

GENERAL HOUSING INFORMATION IN RICHMOND

The Richmond area offers several types of living arrangements. Apartments offer long term leases (a year or more) as well as short term leases of three to six months. Rent varies according to the apartment complex and the number of bedrooms. There may be an additional monthly charge for short term leases.

Private homes are also available for rent. Generally homes are rented for a year or more rather than for shorter periods of time. Typically the tenant is responsible for lawn and household maintenance and repair including arranging for service workers to perform household repairs and yard work and purchasing small household items for the house.

Private homeowners often will rent a room or rooms to students or faculty. This arrangement is known as a sublet. Sublets can also be made by the rental property for tenants who leave the property before the lease expires. These can be long or short term arrangements and usually include kitchen privileges.

FEES AND DEPOSITS

Most apartments require an application fee (usually about \$40-\$60 USD) and a security deposit (usually \$150-\$200 USD). The application fee covers the cost of the credit check, which is a background check of your consumer credit history in the US. The application fee may be waived if the apartment complex recognizes the University of Richmond as a preferred employer. The security deposit covers the cost of damages to the apartment. This deposit will be returned at the end of the lease if the apartment is in good condition.

Fees and deposits for houses vary according to who handles the leasing arrangements. Houses rented by agencies usually require an application fee, credit check, and a security deposit. Houses that are rented by private landlords do not usually require an application fee or credit check but do require a security deposit. Security deposits for houses are usually equivalent to one month's rent. This fee will be returned at the end of the lease if the house is in good condition.

FURNITURE

Most rental property in Richmond is unfurnished, so you will need to make arrangements to rent furniture. Rooms and sublets may or may not be furnished so you will need to inquire with the renter.

- **Furniture Rental Companies:**
 - Aaron Rents 804-270-1198 www.aaronrents.com
 - Rent A Center 804-282-1173 www.RentACenter.com

RENTAL INSURANCE

Renters Insurance covers damage to your belongings in the event of fire, theft, weather, or accident. The landlord's insurance covers damages to the building but not to your belongings. Renters Insurance also protects you against liability lawsuits if someone is injured in your home. Some landlords require proof of renters insurance before you can move into their property.

Insurance Agencies:

- State Farm www.statefarm.com
- Geico 1-800-841-2964 <http://www.geico.com/>
- Travelers 1-888-695-4625 <http://www.travelers.com/>

TRANSPORTATION

The University of Richmond is located in a suburban area. It is served by one public bus, [GRTC's Route 16](#), and UR's [GRTC Connector](#) that goes to GRTC connection points when Route 16 is not in service. Since there is limited bus service you will need to ask if the rental property is located on bus routes that to go UR. There is no other public transportation to the campus, and most apartments are not within walking distance of the campus. You will need a personal vehicle if you chose to live somewhere that is not serviced by GRTC Route 16 or the GRTC Connector. The University of Richmond provides [free bus passes](#) for all faculty and staff. More information about public transportation to the campus, University-operated shuttles, car and ride-sharing services are on the [Transportation Center website](#).

Greater Richmond Transit Company: 804-358-4782 www.ridegrtc.com

Car Rental companies: Fees vary by type of vehicle, mileage, length of contract, and company

- AAA Mid Atlantic 804-285-8912 www.aaamidatlantic.com
- Avis 804-270-0888 www.Avis.com
- Enterprise 804-355-7707 www.Enterprise.com

UTILITIES

As a general rule utilities are not included in the monthly rent. Apartments generally include water and trash pick-up, but the tenant must arrange the other utilities such as electricity, television, and Internet. You will need to contact the providers to arrange to have utilities installed in your home. In most cases someone must be in the residence at the time of the installation. A deposit may be required for gas and electric services.

Gas: The City of Richmond 804-644-3000
<http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicUtilities/index.aspx>

Electricity: Dominion VA Power 804-677-3000 <http://www.dom.com/customer/>

Telephone/Cable/Internet: Prices vary by the company and services.

- Cavalier 804-772-6117 www.cavaliersalesagent.com
- Comcast 804-266-) www.comcast.com/
- Verizon 804-954-6222 www.verizon.com/

Water/ Refuse: The service provider varies by the location of the home.

- Chesterfield County 804-748-1291
<http://www.chesterfield.gov/Utilities.aspx?id=2750>
- City of Richmond 804-644-3000
<http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicUtilities/index.aspx>
- County of Henrico 804-501-4275 www.co.henrico.va.us/utility

BANKING

The University of Richmond pays faculty and staff by direct deposit. You will need to set up a local bank account. You can arrange to transfer funds from your home country into the local account for a small fee. This fee varies by bank and economic conditions. You will need to bring your passport to open an account.

Banks close to the university

- BB&T 804-288-4311 <http://www.bbt.com/personal/solutions/>
- Union First Market 804-281-7890 <https://www.bankatunion.com/home/home>
- Wachovia 804-673-1640 <http://www.wachovia.com/checking/>
- Bank of America <https://www.bankofamerica.com/>

CHECK CASHING AND ATM

The University cashier's office will cash personal checks for up to \$100 a day provided the funds are drawn on a local bank. The cashier's office is located in the rear of Sarah Brunet Hall. There is no charge for this service. You will need to bring some type of picture identification, such as your university identification card, for this service.

The Union First Market Bank ATM is located on the ground level of the Tyler Haynes Commons. There is a small fee for this service if you do not bank with Union First Market Bank.