OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING CHECKLIST

LOCATION

☐ How long will it take to get to campus? Is the path to campus well lit & maintained?
☐ Is it close to a bus route or the Ridesafe safety van route?
☐ Are the grocery store, pharmacy, bank, & other amenities close by?

SAFETY

☐ Do you feel comfortable with the neighbourhood? Would you be comfortable walking alone at night?
☐ Do the trees & shrubs around the unit obstruct your view, or could they hide someone?
☐ Are there locks on all the doors (including bedroom doors)? What about peepholes?
☐ Are the entrances well lit?
☐ Are the fire escape exits easily accessible?
☐ Can the windows be locked? Are the windows properly sealed with storm windows & screens?
☐ Are there smoke & carbon monoxide detectors on each floor? Are they working?
☐ Is there a fire extinguisher in the unit? Was it checked within the past year?

FACILITIES

☐ Is there parking available? Is it included?
☐ Is the unit furnished? Is there extra storage space available?
☐ Who is responsible for shoveling snow & mowing the lawn?
☐ Are there laundry facilities available? Are they coin operated or included?
☐ Are the bathrooms/kitchen/living area shared?

COST

☐ Are utilities included with rent? If not, ask current tenants for estimates of monthly utility bills.
☐ Are you required to put down a deposit for the lease?
QUALITY

☐ Is the unit clean, spacious, & well maintained?
☐ Is there any evidence of mildew, ceiling & wall cracks, or rodents/cockroaches?
☐ Who controls heating & air conditioning? What type of heating method is used?
☐ Are the appliances (stove, oven, fridge) in working order?
☐ Is the plumbing reliable? How is the water pressure? How big is the hot water heater?

RULES

☐ Can you paint or decorate your unit/room?
☐ Is smoking allowed inside?
☐ Are pets allowed in the unit?
☐ When is garbage & recycling collected?

LANDLORD

☐ Do you have your landlord's contact information?
☐ Will the landlord visit with prior notice or drop by unannounced?
☐ Is the rental unit licensed? If not, does it need one? (Note: if the unit needs a license but does not have one, the landlord is not allowed to rent the unit, & city officials can evict you)
☐ Does the landlord handle problems in a timely manner?
☐ Has the landlord promised to clean/paint or repair the unit before you move in? If so, get it in writing!

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Are the phone lines, cable service, & internet connection already set up?
☐ Have there been any electrical problems within the unit recently? If so, have they been solved?
☐ How many other people will you be sharing the unit with?

This checklist is intended as a reference only. uWaterloo does not warrant its application.