

NSCC Living in Nova Scotia: A Resource Guide for Students

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NSCC STUDENT SERVICES

Nova Scotia Community College
Nova Scotia



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Pjila'si (Welcome)

Front cover: [Front porch of a house with halloween pumpkin decoration](#) by Jan Walter Luigi via Pexels used under a [Free Pexels license](#).

Welcome to the NSCC Community. As an equity-centered College, we're committed to creating and sustaining an environment where everyone is safe, valued and included. Our commitment to equity is clearly stated within the newest NSCC Strategic Plan which states, "We believe in learning that is inclusive of the diverse voices and experiences reflected in our learning communities".¹ Inclusion is everyone's responsibility.

We are here to support you in your connection, and inclusion, to the community you will be living, learning, and playing in, which includes supporting you in your journey to housing, which is why we have created this guide.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

NSCC acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki the unceded and traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of Peace and Friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to 1725. In Nova Scotia, we recognize that we are all treaty people.

In Nova Scotia we live, learn, and play on these lands. NSCC Housing & Student Life, and all our staff commit to promoting the truth of Indigenous Peoples and work towards reconciliation.

Pjila'si is a Mi'kmaq word loosely translated meaning *Welcome: Come in and sit down*² Mi'kmaq is a verb-based language that does not translate directly into English.

DID YOU KNOW

If you are crossing into Cape Breton (Strait Area Campus Housing) on your travels a sign with *Pjila'si Unama'kik* was recently placed on the Canso Causeway. The name Canso came from the Mi'kmaq word kamsook which means *opposite the lofty cliff*. Unama'kik is the Mi'kmaq word used to refer to Cape Breton Island, and loosely translates to Land of Fog.³

We encourage all members of our community to learn more about the land we live, learn, work, and play on by exploring the following resources:

- [Truth & Reconciliation – Indigenous Resources](#) – A NSCC Subject Guide.
- [Treaties – Indigenous Resources](#) – A NSCC Subject Guide.

1. NSCC, (n.d.). *Our time is now: Nova Scotia Community College strategic plan*. [nscc-strategic-plan.pdf](#)

2. [Pjila'si definition](#) from the Mi'kmaq - Mi'kmaq online talking dictionary project shared under a [CC BY-NC](#) license. <https://www.mikmaqonline.org/servlet/dictionaryFrameSet.html?arg0=Pjila%27si&method=searchFromMikmaq>

3. Reynolds, A. (2021, July 19). *Controversy over Mi'kmaq welcome sign to Cape Breton saddens, motivates treaty educators*. Saltwire. <https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/controversy-over-mikmaq-welcome-sign-to-cape-breton-saddens-motivates-treaty-educators-100613265/>

- [Peace and Friendship Treaties](#)
- [Our home on native land website](#)
- [MIKM Classes](#) created by Cape Breton University, hosted on Vimeo.

HISTORICAL COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

NSCC acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities. Nova Scotia has been home to people of African descent for over 400 years. From the arrival of Mathieu da Costa in 1605, through 4 major waves of migration, to the creation of more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities, African Nova Scotians are part of the shared Nova Scotian story.

DID YOU KNOW

Nova Scotia has a rich and deep history with 48 Black Settlements throughout the Province (source from map available through [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#)). We encourage all members of our community to learn more about the African and Black Canadian History in Nova Scotia.

- [Scarborough Charter](#) – Sourced From NSCC Subject Guide
- [We Are One](#) – Film available through NSCC Subject Guides
- [The Halifax Declaration](#) – Text and video available through NSCC Subject Guides
- [Fighting Racism and Discrimination](#) – Available through NSCC Library with W# and Password, available to current students, and incoming students after W# activation in August
- [African/Black Nova Scotian Resources](#) – An NSCC Subject Guide

Workshop Overview

NOVA SCOTIA HOUSING SITUATION

Nova Scotia is experiencing a shortage of rental housing, which means that finding long term accommodation can be challenging and expensive. It can take up to 4 months or more to secure a place to live for the long term. It is important to know about the housing shortage, because temporary accommodation (hotels, Airbnbs) can be quite expensive and being financially prepared to sustain the [cost of living](#) in Nova Scotia is of key importance.

It is of key importance to secure housing prior to moving to your community, because temporary accommodation should only be used as a buffer between lease start dates and end dates due to their expense, temporary timeline, and cost.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

It is your responsibility, as a student, to secure your own housing while studying at NSCC. This guide serves as one of the many tools to support students in searching and securing housing while they are at NSCC.

This guidebook was created to share information and offer helpful activities to prepare you for off campus living – whether this is your first, or fifth time moving to a new community. As you move through the guidebook, you'll notice resources, you are welcome to download and use those resources to support you in your housing journey.

You are encouraged to complete the activities in this guide book. Upon completing the book you may take a quiz, if you pass the quiz we will email you a statement of completion you can use when trying to secure accommodations. If at any point you have questions about the content, or need further clarification, email housing@nsc.ca.

This is a web-based version of the print edition.

The web version provides:

- Additional interactive content, like videos and exercises.
- Easier access and navigation to digital resources–click on the links to go to NSCC resources and supports.

QUESTIONS?

