

Securing Housing Off-Campus

July 18, 2019



The Off-Campus Life Office

We serve as the first point of contact for students moving and living off-campus.



When to Start Searching & Where to Live

OVERVIEW OF HOUSING IN THE U.S.



When to Start Searching

- As soon as you need a place, start looking!
- Most graduate students start looking for housing in April through July
- Most leases are signed in July C3.8 (t)nJul (y)

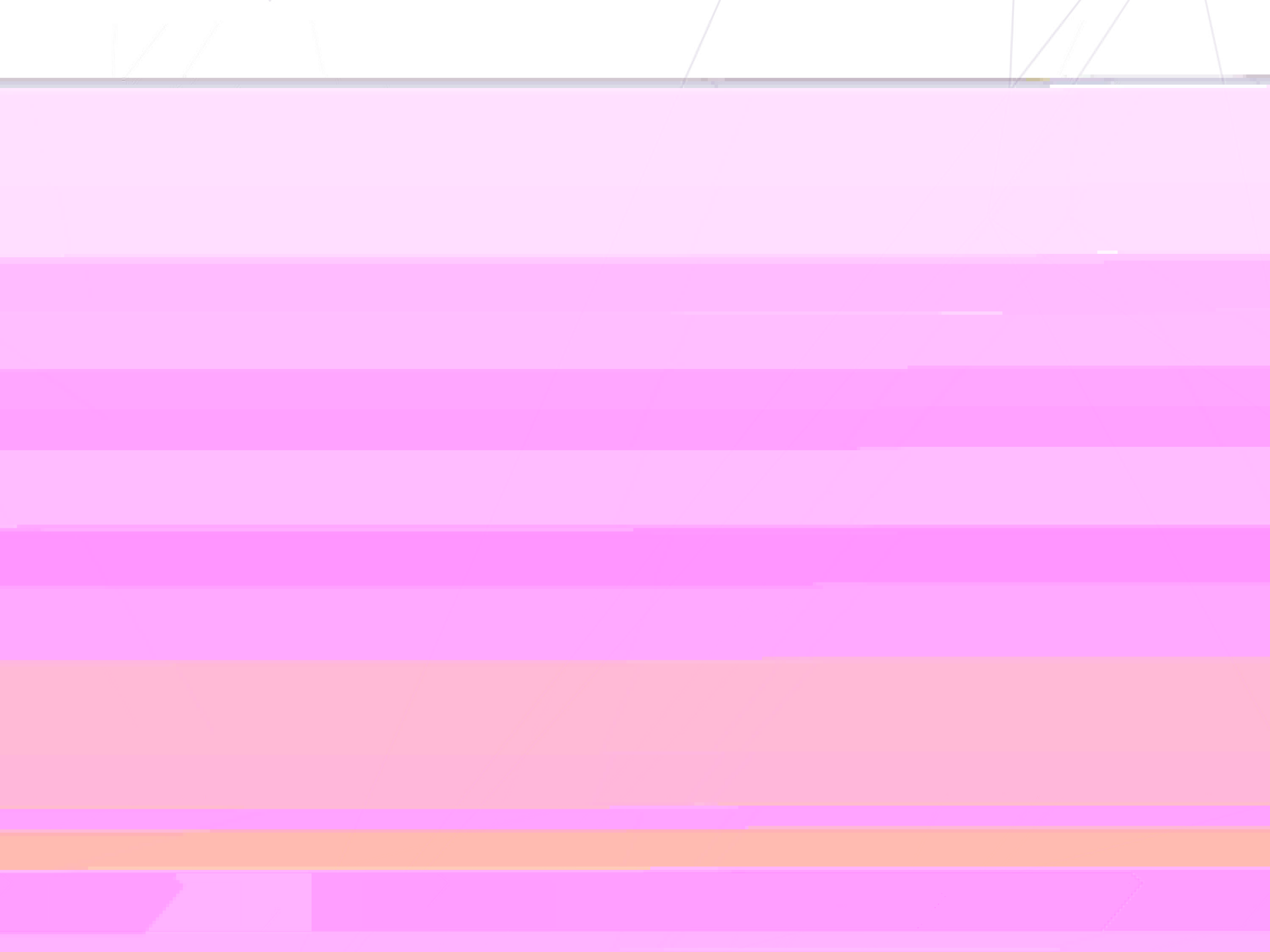
Where to Live

- Most graduate students live in Evanston, Far North Chicago, and North Chicago
 - Learn more about Chicago neighborhoods with this [interactive map](#)
- Very few students who take classes in Evanston live in downtown Chicago
- Popular Evanston neighborhoods for NU students are west and south of campus
 - North of campus is good if you are in an engineering program



Limited On-Campus Housing

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Authentic Information & Reliable Housing Options

FINDING HOUSING & ROOMMATES



Places4Students

- Northwestern University is partnered with a free service called [Places4Students.com](https://www.places4students.com)
 - Rental Property listings
 - Student Sublets
 - Roommate Finder



Finding Reliable Housing

(Even If You Aren't Currently in the U.S.)

