

Pitt Housing Advice from Mark Azic, Economics PhD Candidate 2020

One thing I would highlight, are the University-owned properties, which in my experience are a pretty good value: <https://www.ocl.pitt.edu/university-owned>.

Craigslist is a very popular place to find housing, though it's very hit-or-miss. Another place to start -- if you want to find your own housing -- is with management companies. Some of the most popular ones amongst grads:

--- Mozart Management: <https://mozartrents.com/>

--- Forbes Management: <http://forbesmanagement.net/>

--- Union Real Estate: <https://www.unionrealestate.com/>

Facebook is also a good source. Below are a few Facebook groups that grad students I know have used. They're all "private" which means you have to request to join in order to see what's being posted, but they should accept anyone who requests to join.

--- University of Pittsburgh (PITT) Housing, Sublets & Roommates:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/816037598451517/>

--- Housing and Roommates in Pittsburgh:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HousingAndRoommatesInPittsburgh/>

--- Queer Pittsburgh Housing Public Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1196632503705878/>

Other advice I have:

1) Start early. I know this is difficult, especially with COVID happening, but a lot of the best apartments in PGH will be taken before the summer starts. That doesn't mean there aren't still going to be good places left, but the longer you wait, the harder they are to find.

2) If you can't get here early, be wary of apartments that sound too good to be true, especially if they're not being leased out by someone reputable. I know a lot of slumlords wait until students -- especially international ones -- show up in August with no place to go, then fool them into terrible apartments by hiding the apartments' faults and promising "we're fixing that."

3) Look at the bus routes to campus for any apartment you're considering. Almost every graduate student relies on the bus to take them to campus.

4) If this is your first time renting your own apartment, spend some time Googling "what to ask". You don't want to find out how much utilities are a month after moving in, or find out that

the building has a rodent problem after you sign the lease, or regret not taking photos of damages that were already present when you moved in.

5) If you're going to find a roommate who is a stranger, other grad students are *generally* good to live with.

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