concerts. In addition to these social activities, the RSC also supports some important services like a weekly grocery bus and weekly tutoring in the residence, both of which are free for residents.

# Things to Think About When Living Off-Campus

Although there can definitely be benefits to living off-campus there are also a number of things to think about that you don't have to worry about when living in residence.

- Financial Risks – if your roommate(s) leave before the end of the lease you may be financially responsible for their portion of the rent and utility
- Apartment shopping – looking for an apartment can be a time consuming and often frustrating venture
- BLR – The City of Barrie has a Boarding, Lodging and Rooming House bylaw that require landlords to apply for and license their units. When searching for accommodations off-campus you should be checking to make sure you are about to rent a unit in a legally licensed building or house.
- Lease length – many landlords will have you sign a 12 month lease which means you are going to pay for 4 months when you may not be using your accommodations
- Safety – Campus security isn't patrolling your neighbourhood
- Laundry – if your accommodations don't have on-site laundry you will have to walk/drive/bus it to the nearest Laundromat.
- Phone/internet/Cable TV/Utilities – Are they included? If not you have to budget for not only the monthly costs of these services, but also the hook-up fees. Don't forget you also have to book an appointment for these services individually!
- Roommate Conflicts – if you are sharing with others, there aren't any residence life staff trained in mediation and conflict resolution skills to assist you.
- Maintenance – If you are living in a house or small apartment building there usually aren't maintenance staff on-site. You have to call your landlord and have him/her make the repair arrangements. Try calling your landlord at 4 am and see what the response time is like!
- Furniture – In most off-campus accommodations you have to provide your own furniture. Don't forget that also means transporting it and moving it into and out of your new accommodations.
- Winter in Barrie – Unless you are in an apartment building you are probably going to be responsible for shovelling your driveway and walkway. We have great skiing around Barrie because we are located in the middle of a Snowbelt!
- Parking – Barrie has a few bylaws that restrict how many cars can be in a driveway, no overnight street parking from November until May, etc. If you are bringing a car make sure you have enough legal parking spots or you will get ticketed and/or towed.
- Transportation costs— a city bus pass for students costs \$55.00/month (Fall 2009 Price)

## Is Living Off-Campus for You?

Living off-campus may be the right choice for you and has some benefits to living on-campus:

- You get to choose the style of accommodation (apt with others, room in a house, bachelor apt, etc.)
- You can usually have a pet
- More privacy as you are living with fewer students
- Your accommodations may be closer to shopping and entertainment
- You get to bring your own furniture
- Less restrictive rules

## On-Campus vs. Off-Campus Comparative

	4 Bedroom House (per bedroom)		2 Bedroom Apt in Apt. Building (per bedroom)		On-Campus Residence
	Monthly	12 Month Lease	Monthly	12 Month Lease	8 Month Lease
Rent	460	5520	485	5820	5,778
Electricity	30 + tax	403.20	Included	Included	Included
Gas	30 + tax	403.20	Included	Included	Included
Furnishings	n/a	300+	n/a	300+	Included
Satellite/Cable	12 + tax	161.28	24 + tax	322.56	Included
Telephone	10 + tax	134.40	20 + tax	268.80	Included
Internet	15 + tax	201.60	30 + tax	403.20	Included
Internet/Cable In-stall	12 + tax	13.44	24 + tax	26.88	Included
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$569</b>	<b>\$7,137.12</b>	<b>\$583</b>	<b>\$7,141.44</b>	<b>\$5,778</b>

- Note:
- Residence rent is based on 2010-11 prices
  - Off-Campus rent is based on average prices listed for accommodation types in Barrie (Fall 2009)
  - All prices are calculated on an individual basis