- It is always recommended to view housing options in-person
 - Plan ahead to make appointments to visit potential properties as soon as you arrive!
 - If this is not possible, arrange a video call tour of the property (e.g., Skype)
- Contact landlords by phone/email with any questions about properties you're considering



Length of Lease

- Leases typically run 12 months or an academic year.
- You may be able to find a more short-term

Amenities & Utilities

- Amenities & utilities will vary with each lease contract, depending on the landlord/apartment building.
- Amenities that may be included: in-unit or in-

Application & Lease Fees

- Many landlords require tenants to pay application and move-in fees, in addition to the first month's rent. This is often a requirement in commercial leases, particularly in high-cost areas. Landlords may also require a security deposit, typically equal to one month's rent, to protect against potential damage or non-payment. Some landlords may also require a letter of reference from a previous landlord or a guarantor to ensure the tenant's ability to pay rent. These fees and requirements can vary significantly between different markets and property types.

Credit History, SSN, & Co-Signers

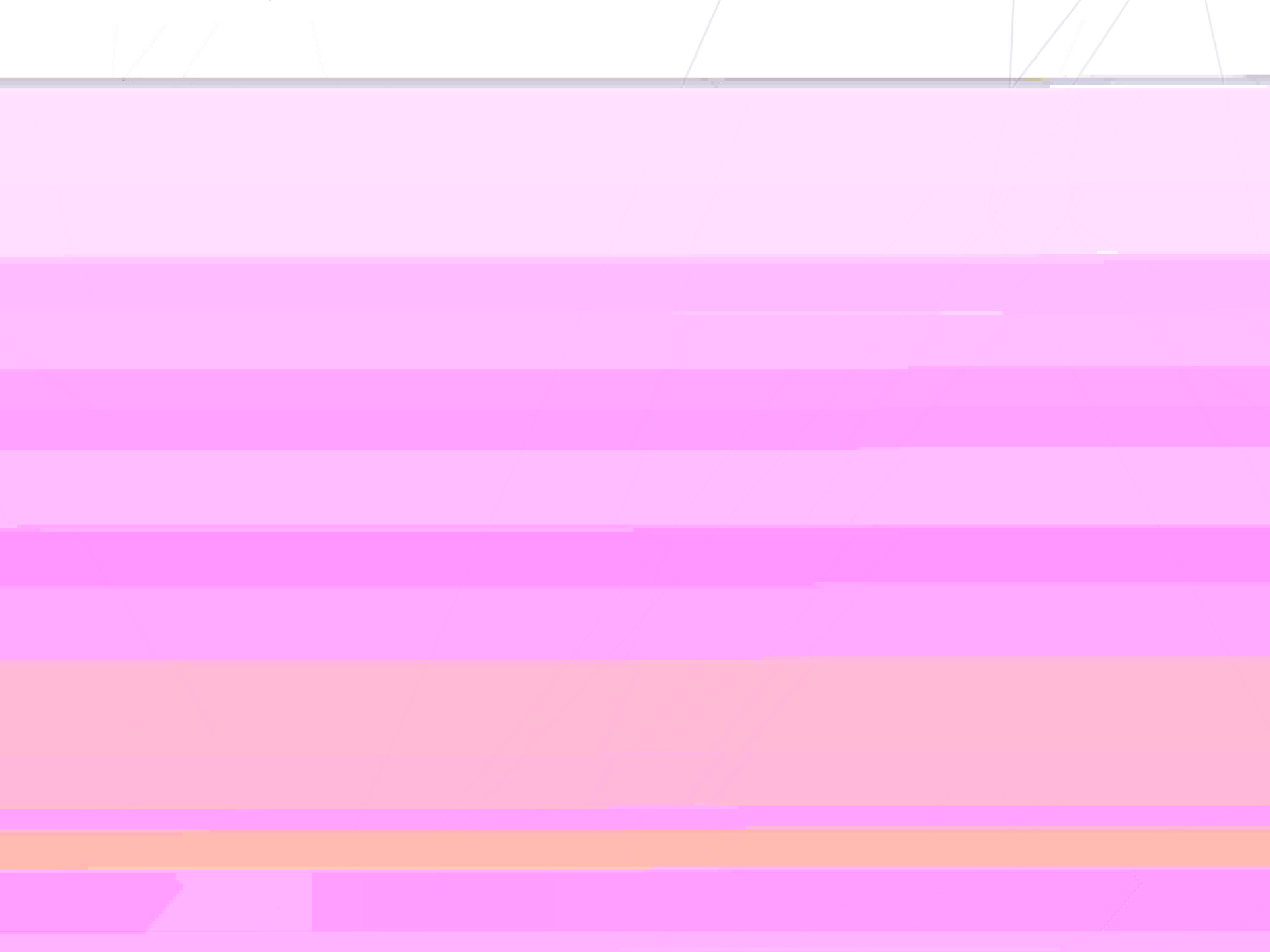
COMMON ISSUES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Lack of U.S. Credit History

- Try to get a letter of sponsorship, or show other proof of income (e.g., bank statements) to demonstrate your ability to pay rent on time.
- If you have an on-campus internship or assistantship, try to get a letter from your academic department that explains the terms of your job and how much you will be paid.





Questions?