As you work your way through the guidebook, reach out to us with any feedback or questions at housing@nsc.ca

NSCC Resources for Housing

ON CAMPUS

We currently offer campus housing at three locations, with more campus housing coming soon at three additional locations. Learn more on the [Campus Housing website](#)

- AVC COGS Campus – Lawrencetown (Annapolis Valley)
- Strait Area Campus – Port Hawkesbury
- Davis Hall, Truro Campus – Truro

COMING SOON

- 2024 Opening – Akerley Campus – Dartmouth
- 2024 Opening – Pictou Campus – Stellarton
- 2025 Opening – Ivany Campus – Dartmouth

[Explore what it's like to live on campus](#) and how the [NSCC campus housing application process](#) works.

- Please note applications for the upcoming academic year open in February annually.
- The first round of offers for Campus Housing spaces are sent in May annually.

Connect with our Campus Housing team for more information about living on campus at campushousing@nsc.ca

OFF-CAMPUS

Finding off-campus housing that's right for you can take some work. We provide off-campus housing resources and information that can assist you in your search. Learn more about the resources we have available for your off-campus search at [Off-campus housing information for NSCC students](#).

Check out some accommodation options below or review our helpful [Housing in Nova Scotia](#) video series to get you started.

Our Housing and Transition Supports Coordinator, Kaileigh Skinner, can also answer questions and share insights about:

- Housing options and search strategies
- Transportation and driving requirements in Nova Scotia
- Employment opportunities for partners/spouses
- Enrolling your children in school

- Your community – groceries, fun activities, events
- Packing tips
- Quarantine requirements

Connect with our Housing and Transition Supports Coordinator by emailing housing@nscc.ca.

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO NOVA SCOTIA

Learning Objectives

- You will understand the provincial geography and climate
- You will be able to describe the difference between Nova Scotia Communities
- You will gain a cultural understanding of Nova Scotia

OVERVIEW

Within this module you will learn more about the makeup of Nova Scotia. Each province in Canada has a unique geographical and cultural landscape. Understanding the unique landscape of Nova Scotia can help you in your housing journey. At the end of this module, you should be able to briefly describe the geography and culture of Nova Scotia, understand the climate, and transit in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia Geography

The total population of Nova Scotia, last estimated in 2022, was 1,019,7251 (which is a slightly smaller than the population of the city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands). Almost half of the entire population of Nova Scotia lives within the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), which many refer to as “the city”. The Capital City of Nova Scotia is Halifax and boasts a population of 480,5232.

People who do not live on Cape Breton Island are considered “**Mainlanders**”, and people who live on Cape Breton Island as “**Islanders**”. If you live on Cape Breton Island, many locals refer to Sydney as “the city”, and the HRM as “Halifax”. This is because many of the stores and supplies which Mainlanders would purchase in Halifax can also be found in Sydney, and it is a shorter travel distance.

To drive from tip to tip (Yarmouth to Sydney) is 681KM and would take a little over seven (7) hours with no breaks. Travelling between Halifax and Kentville (Kingstec Campus) takes approximately one (1) hour and is 98 KM. Winter driving further complicates transportation because of heavy snowfall which will occur in different geographical regions. We recommend you research how far your community is from Halifax using GoogleMaps.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS



Image Credit: © NSCC Marketing and Communications

1. Akerley campus is in Dartmouth, about 32km from [Halifax International Airport](#).
2. Annapolis Valley campus is in Middleton, about 160km from the [Halifax International Airport](#). COGS is in Lawrencetown (there is another Lawrencetown in Nova Scotia, your campus postal code is B0S 1P0) and it is 70km from the [Halifax International Airport](#).
3. Burrigade campus is in the community of Yarmouth, about 332km from [Halifax International Airport](#).
4. Cumberland campus is in Springhill, about 152km from the [Halifax International Airport](#). Amherst Learning Centre is in Amherst, about 167km from [Halifax International Airport](#). The [Greater Moncton International Airport](#) is about 59km from Amherst Learning Centre and 87km from Springhill.
5. IT campus is in Halifax, about 35km from the [Halifax International Airport](#).
6. Ivany (and Aviation) campus is in Dartmouth, about 36km from the [Halifax International Airport](#).
7. Kingstec campus is in Kentville, about 109km from the [Halifax International Airport](#).

8. Lunenburg campus is in Bridgewater (not Lunenburg) and it is about 118km from the [Halifax International Airport](#).
9. Marconi campus is in Sydney and about 384km from the [Halifax International Airport](#). The [JA Douglas McCurdy Airport](#) is 5km from the campus, however, it only offers domestic flights.
10. Pictou campus is in Stellarton, about 130km from [Halifax International Airport](#).
11. Shelburne campus and School of Fisheries are in Shelburne, about 332km from [Halifax International Airport](#).
12. Strait Area campus is in Port Hawkesbury, about 239 km from the [Halifax International Airport](#). The [JA Douglas McCurdy Airport](#) is 145km from the campus, however, it only offers domestic flights.
13. Truro campus is in Truro, about 66km from [Halifax International Airport](#).

Transportation in Nova Scotia

NOVA SCOTIA AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Nova Scotia is a small province, but it can take several hours to travel between cities and towns. For example, it takes more than three hours to travel by car between downtown Halifax and Yarmouth's Burrigade Campus. There is not an extensive public transportation system in Nova Scotia. Public Transportation availability depends on your community.

