

## International Students & Housing

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**CTS does not have its own residence hall**, which can present some initial challenges for those arriving directly from another country in making living arrangements. To help ease your transition, CTS will pay for up to two weeks of temporary housing in the Hyde Park/Woodlawn area for international students coming to CTS directly from another country or from more than 500 miles away. To arrange this housing, or to find out if you are eligible, please email [housing@ctschicago.edu](mailto:housing@ctschicago.edu).

You will also be connected to an **International Student Liaison**, an experienced CTS student who will be available to help you through the transition of moving to a new city or country. These students are also international students, who are here to offer both hospitality and mentoring as you become adjusted to CTS and your new surroundings. Feel free to ask them questions and seek their advice about housing, CTS, and Chicago in general.

**For a detailed list of permanent housing options**, please see the information sheets entitled “*CTS Housing Options*” and “*University of Chicago Housing Options*.” However, as you prepare to travel to Chicago and seek housing please keep these important tips in mind:

***Housing in the United States, particularly in Chicago, has fees associated with moving in that you will need to have immediately available.*** If possible, please bring enough in U.S. dollars (cash or check) to pay for two months’ rent, plus \$200-500 for other housing expenses. A typical one-bedroom apartment near CTS may lease for about \$900 per month. Thus, for example, if you would like to rent a one-bedroom apartment, it is a good idea to bring at least \$2,000 U.S. dollars.

***Plan to set up and pay for at least some utilities***, particularly in apartment living. Utilities may include (but are not limited to): heat, electricity, cooking gas, phone, and Internet service. Some housing options may include the cost of some utilities. Typically, heat and water are included, but be sure to ask your housing provider what utilities are included in the rent and which are your responsibility to set up and pay for. Your Student Liaison can help you through these processes.

***There are some housing options that do not involve large additional fees.*** These options are typically some form of shared housing or dorm-style living; utilities are typically included. Some of them are listed on the “CTS Housing Options” information sheet. University of Chicago Graduate Student Housing and Disciples Divinity House are two examples of housing that have no or lower additional fees.

***Plan to bring a cell phone with you or to purchase one immediately.*** You'll want to have a U.S.-based phone number with which your Student Liaison and other CTS personnel can keep in touch with you during your first days on campus. A cell phone is a great resource while you are waiting to find permanent housing and setting up utilities in your housing. Your Student Liaison can help you identify ways to get a cell phone. We advise that you purchase a phone with no contract (also known as "prepaid" cell phones) when you first arrive; then, when you have had more time to learn about the various phone companies and their services, choose a more permanent phone if you like. Prepaid phones can be purchased at places like Best Buy, Walgreens, CVS, and Target.

***For more information, please contact:***

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