

## **A guide to living off campus**

Remember that what you do affects those around you and as a member of the CUT community you are expected to comply with the law of the land and the university student code of conduct, i.e. Ordinance 2. You could be held accountable for behavior off-campus that is in violation of the ordinance.

### Tips on how to be a good landlord

- Be fair and reasonable on rentals. Keep rent and other utility costs at a reasonable rate and explain to your tenants reasons for any changes in charges
- Spell out your expectations and be clear on when rent is expected, payment of bills, cleaning and times when the gate is locked
- Have a written agreement which is signed by both parties. A sample copy can be obtained from the Off Campus office at the Dilmitis complex
- Keep your house well maintained; this will help advertise your property to prospective student tenants.
- If you do not stay at the property ensure that your tenants know how to contact you.
- Show respect for your tenants, even though they are students they deserve your respect.
- Keep lines of communication open and be positive, should a problem arise it would be easy to work out a solution if you are both positive.
- Late coming: During the course of the semester our library closes at 10pm and during the exams period it closes at 12 mid night. Therefore, it is not unusual for students to come in late between 11 pm and 2 am.
- Lastly, be considerate and sympathetic to students because in most cases it is the first time the student stays away from home as a tenant

- **Off Campus downloadable documents**

- **A GUIDE TO LIVING OFF CAMPUS**

- The Off Campus life office exists for the welfare of non-resident students, who constitute the bulk of CUT students. We are there to assist students get affordable accommodation in areas of their choice, assist with land lord issues, promote positive relations between our students and the Chinhoyi community and work with various other stakeholders for the health, safety and security of our Off Campus students. The section is headed by the Director who is assisted by two Wardens, two Sub-Wardens and Area Committee members selected from each neighbourhood where our students live.

- **Wardens and Sub-Wardens**

- Wardens are CUT staff members who have strong interest and commitment in promoting a holistic student development. Sub-wardens are CUT students who live in the local residential areas and keep off-campus students connected to both campus resources and also provide information on learning, sport and recreational resources found in the Chinhoyi community. Our Wardens and Sub-Wardens are there to assist you overcome challenges posed by staying off-campus.

- **Student Development Programmes: Clubs and Societies**

- CUT On and Off Campus Life offices co-ordinate a vast number of student clubs and societies. Participating in one or more of these clubs is the best way to stay connected to the campus and meet fellow students with common interest. However, if you have an interest or

concern that is not catered for, you are free to start a new club and contact the Directors for On and Off Campus Life and Student Development Programmes who will assist you to register your club.

- **Finding Accommodation**

- The Director will assist you find suitable accommodation in areas of your choice. There are also boarding houses which have some good facilities. So visit his offices for details. Further, you can consult our wardens, Sub-Wardens and Area Committee members. Community notice boards in supermarkets and other public places can also be good searching places.

- **Off-Campus Living**

- The mere thinking of staying off-campus can create some anxieties on many students. However, it is my submission that if you graduate without having experienced life off-campus, you would not have experienced university life in its totality. Life off-campus gives you the exposure and experience you would not get in campus, of being responsible for all the details of daily needs. You are faced with the realities of ever day life like paying rent and making choices that impact on you as a tenant, a neighbour and a citizen of the Chinhoyi community. At the same time you are still a CUT student and you are expected to abide by CUT's student code of conduct.

- **Be a responsible tenant and a good neighbour**

- Nothing will influence your life more than being a good and responsible tenant. Take the initiative to get to be known by your neighbours, introduce yourself, and establish good social networks and relations. Explore what the community offers in terms of churches, shops, entertainment and leisure centres. Attend community meetings, participate in community events and shop at local businesses so that you get to be known. Being known in the local area is good and wise social investment

- **How to be a good neighbour**

- 1. Introduce yourself to your neighbours so as to create social networks and relations.
- 2. Understand and follow house rules
- 3. Avoid noisy activities especially the volume of your radio and other entertainment gadgets.
- 4. Treat your landlord, neighbours and their children with respect and pay your rentals timeously, if for any reason you fail to pay your rentals notify your landlord, do not run away.
- Remember that what you do affects those around you and as a member of the CUT community you are expected to comply with the law of the land and the university student code of conduct, i.e. Ordinance 2. You could be held accountable for behavior off-campus that is in violation of the ordinance and can be referred to the University for Disciplinary Action.
- Please remember that the actions of one individual can have an impact on the reputation of all CUT students. The Director of Off-campus Life actively works to minimize the possibility that one individual's inappropriate conduct affects your reputation as a CUT student. So be a responsible tenant and a good neighbour

- **Get Involved In Activities in Your Community**

- Remember getting involved in social activities in your neighbourhood is a social investment, because we all benefit from safe and successful community. You can be involved in your community through the church or joining a community group. If you have special skills or expertise volunteer these to your community.

- **Health and Safety**

- You must consider health and safety standards when searching for a room. Look carefully at the following in any building for your health and safety.
- 1. Structural elements e.g. walls, floors, doors, windows, ceilings, roofs: these must be in

good working order.

- 2. Electricity and wiring: no naked wires.
- 3. Ventilation: there must be windows and air vents in every room.
- **Safety in Your Room**
- check all doors that they have locks and make sure they are functioning properly.
- make sure your door is properly secured.
- lock your door and take your keys whenever you leave the room.
- ensure that all windows are equipped with properly functioning window locks and burglar bars.
- never put your valuables on tables or on the open e.g. Cell phones, cameras, wallets, laptops, jewellery.
- declare your laptops to CUT security and leave them with security if you travel over weekends.
- do not allow strangers into your room

- **The measures below will assist you to be safe and secure in your community.**

- get to know your neighbours
- avoid walking alone, especially at night particularly the area between the Bridge and Chinhoyi General Hospital.
- use well lit, familiar streets and never use poorly lit shortcuts or wooded area.
- be alert and get to know of activities in your community.

- **Sharing a Room**

- You can share a room with a friend or someone completely new to you. So it is important to establish clear expectations and open lines of communication to ensure harmonious co-habitation. Agree and put it in writing, your mutual agreement on cooking and cleaning schedules, quiet hours, and rules concerning guests. All roommates should sign and date the agreement, then make copies for everyone.

- **Harmonious Room Sharing**

- 1. Set rules that you will all follow.
- 2. communicate openly, consider a weekly house meeting.
- 3. be considerate, remember to do unto others what you want them to do to you.
- 4. be flexible, be willing to make adjustments
- 5. respect each other, even when you disagree.
- 6. spell out everything, even if it seems obvious.
- 7. seek a neutral party to help resolve issues you cannot agree upon.

- **Alcohol and Other Drugs**

- Living responsibly and being a good neighbour can be compromised by the use of alcohol and other drugs. Students who consume alcohol heavily and/or use other illicit drugs tend to run into disciplinary problems and also suffer socio-emotional-health problems. At Off Campus Life in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Counseling office we educate students on the dangers of substance use and abuse so as to reduce its negative impact.

- **Sexual Assault**

- Studies have shown that college students are at higher risk of rape and sexual assault than members of the larger community. Rape and sexual assault are serious crimes under the law

and are prohibited by our student code of conduct. Students are encouraged to make appropriate and healthy choices that promote their safety, security and well - being. If you are sexually assaulted consult the University clinic or Office of the Counseling and Life Skills Coordinator and report to the police as soon as possible within 24hours. Students are also encouraged to familiarise themselves with the CUT Sexual Harassment policy document.