Many of our campuses are in rural areas of the province. If you've chosen a campus outside Halifax or Dartmouth, you need to plan how you'll get from the city to your campus community.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=49#oembed-1>

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH (HRM/METRO)

If you study in [Dartmouth and Halifax](#), the [U-pass](#) will allow you to [use the local public transportation](#). Use [Transit app](#) to plan for your trips and watch these videos:

- [Planning your trip](#) by Halifax Regional Municipality
- [Using the bus or ferry](#) by Halifax Transit
- [How to pay for the bus](#) by Halifax Transit
- [Advice on taking the bus in Halifax](#) (NSCC student video)

Important

Halifax Transportation Tips

- Keep in mind traffic and bus connections
- Keep in mind methods to get across The **Basin**.

- Halifax and Dartmouth are split by the **Halifax Basin**, a body of water, there are 2 bridges and ferries which can get you across, you can also go through Bedford, which is a longer distance and time.
- Traffic when crossing the bridges connecting Dartmouth with Halifax Ferries
- Highway through Bedford instead of the bridges

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND RURAL CAMPUSES

Truro, Cumberland (including Amherst), Shelburne and Strait Area campuses **do not have a public transit system in place.**

Campuses With Public Transportation:

- Kingstec, Annapolis Valley and Digby Learning Centre: [Kings Transit Authority](#)
- Lunenburg (in Bridgewater): [Bridgewater Transit](#)
- Burridge: [Yarmouth Transit](#)
- Marconi: [Transit Cape Breton](#)
- Pictou: [Pictou County Transit](#)

If your campus has public transportation, know that bus routes might be limited (schedule, stops, etc.) Do your research to see if using the bus is the right option for you. Also, when looking for housing and your day-to-day life (buying food, accessing services etc.) think about transportation: if driving is a better option for you, budget for gas, insurance, cost of a car and its maintenance. In Canada, it is mandatory to have vehicular insurance to purchase and drive a car.

DRIVING IN NOVA SCOTIA

You will likely need a method of transportation. In many communities, there [is no public transportation](#). In other communities, there may be public transportation, but it is not very regularly scheduled (over an hour between buses).

Many people in Nova Scotia choose to purchase their own vehicle. When planning to purchase your own vehicle, you should also include the associated costs of gas, regular maintenance, tires (including winter tires).

If you want to drive, you need to apply for a [Nova Scotia driver's license](#) within 90 days of moving to Nova Scotia.

Important

- It takes time to book a road test: ask to be put on a waiting list and be open to last-minute cancellations
- Consider taking a few lessons from licensed driving schools
- You need to bring a vehicle on the day of the exam. Driving schools typically let you keep the vehicle for that day
- International Students need to provide translated documents – contact [ISANS](#)
- Having a car is expensive. Many international students do not qualify for loans, and they may have to purchase a vehicle in cash.

Make sure that you budget for gas, maintenance and insurance, very expensive for international students, who usually do not have a driving history in Canada.

- Winter/Snow tires are needed in the colder months, and can be costly. Ensure you are budgeting for winter and snow tires if purchasing a vehicle.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (WALKING/BIKING)

Active transportation, like biking, is supported in most communities with additional trails between towns besides biking on the road. However, if biking will be your only method of transportation, you should be prepared for the winter maintenance, and clothing needed to bike in the winter. If choosing to bike, it is also required by law that you wear a helmet, so you will need to purchase a helmet.

In the winter, if choosing active transportation, you need to take into consideration winter weather and road conditions. Temperatures in the winter average about -15 degrees Celsius but can get lower than -20 degrees Celsius in some areas (without windchill).

Nova Scotia Climate & Culture

CLIMATE

The Nova Scotian Climate is drastically affected by the distance to the sea, but is fairly moderate. The daily temperature will highly depend on the time of day, and the proximity to the ocean. Between campuses, such as Marconi Campus, Lunenburg Campus, and Burrigade Campus, will have different weather on the same day and same time.

You can find out more about Canadian Weather at: [Environment Canada web page for Nova Scotia](#).

The below graphic illustrates the average temperatures for each season. Please note that often these temperatures are warmer or colder with the wind, proximity to the ocean, and other geographical features of your community.



Weather data sourced from Tourism Nova Scotia.¹

WINTER CLOTHING

It will be important to have clothing that reflects the seasons. When you come to Nova Scotia in September, most stores will carry fall jackets. These may look warm, and are good for moderate Fall Temperatures, but compared to the colder winter temperatures, they will not keep you warm.

You will need to ensure you buy a winter jacket that has the proper temperature rating. Temperature ratings are often associated with winter jackets and help people know what jacket will be best for you.

Suggested Reading

Learn more about Winter in Canada at: [Public Libraries – Your Guide to Enjoying Your First Winter in Nova Scotia](#)

NOVA SCOTIA CULTURE

On April 7, 2022, Nova Scotia Legislation recognized **Mi'kmaw** as the official first language of the province. Mi'kmaw is the language of the Mi'kmaq Nation, the First Peoples in Nova Scotia. This is significant, as the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) called for Aboriginal Language Legislation to be enacted to support reconciliation in Canada.

There are four primary languages recognized in Nova Scotia, English, French, Gaelic, and Mi'kmaw. Most of the population in Nova Scotia speaks English. Communities with historic Acadian (French Canadian) roots, speak French. In Cape Breton, there is a community of people who speak Gaelic, with many of the road signs being bilingual in English and Gaelic.

