**Types of Rentals**

**Room Rentals**

A “room rental” has facilities for sleeping and studying. It may be in a private house or in a “boarding” or “rooming” house where there are many sleeping-studying rooms. In most cases, bathrooms are usually shared with other residents. There may or may not be “kitchen privileges,” or access to cooking facilities. Room rentals usually cost between $400.00 and $500.00 per month. This does not include food.

**Apartment Rentals**

An apartment is a complete living unit. You generally do not share facilities with other residents, except for laundry machines in some cases. General appliances (refrigerator, stove) are most often included.

Renters generally need to pay for electricity, gas, cable, water, telephone and internet service in addition to rent. However, some apartments may include one or more of these utilities in the rental fee.

There are several kinds of apartments:

* **Studio apartments**
* 2 rooms: bathroom and another large room that serves as kitchen, bedroom, and living room.
* Suitable for one or perhaps two people
* **Unfurnished apartments**

One, two, three and sometimes four bedrooms

The renter must acquire all furniture that is needed (couch, bed, desk, table, etc.)

Costs less than furnished apartments

* **Furnished apartments**

Includes all furniture, but usually not linens (towels, sheets, etc.) or cooking and eating utensils

**House rentals**

International students who are here with their families or friends may want to rent an entire house.

* Houses may be furnished or unfurnished
* Renters generally must pay for utilities in addition to rent (electricity, gas, water, telephone, garbage, internet, etc.)
* The amount of rent required depends on size, location, furnishings, and the general condition of the house.
* Houses for rent are usually located through property management companies or through personal contacts with landlords or with renters who are vacating a house.

**Important Rental Information**

Important information you should know before you rent an apartment or a house:

* A renter, or “tenant”, usually has to pay for his or her own utilities (i.e., electricity, gas, internet, water and telephone), although the monthly rent may include some of these. The landlord or manager can explain what you must do to begin utility services. (Connect electricity, gas, telephone service, etc.)
* Be sure to ask about deposits and other special fees, and whether these additional costs are refundable or non-refundable.
* The costs for an apartment can range from $400.00 to $1000.00 per month approximately. The cost depends on how many people are sharing the apartment, whether or not utilities are included and whether or not it is furnished. These costs never include food.
* Unfurnished apartments costs much less than furnished apartments. Inexpensive second-hand (used) furniture is easy to buy and sell in Bellingham.
* There are far more unfurnished apartments in the Bellingham area.
* Many college students rent an apartment or house to share in the Bellingham area.
* The busiest and best time to find an apartment or house to rent in the Bellingham area is June, July, August and sometimes September.
* You should call or visit the complex to obtain the most current information regarding facilities, rules, deposits, fees and rent.

**Finding a Rental**

The information on this page will assist you in finding a rental apartment or house in Bellingham. Good luck with your housing search!

**Dormitory-Style Property Management near NWIC: Painless Properties**

2110 Bill MacDonald Parkway, #1, 360-734-5374, [www.painlessproperties.com](http://www.painlessproperties.com) If no rental history, cosigner needed. If neither 3 months’ rent up front with student ID.

**Craigslist** ([www.bellingham.craigslist.org](http://www.bellingham.craigslist.org)) is a good source for finding rental listings. It is recommended that if you call or visit any properties listed on craigslist, to visit in the daytime and do not go alone.

**Property Management Companies**

**Apex Property Management**  **Windemere Property Management** **Son-Rise Property Management**

1801 F Street 541 W. Bakerview Rd. 109 East Chestnut

360-527-9829 360-733-7944 360-738-3700

[www.apex-property.com](http://www.apex-property.com) [www.rentalsbywindemere.com](http://www.rentalsbywindemere.com) [www.son-rise.net](http://www.son-rise.net)

**Chuckanut Property Management**  **Access Real Estate**

2100 Iron Street 1313 Maple St.

360-733-3640 360-685-0123

[www.chuckanutproperty.com](http://www.chuckanutproperty.com) [www.accesrealestateservices.com](http://www.accesrealestateservices.com)

**Hammer Properties Lakeway Realty, Inc.**

102 Ohio St. 3547 Lakeway Drive

360-756-6500 360-733-4009

[www.hammerpropertiesnw.com](http://www.hammerpropertiesnw.com) [www.lakewayrentals.com](http://www.lakewayrentals.com)