



Housing Guide for International Scholars

UNIVERSITY *of* WISCONSIN

LA CROSSE

Finding Housing

La Crosse, Wisconsin, is home to three colleges and universities as well as over 50,000 residents, therefore housing is limited. On campus housing in UWL's Residence Halls is only available to enrolled students. Finding an apartment or house takes time and the vacancies in La Crosse fill up quickly. Many who work and study in La Crosse choose to live in the neighboring cities, such as **Onalaska, WI** and **La Crescent, Minnesota**. Onalaska is directly to the north of La Crosse, and La Crescent is to the west across the Mississippi River.



The link below offers several online housing:

<https://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents/affording-college/#tab-off-campus-housing>

If you have just arrived and require temporary housing before your apartment becomes available, [this link](#) can provide you with a comprehensive list of hotels (for a range of budgets), as well as extended-stay hotel options if you require temporary housing for longer than a week.

Transportation

It is common and highly recommended that you view an apartment before you sign a lease. Here are a few options for how to get around La Crosse (additional options are listed in the “Living in La Crosse Guide”):

- **List of La Crosse [Taxi Companies](#)**
 - 1-800-TAXI-USA is a one-stop shop for taxi service.
 - **Uber** or **Lyft** are both personal car transportation applications.
Download either the Uber or Lyft application on your mobile device and follow the set up procedure on the application to begin requesting rides.
- **Rental Car Companies**
 - Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 - 227 3rd St South
 - (608) 785-7400
 - 2850 Airport Dr
 - (608) 781-5094

Leases, and the Rights and Responsibilities of Renters

Information on Lease Agreements

A lease is a binding legal document between a renter and their landlord explaining exactly what the renter can and cannot do in their apartment, who is responsible for what, and the exact details of the rental agreement. Once the lease agreement is signed, you as the renter are legally bound to follow the rules laid out in the document.

If you are interested in learning more about your rights and responsibilities as a renter, please visit the [Tenant Resource Center](#). This center will help people with difficult or unlawful landlords. They are located in Madison, WI, but any person residing in Wisconsin can use their services. Their toll-free (free of charge) number is: 1-877-238-7368

UWL's financial literacy office, It Make\$ Sense!, has a great [website](#) and [presentation](#) for renters including information on leases, renting in the La Crosse area, as well as renter's insurance, and [things to look out for in lease agreements](#).

Advice on Lease Agreements

- Read the lease agreement carefully and completely before signing. Ask your landlord or realtor questions before signing.
- Request a copy of the lease after it has been signed. Keep the document for reference for the course of your stay.

Questions to ask your landlord regarding your lease:

- How long is the lease?
- How much is the security deposit, and will I be reimbursed when I move out?
- Does the lease renew automatically at the end of the term?
- If I need to move out early, how much notice would you like? Are there any penalties for breaking my lease early?
- Do you allow pets? Children? Smoking?
- What kind of parking is available? Is there a garage? Parking lot? On- or off-street parking?
- Is laundry on-site?
- Is the apartment furnished?
- Are utilities (water, electricity, gas, heat, etc.) included in the rent?

Common Vocabulary associated with finding housing:

Emerson College has a wonderful resource ([Apartment Vocabulary](#)) which explains certain terms or abbreviations used in real estate listings.