Nova Scotia is growing in diversity and has a multitude of cultures. Halifax alone has had individuals from over 168 different countries settle. In 2019, New Immigrants made up for 5.6% of the population in the Halifax Regional Municipality alone.

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1. Novascotia.com. (2023). *Weather*. <https://www.novascotia.com/travel-info/weather>

Nova Scotia & Housing

NOVA SCOTIA TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

Nova Scotia economy is strongly supported by the Tourism and Hospitality Industry. With wonderful ocean views, nature trails, museums, arts and culture events, there is truly something for everyone. The peak tourism season in Nova Scotia is from May to Mid-October. This is an important consideration, as the costs for short-term accommodation, childcare, and other support may be more expensive and difficult to gain during this time.

NOVA SCOTIA HOUSING SITUATION

Nova Scotia is experiencing a shortage of rental housing, so finding long-term accommodation can be challenging and expensive. It can take up to 4 months or more to secure a place to live for the long term. It is important to know about the housing shortage, because temporary accommodation (hotels, Airbnbs) can be quite expensive and being financially prepared to sustain the [cost of living](#) in Nova Scotia is of key importance.

It is of key importance to secure housing prior to moving to your community, because temporary accommodation should only be used as a buffer between lease start dates and end dates because of their expense, temporary timeline, and cost.

HOUSING TYPES IN NOVA SCOTIA

There can be distinct language and descriptions used to label rental housing throughout Canada and Beyond. In Nova Scotia, there is some specific language you will need to understand helping with your housing search.

Recommended Video

- [Types of Accommodations in Nova Scotia](#)

Basements:

Apartments that are below ground level. It is important to check that they're well insulated, lit and ventilated. There are a variety of styles (bachelor, 1-bedroom, etc) of basement apartments in Nova Scotia.

Ground Level

These apartments are on the street level, not in a basement or on a second or higher story. There are a variety of styles (bachelor, 1-bedroom, etc) of ground level apartments in Nova Scotia.

Bachelor

Bachelor's apartments are ideal for one person. They have a separate bathroom but the bedroom, kitchen and living room are usually a common area. These are also known as studio apartments.

As you can see, the living space is shared, and the bathroom is private. The square footage of these apartments is usually much smaller than the 1-, 2-, and 3+, bedroom apartments with separate living and bed spaces.

1-, 2- or 3-bedroom apartments

1, 2- or 3-bedroom apartments: They have a separate bathroom and have 1, 2 or 3 separate bedrooms. They might have a separate kitchen and living room, or these might be combined in a common space.

MODULE 2: COST OF LIVING

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to create a realistic monthly budget for during their studies
- You will understand the costs related to housing
- You will be able to identify the average costs of necessary spending in NS

OVERVIEW

Within this Module you will learn more about the cost of living in Nova Scotia, budgeting, and expected expenses. At the end of this module, you should be able to briefly describe the typical costs a student at NSCC spends, the average cost of living, and produce a realistic budget for your studies.

Understanding College Fees

Your college fees must be paid by the deadlines to remain a student in good standing at NSCC. [Tuition and student fees](#) are mandatory for all students, but **some** program costs are optional – these include things like calculators, USBs or tools which do not need to be purchased if you have them already. Know your [program fees](#) so you understand which are mandatory and which are optional. Include them in your budget, so there are no surprises later on.

For all relevant deadlines, refer to the [Academic Calendar](#).

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are not included in your tuition, and the cost of textbooks will vary dependent on your program. You can find an estimated cost for your textbooks by viewing your [program fees](#). Textbooks can be purchased at NSCC bookstores either online for delivery or pickup in person.

- [Order textbooks and view store hours](#).
- If you need an alternate format [text compatible with text to speech tools] most textbooks can be purchased as an eBook.
- For textbooks only available in print [contact Accessibility Services for assistance in obtaining](#) an alternate format [file compatible with text to speech].

FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS

Paying for your education can take time and discipline. There are many options to help you fund your studies, including Student Loans, Student lines of Credit, Awards, scholarships and bursaries, and by claiming tax credits. Scholarships and bursaries should be additions to your budgets, not the basis of your budgeting.

Some awards are specific to a campus, program or year of study, and many are open to both new and returning students

How to apply

- Current students and confirmed applicants can apply for awards in the [Student Awards Portal](#).
- Prospective students can apply for a [select number of awards](#) before applying to NSCC.

Please note:

- Many awards get multiple applicants, applying for an award does not guarantee receipt of the award. Do not plan to solely fund your education using awards.
- Many of the scholarships and bursaries do not apply to International Student's. Do not plan to solely

fund your education using awards.

Arrival Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

Arriving and transitioning to your community can be costly. There is a large amount of upfront costs that, if unprepared for, can affect your long-term budget and financial well-being. These costs include:

- **Short term accommodations**
- Travel
- Upfront living supplies (kitchen supplies, groceries, hygiene items),
- Tuition and Fees.

SHORT TERM HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Short Term housing should never be your main option when studying at NSCC. If you have not secured a place to live before arriving for your NSCC program, we encourage you to budget for, and book, temporary accommodation for at least a two months. **It will be beneficial for you to review local hotel rates and understand Tourism Season costs.**

If you are flying into Nova Scotia, you will also need to pay for a shuttle, bus, or taxi to get to your community. Check the times of your arrival and availability of transportation as you may need to also book a hotel if arriving after the last shuttle leaves.

