



July 2022

TO: Property Management Company or Prospective Landlord

RE: Renting an Apartment to a UO International Student

UO International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) provides this letter to new international students applying for off-campus housing in the Eugene/Springfield area as a supplemental letter of advocacy and support.

Understandably, property management companies and landlords have concerns about a prospective tenant's financial solvency and therefore run a credit check on a social security number. However, due to strict Social Security Administration regulations governing the issuance of social security numbers to non-immigrants, international students in F-1 or J-1 visa status are not eligible for a social security number if they are 1) not yet in the U.S. and 2) do not have an on-campus job.

The majority of UO's new international students are trying to arrange off-campus housing prior to arrival in the U.S. and most will not get an on-campus job. Therefore, they are not eligible for a social security number. **If you require a social security number, with no flexibility in that requirement, you may effectively preclude international students from housing. In addition, any requirement of a co-signer/guarantor with income two or more times the monthly rent is a serious impediment for many international students and will have a direct impact on UO's ability to recruit international diversity and talent.**

At the Division of Global Engagement, we welcome international students and support them in pursuing academic and cross-cultural success. While we do not represent international students or enter contracts on their behalf, we do have some experience with requiring international students to demonstrate evidence of their financial resources.

International students are required to provide evidence of financial resources to study at the UO and for their US visa; enough to cover not only tuition and fees (estimated at \$30 - \$40K depending on degree), but also housing, insurance and living expenses (estimated at \$21 K for the 2022-23 academic year). Financial evidence can include any combination of bank statements, scholarships, graduate employment, and government support.

Some landlords accept the following documents, in lieu of a social security number, as evidence of an international student's financial solvency:

- This letter from UO International Student & Scholar Services
- Copy of I-20 as evidence of financial resources to come to the U.S.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact ISSS at intl@uoregon.edu.

Sincerely,

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