Frequently Asked Questions
Faculty and Staff

1. Are all staff and faculty eligible to access Community Rentals Office’s listings?
Faculty and staff who are paid through the UCSC payroll system have access to the listings at no charge. Some individuals affiliated with UCSC in other ways may pay a $10.00 user fee for 30 days access or 30 times accessed, whichever occurs first. Examples of affiliates are part-time Recreation teachers and researchers with the Institute of Marine Sciences.

2. What do I need to do in order to gain access to the listings?
To request a password to view the listings, go to “Search Rentals” then click on the “Search for Rentals Here” button. Go to the right-hand side of the box with the heading, “If you don’t have a Housing Registry password,” and type in your UCSC e-mail address. Your password will be e-mailed to that address. Note: If you are an eligible faculty or staff member who has not set up a UCSC e-mail account yet, request a temporary password at the bottom of the “Search Rentals” page. This access does not support the auto-match and e-mailing feature of the rental listings program. We recommend you log in using your UCSC e-mail account as soon as you receive one.

3. When should I start looking for my housing?
Most landlords do not know when their rental will be available until their tenant gives them a 30-day notice to vacate, which means that most properties available after September 1st will not be advertised until August. Many tenants move on the first of the month, so be prepared to rent beginning September 1st, although the quarter begins later in the month. Search by the availability date on the listings posted on the Community Rentals Office’s Housing Registry web site. Ads posted with other sources are mostly available immediately or within the month. Start looking in early August to give yourself plenty of time for your housing search.

4. How much should I expect to spend for housing?
Our Rental Cost Statistics page lists price ranges of everything from rooms in shared housing to 5 or 6-bedroom houses. Also, you may view an abbreviated list of current ads in our database.

5. Where do I find information on K-12 schools and local libraries?
The National Center for Educational Sciences’ web site allows you to search public and private schools, colleges, and libraries by zip code. Besides general information, you will find teacher-to-student ratios, district information, and much more data collected annually and directly from State Education Agencies (SEAs). The zip code to search the Santa Cruz area is 95060.

6. Where do I start?
If you are a first-time renter in California, take our Online Renters’ Workshop. Designed for first-time renters, it will give you insight about what to expect as a renter in California, and can serve as a review of your rights and responsibilities, even if you’ve rented before.

Prepare a rental application packet. It is important to make a good impression with landlords. In all rental markets there is competition for the best rentals. Check out the Rental Application Packet Checklist on the Rental Forms and Resources page. Looking for Housing, on our web site, and start working on your application packet. You will impress a landlord and have a better chance of being accepted for the rental of your choice.
Look at current listings to educate yourself about the rental market—get a good idea of what you can get for your money. Determine the best location for your needs. After looking at a number of rentals, you will know what is fair market value and what you can pass up.

7. Where do I find other resources?
Investigate the Rental Resources pages on our web site. You will find over 70 forms, resource flyers, and/or links related to renting in California. Also check into Property Managers and Apartment Complexes.