Unless otherwise specified, plan for your apartment to be **unfurnished**. Online market places are good options to find secondhand items. Be cautious of some furniture and mattresses second hand, as soft furniture has a risk of containing bed bugs.

A note on International Currencies

If you are coming to the NSCC from an international country, it is important to plan for fluctuations in your home currency. When budgeting uses a currency converter, then also plan for there to be variation in the exchange by adding buffer to your budget. Look at what the historical exchanges have been to help you plan appropriately. It is important to plan for your success

and know that unexpected things happen, banking rules can change, currencies can change, prepare for the unexpected to allow for the greatest success while you are attending your studies.

Monthly Expenses

OVERVIEW OF MONTHLY EXPENSES

NSCC International gathered Data from 52 International Student Ambassadors living in several communities across Nova Scotia. This Cost-of-Living Survey provides real estimates of what finances you should be preparing for to live well in Nova Scotia. The costs will vary depending on if you are living with roommates, in a homestay, on your own, with a partner, or with a family. We had completed a survey in 2021 with 52 International Students from various communities in Nova Scotia to create detailed Cost of Living information from students.

Money needed to have a comfortable life in Nova Scotia per month

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Person sharing accommodation (roommates, renting a bedroom, etc) | \$1000-1500 |
| Person living on their own (Studio/Bachelor, or 1-bedroom apartment) | \$1500-2000 |
| Couple sharing accommodation (1-bedroom, or 2-bedroom) | \$2000-2500 |
| Couple with children (multi-bedroom apartment or stand alone home) | \$2500+ |

*note this is from a survey from 2021

CREATING YOUR BUDGET

When creating your monthly budget, it is important to consider your individual needs and do your own research to find estimated costs. We encourage students to complete the [Money Matters Financial Planning](#) document as they work through this module and learn more about how to create a budget that is realistic for your needs. In addition to the Money Matters Financial Planner students should review the [Cost of Living Information](#) available on the NSCC website.

Housing & Associated Costs

HOUSING & ASSOCIATE COSTS OVERVIEW

In this section of the module, short and long-term housing will be discussed, as well as the costs that would typically be considered a housing related expense.

SHORT TERM HOUSING

Short Term housing should **never be your main option** when studying at NSCC, however with the current housing shortage it's challenging to find and secure housing.

If you have not secured a place to live before arriving for your NSCC program, we encourage you to budget for, and book, temporary housing for at least two months. It will be beneficial for you to review local hotel rates and understand the **Short Term housing** at in August and October it is peak Tourism Season in Nova Scotia. During the peak tourism seasons, short-term rentals in your community may be challenging to secure and have higher rates than during the off season.

LONG TERM HOUSING

The cost of your **long-term housing** will drastically vary depending on the type of accommodation you secure.

When you pay rent, pay it in non-cash ways (like cheque). This is to ensure you have a document of your payments, which is not possible with cash payments. Besides rent, there are several other costs to consider each month, including utilities, cleaning supplies, etc. **long-term housing**

Damage Deposit

A damage (or security) deposit can be asked for by a property owner at the beginning of your tenancy. The amount you've paid for the damage deposit should be outlined in your lease.

In Nova Scotia, your landlord cannot demand more than one half of the first month's rent as a security deposit. For example, if your rent cost is \$1200, a property owner can only ask for \$600 dollars. They cannot ask for \$700 dollars as that is more than half of the cost of a month of rent.

Your security deposit also is not equivalent to the last month of rent. Asking for last month's rent upfront is an illegal practice in Nova Scotia.

Illegal Fees/Deposits

In Nova Scotia, it is illegal for Property Owners to ask for extra deposits associated with:

- Application Fees
 - In Nova Scotia, it is illegal to ask for Application Fees.
- Keys
 - They can apply to keep your security deposit if you do not return your keys at the end of the tenancy, but cannot charge a “Key Deposit” or “Key Access Fee” or if keys are not returned.
- Fire extinguishers
- Carpets
- Pets
 - They can apply to keep your security deposit if there are damages related to pets.
- Children
 - It is illegal to add additional fees to if you will live with children. Children are included in the occupants list on your lease, as they do not pay rent but will live in the space and are classified as occupants as per the Residential Tenancies Act.

Rental Insurance

Tenants insurance provides liability coverage. If something serious happens to the place that you’re renting, or you accidentally break something, insurance will cover the costs associated with the damage.

Plans cover different things and have different costs, from \$15 to \$30+ a month. It is important to know what you would like to have covered when asking for quotes.

Utilities

Electricity: Sometimes electricity is included in the rent. If it is not included, it is important to ask what the average costs of electricity would be for the future apartment. If you’ve never had an account with a provider for electricity, you may have to pay an additional deposit or service fee to activate your electricity.

Internet: Sometimes internet is included in the rent. If included, it is important to ask the details of the current plan, as some internet plans are “data capped” meaning you can use all the internet before the month is over. Sometimes when the internet is included in rent, it is data capped. You may need to discuss paying additional costs to increase the internet plan, or secure your own in addition to what is included. If it is not included, look for an internet provider that offers discounts to students. You may also have to pay service fees to activate the internet.

Water: Cold and hot water are usually included in rent. If they are not similar to electricity, ask what the average monthly costs per month were so you can appropriately budget.

