First, some vocabulary:

1. **Lease.** Your contract to pay rent for your apartment. YOU CAN NEVER CANCEL IT. Most leases in the US are for 12 months!
2. **Sublease.** Someone moves out before the end of their lease, and you take over their lease. They can be cheaper and have more flexible dates.
3. **Individual lease.** You pay for your bedroom and bathroom but share the rest of the apartment with roommates.
4. **Joint lease.** You pay for the entire apartment. If you have roommates, they pay you their portion of the rent.
5. **Guarantor.** The person who is responsible for your debt. As an international student, you are your guarantor.
6. **Tenant.** Someone who signs a lease and rents an apartment (you!).
7. **Rent.** Money you pay on the first of the month to live in your apartment. You cannot pay in cash.
9. **Utility allowance.** The amount of utilities your apartment complex pays per month. If you use more than your allowance, you pay the extra.
10. **Security deposit.** Extra money you must pay to secure your apartment.
11. **Fee.** Extra money you must pay for processing.
12. **Late fee.** Extra money you must pay if your rent is late.
13. **Amenities.** Features that provide comfort or convenience (gym, pool, etc.).
14. **Roommate.** Someone you live with who is not your family.
15. **Complex.** The entire group of buildings for one apartment community.

Now, some frequently asked questions:

**Are homestays an option?** In Gainesville these are rare and the ELI is unaware of any homestay opportunities.

**Can I move into my apartment the same day I sign my lease?** No. The apartment complex needs a few days to prepare your apartment. You should plan to stay in a hotel until the date your lease begins.

**Can I walk to class?** For most apartments you will need to take a bus, but the bus is free.

**What will my apartment include?** At many complexes furniture and utilities are included. However, you still need to buy sheets, towels, pillows, internet routers, and kitchen supplies.

**When will my lease end?** It depends. Make sure you know the exact date your lease ends before you sign it.

**What rules do I have to follow in my apartment?**

1. Do not smoke in your apartment.
2. Use a shower curtain in your bathroom (a shower curtain keeps the water inside the bathtub).
3. Do not get a pet without asking permission from the apartment complex office.
4. Do not make any changes to the electrical or plumbing systems.
5. Do not have long-term guests (friends or family who stay more than a few nights).
6. Take good care of your apartment. Clean it regularly.
7. Do not do anything illegal in your apartment.
8. If your roommate breaks any of these rules, tell your apartment complex office as soon as possible.
What places do you recommend? The following places do short-term leases (less than 12 months), but availability, rates, and policies may change.

1. **West20** (352-415-4900)
   3527 SW 20th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32607 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-4PM; Sunday, 12PM-4PM.

2. **The Pavilion on 62nd** (352-381-3100)
   1000 SW 62nd Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32607 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 1PM-5PM.

3. **Cabana Beach** (352-335-2000)
   160151 Terr, Gainesville, FL 32607 map
   Monday-Friday, 10AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM.

4. **The Ridge at Gainesville** (352-792-0102)
   3718 SW 24th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32607 map
   Monday-Friday, 10AM-8PM; Saturday, 10AM-6PM; Sunday, 12PM-5PM.

5. **The Crossing at Santa Fe** (352-379-9300)
   3205 NW 83 St, Gainesville, FL 32606 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-7PM; Saturday, 10AM-6PM; Sunday, 12PM-5PM.

6. **The Landings** (352-336-3838)
   3801 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-4PM; Sunday, 12PM-4PM.

7. **Lexington Crossing** (352-373-9009)
   3700 SW 27th St, Gainesville, FL 32608 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-7PM; Saturday, 10AM-6PM; Sunday, 12PM-5PM.

8. **Campus Lodge** (352-251-2547)
   2800 SW Williston Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-8PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 12PM-5PM.

Walking distance to UF:

9. **The Retreat** (352-372-6535)
   1001 SW 17 Ln, Gainesville, FL 32601 map
   Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 11AM-5PM.

10. **Oakbrook Walk** (352-375-4541)
    1331 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608 map
     Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM.

11. **Social 28** (352-727-4442)
    311 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32601 map
     Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday-Sunday, 12PM-4PM.

12. **The Courtyards** (352-372-3557)
    1231 SW 3rd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 map
     Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-4PM.

13. **The Continuum** (352-327-3040)
    **Bachelor’s degree is required**
    55 SW 5th Ter, Gainesville, FL 32601 map
    Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-3PM.

Good for families:

14. **Sun Bay** (352-376-6720)
    708 SW 16th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 map
    Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM; Saturday, 10AM-4PM.

15. **Hunter’s Crossing** (352-378-4800)
    4830 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32606 map
    Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 1PM-5PM.

16. **Huntington Lakes** (352-376-9905)
    5400 NW 39th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32606 map
    Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 1PM-5PM.

17. **Lake Crossing** (352-376-6440)
    4000 NW 51st Street Gainesville, FL 32608 map
    Monday-Friday, 9AM-6PM; Saturday, 10AM-5PM; Sunday, 1PM-5PM.

A local company called US Ready has special agreements with apartment complexes in Gainesville. You can see their housing options and other services at usready.org.

General search options:

1. housing.offcampus.ufl.edu
2. swamrentals.com
3. gainesville-rent.com
4. apartments.com
5. zillow.com

Sublease search options:

1. UF Housing & Roommate Search Facebook Group
2. Craigslist

Short-term rental options:

1. hometogo.com
2. Southern Comfort Properties