Heat: Often homes have electric heating, so the cost is included in your electricity bills. However, oil based and other heat types are common in Nova Scotia. You should ask your property owner what type of heat is used, and the average costs to help you budget.

Parking

If you own a vehicle, it's important to ask about parking. Some apartments and rentals will have spaces to park a vehicle, and often will show how many vehicles you can have in the parking spaces.

Depending on location, street parking may be an option but best to find out and consider options. Street parking availability may depend on season, with many communities implementing street-side **winter parking bans** for snow cleaning purposes.

Prices for parking spaces can range from \$25 to \$100 per month or more.

Appliances and Furniture

Most apartments have appliances (stove, fridge) and on-site laundry facilities (laundry might be coin-operated, so this could be an added weekly cost). Unless you specified that you're renting a furnished apartment, you'll have to provide your own furniture.

You can find second-hand basic items at **thrift stores** or through social media. Prices vary depending on where you shop. In Canada, and especially in Nova Scotia, many people will use Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace to sell used (secondhand) items.

If purchasing secondhand furniture, check it for damage and pests (bed bugs) before bringing it into the apartment. You can be held financially responsible if you bring bed bugs into a rental unit.

Internet and Phones

To be a successful student, you will need to have an internet connection to support completing school assignments after school hours. Some accommodation will include fees to internet in the rent. If the Internet is included, you will want to know details of the internet plan, as some have internet usage limits, and you may be financially responsible if your usage goes over the limits.

When not included in the rent, students paid anywhere between \$40 and \$80 monthly for internet access. The cost of the Internet, type of internet plan, and amount of usage (data cap) will depend on which community in Nova Scotia you live in.

Groceries & Necessities

GROCERIES, CLOTHING, AND OTHER SUPPLIES

When preparing your budget, it is essential to plan accurately for the food, hygiene items, clothing, and other necessary supplies. You can take advantage of flyers, coupons, and Student Discount days to better support your budgeting goals, but do not plan a budget guaranteeing student discount and coupon shopping.

GROCERIES

There are a variety of **grocery stores**, **farmers markets**, and **community gardens** in Nova Scotia. Access to grocery options will greatly depend on your community.

Sometimes there is not a grocery store right in your community, and you will have to plan your transit to and from the grocery store. Other communities have multiple options for grocery stores with minimal travel. Ensure you are planning appropriate budgets for transportation to and from where you will purchase your food.

Prices and discount days for students will vary depending on the store and location. Ensure you are being realistic with your budget and planning to purchase food that will make you feel full and healthy.

HYGIENE & OTHER SUPPLIES

Many hygiene and cleaning products can be purchased at grocery stores or pharmacies. The price will vary dependent on the brand of choice.

If you are living with roommates and sharing cleaning products, it is important to know how you will share products and purchasing to allow for a better budget. When you first plan your budget, it is recommended to assume you are the only one responsible for all the hygiene and cleaning supplies, including laundry detergent, bathroom and kitchen cleaning supplies, recycling and garbage bags.

The upfront cost of cleaning supplies may be more expensive than the cost of continuous maintenance of the supplies. If you live with roommates and are not responsible for cleaning products monthly, you can put the extra budgeted money into your unexpected expenses budget to support you if anything urgent arises.

ONLINE MARKETPLACES

Online marketplaces like Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace are great for finding secondhand items. Often you can find the same item in different stages of use and different price ranges. When using online marketplaces, be aware of scams. Never send money to the owner of the item without first seeing the item in person. If you are going to purchase higher priced items, like electronics, plan to bring a friend, and try not to go alone.

It is also important to carefully review the items you are purchasing, and being cautious about what you purchase. For example, be aware of some furniture and mattresses, as some communities in Nova Scotia have a

higher likelihood of bed bugs than others, and you can be held financially responsible if you bring **Bed Bugs** into a rental space.

THRIFT STORES

There are many budgets friendly places to purchase clothing. Many communities have a variety of **thrift stores**. Thrift stores are stores that have gently used clothing, and home goods. There are some larger chain thrift stores, with multiple locations across the province like, at places such as [Frenchy's](#) but many communities have a variation of Frenchy's.

A NOTE ON WINTER CLOTHING

In Nova Scotia, the winters are on average 15 degrees Celsius but can get lower than -20 degrees Celsius in some areas (without windchill). It is important to buy appropriate winter clothing, and ensure when buying winter jackets, you are buying a jacket designed for the winter and not the warmer fall months. They can look very similar.

Layering and wearing good fitting clothing is important. An example of proper layering would be a base layer, like a long-sleeve cotton shirt, a mid-layer, of a warm sweater, and an outer-layer of your jacket.

Suggested Reading

If you want to learn more about winter, watch [Get Ready for Winter](#) and [Winter Blues](#).

Transportation

As mentioned in previous sections, when arriving in your community, you will probably need a method of transportation. In many communities, there [is no public transportation](#). In other communities, there may be public transportation, but it is not regularly scheduled (over an hour between buses).

Cabs are another option for transportation but can be costly and limited depending on the time you wish to leave. Cab companies will vary between towns, and not all towns have a cab company. Prices for cabs will vary depending on the community, cab company, and distance being travelled.

Many people in Nova Scotia choose to purchase their own vehicle. When planning to purchase your own vehicle, you should also include the associated costs of gas, regular maintenance, tires (including winter tires).

Using the chart below, you can gain an understanding of the various ranges of transportation costs within Nova Scotia. Please know these costs were generated using local retailers and resources. Costs for your individual needs may be higher, or lower, depending on your region, community, and stores available.

| Type of Transportation | Estimated Average Cost |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Bikes | |
| Adult Bike | 399.99 – 829.99* |
| Bike Lock | 12.99 – 39.95* |
| Helmet | 29.99 – 129.99* |
| Safety Equipment | 29.99 – 249.99* |
| Bike Service | 99.99 – 729.99* |
| Cabs | |
| Waiting Time | 50 cents a minute, \$30.00 per hour** |
| Initial Charge | 4.70** |
| Per Kilometer Charge | 1.75** |
| Cars | |
| Used car (in good condition) | 6500 – 29950 |
| Regular Maintenance | 95 – 249 |
| Winter tires (used without rims) | 95/tire – 150/tire |
| Insurance | 100 – 250 |
| Provincial Vehicle Registration | 143.30 – 333.90 |
| License Fees | 80.15 ** |
| Public Transportation | |
| Bus Pass (Monthly) | 45.00 – 90.00 |

1. *Costs are dependent on type, retailer, and location

2. ** some cabs offer flat rates between towns and within regions, contact your local cab service for fees
3. *** cost is for Class 5, however there will be additional fees if needing tests to acquire.

Community Involvement

Being active in your community with recreation, activities and attending events can mean incurring costs. It is good to research activities that interest you and the cost for participation, which may vary depending on your region, community, and organization (including travel, equipment, supplies, etc.).

Some activities can be more expensive than others and require travel budgets. For example, registering for a local soccer club may cost \$175 for the season, but you may need to travel to different communities for games and competitions. In comparison, signing up to be a cast member of a theatre production may be free, and requires no travel outside of the community.

Do research on what activities are available in your community and what costs are associated with them when you are budgeting.

Family Costs

As found in our [Cost of Living Survey](#), families should also budget between \$200 – \$1,000 for child-related costs, including extracurricular activities, clothing, childcare, school expenses, and more.

School-aged children will be required to purchase school supplies. The amount of school supplies needed, and types, will vary on the grade of your youth, and the school of attendance. [On average in Halifax, school supplies cost anywhere from 140 -180.](#)

Childcare can be costly and difficult to gain in Nova Scotia. In Halifax, childcare costs average between \$853 – \$957 monthly. Costs outside of Halifax will vary, depending on the region. If you need childcare, it is important to look early and get on a waitlist.

Employment as a Student

As a student, you may want employment to support your financial well-being. For work, please be mindful that it might take time to find the right part-time job for you. It's a good idea to make sure that you have enough funding to cover your initial expenses. Student jobs are often paid minimum wage, which is currently **\$14.50 per hour**. The minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 per hour as of October 1, 2023.

We have a variety of resources for students to support them in their part-time and career readiness journey.

For more information, please visit [Career Resources](#).

MODULE 3 - PROTECTING HOUSE AND HOME

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to identify key aspects to being safe in their housing
- You will be able to describe the difference between house and home
- You will be able to distinguish between safe and unsafe housing practices

OVERVIEW

Within this Module you will learn more about the difference between house and home, learn how to identify unsafe housing practices (including rental scams), and personal safety planning. At the end of this module, you should be able to articulate safe housing practices for both house and home.

Home & Personal Safety

HAVING A SAFE HOME

The term house refers to the building or space which is designed for individuals to live in.

The term home refers to those living in the house. To further illustrate, the house is where you live, but home is the feeling of living in the house.

Hygiene and Pests

In Nova Scotia, there are a variety of common household pests that can either result from unhygienic spaces or create unhygienic spaces. It is important to keep your spaces clean as a prevention strategy to deter pests. Remove piles of potential nesting materials (for example clothing on floor), keep food in airtight containers, do not leave open food in your cabinets/counters, ensure you are not leaving doors ajar.

In the warmer months, leaving open food packages can cause ants, bugs, and other insects coming into your kitchen space. Sometimes open food packages can even attract mice or rats. Mice are very common in rural areas, especially those near fields, with field mice often trying to get into homes during the colder months. You should notify the property owner if you notice bite marks on food or food packages, and/or droppings. You may have mice or rats.

Another consideration regarding pests is bed bugs. Bed bugs can be extraordinarily challenging to get rid of and are one of the few pests where tenants can be held financially responsible for their removal after introduction. Prevent getting bed bugs by being cautious of where you are buying used furniture and clothing, checking and cleaning items before bringing them into the space, and not purchasing mattresses second hand.

Fire safety

Fire Departments in Nova Scotia are largely volunteer run, and response times will vary depending on your region and distance from the Fire Hall. Being aware of fire safety is of utmost importance in any house.

You should know where the closest extinguisher is, if it's in the hall or the unit, and how to use it. Ensure you have a planned emergency escape route and back up an escape route for if the primary emergency route is not passable. When you move into your space, read [How to make a home fire escape plan](#) to help you create your escape plan.

Your property owner should ensure the smoke alarms are properly installed and it will be your responsibility to test the alarms monthly to ensure they are still operational. If you have a fuel burning appliance, or wood stove, you should also have a carbon monoxide alarm in the space.

Before using heating appliances (heaters/woodstoves) check to ensure there is nothing flammable (blankets). You should never leave candles burning unattended and never leave the oven or cooking unattended.

Ensure proper usage of the microwave, never cook with metal (tin foil, metal spoons, etc) inside a microwave as it is a serious fire hazard.

For more fire safety tips for your home you can visit the [Home Safety](#) webpage on the Canadian Government Website.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Emergency Contact List

When you move to a new community, it is always beneficial to put together an emergency contact list. This list should include emergency and non-emergency contacts for the emergency services, including your local Fire Department, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and/or Town Police, Medical Services.

Home Security

Nova Scotia is fairly safe, and while it is common for people to leave their homes unlocked while they go out, it is recommended that you secure your windows and doors before bed, and when leaving for the day. Securing entrances and exits helps ensure your safety.

Some individuals will choose to purchase personal safes for important documents (like passports), and others will have an 'important documents' drawer or location. Ensure you know where all your important documents are in your home.

If you plan to leave for an extended vacation, it is good to put lights on a timer, tell the property owner and/or a close friend when you expect to be back, the time which the lights will go on/off, and any other safety details.

Staying Safe at Night

Many rural and urban areas in Nova Scotia are not well lit.

If you are planning to travel on foot at night, ensure you have high visibility clothing, a flashlight, and let someone know when you are leaving and your estimated time of arrival. Consider a cab or other means of getting home in the winter, as temperatures drop significantly in the winter evenings.

If you are traveling by car, it can be more challenging to see the risks at night. Ensure you are driving at a fair speed, so that if wildlife comes onto the road, you will have time to avoid them. You should also ensure your headlights and high beams are working properly prior to driving at night.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In Nova Scotia, there are a variety of environmental factors which you will need to be prepared for in case of an emergency. During the winter months, Nova Scotia gets bouts of extreme cold, wind, and ice. Common environmental risks are hurricanes, severe storms, storm surges, floods, and power outages. Depending on your proximity to the ocean, storm surges may be a consideration you should have, and during a storm you should stay away from the oceanfront.

- [Emergency Kit Checklist](#)
- [Power Outages](#)

Learn more about how to prepare yourself:

- [Nova Scotia Emergency and Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Nova Scotia Emergency Information](#) from the Government of Canada

Rental Scams

A scam is a fraud, a dishonest plan to cheat and get money from another person in an illegal way.

COMMON RENTAL SCAMS

- The property owner tells you that they are away for a family emergency and promises to send you the keys to the place after you pay for a deposit.
- You are asked to pay rent all at once (or you are asked for multiple months in advance).
- You are asked to pay an application fee. In NS this is illegal.
- You struggle to communicate with the property owner. You look for information and you don't find much about them.
- You find multiple ads in several provinces.
- You are asked for your Social Insurance Number or credit card details.
- You will never be required to provide a Social Insurance Number to rent
- The property owner keeps your damage deposit after your lease is over although you haven't damaged the property.
 - A damage deposit must be given back within 10 days if the property has not been damaged.
 - The property owner must apply to Nova Scotia Tenancies to keep the deposit

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Educate yourself
 - Read [Tips for Tenants from Halifax Magazine](#) and [Tips for Students from places4students.com](#)
- Ask for help
 - Email housing@nscc.ca or call 902-423-8105 or email legalaid@dal.ca

Residential Tenancies Act

THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

The Residential Tenancies Act is the legal document for rentals within Nova Scotia. Your rights as a tenant are protected under the Residential Tenancies Act. There are exceptions where your rights as a tenant are not covered under the Residential Tenancies Act, which include University and College on Campus Housing, Shelters, Hospitals or Nursing Homes or Care Facilities, Correctional Facilities, Hotels or Motels.

It is important to know your rights as a tenant and who to turn to if you need support reaffirming your rights. More details about the Residential Tenancies Act will be covered in Module 5: Securing Housing.

MORE SUPPORT

For more information on tenants' rights review the [Tenant Rights Guide: A Guide to rental Housing in Nova Scotia](#) and the [Residential Tenancies Renting Guide](#).

Should you need legal support related to your Tenants Rights, please contact your legal representative or DAL Legal Aid.

DAMAGE DEPOSIT & OTHER FEES

A **damaged deposit** is the same as a security deposit. In Nova Scotia, property owners use both terms interchangeably, and language will depend on region. In Nova Scotia, property owners may only charge up to half of one month's rent for a damage deposit. It is illegal for property owners to charge more than ½ a month's rent for a damage deposit. This includes asking for last month's rent at the beginning of your lease.

A damage deposit can be kept by your property owner for unpaid rent. If there is damage beyond normal wear and tear, or if the space was not at a level of ordinary cleanliness, you did not return the keys. Normal wear and tear are the normal amount of deterioration during the time of the rental. For example, if your rental has carpets, they will not look new after 5 years of walking on them. Ensure you are cleaning inside appliances, bathroom, and apartment carpets to help prevent cleaning-based disputes.

It is illegal in Nova Scotia for property owners to charge application, key, pet, or carpet fees. They can apply to keep your damage deposit at the end of your tenancy if you do not return your keys. The **ONLY** money which property owners can ask for is rent and security deposit.

IN AND OUT INSPECTION

The property owner should complete a **pre-move in and post-move out inspection** with you. If you do not get an inspection from the property owner prior to move-in, it should be shown on the lease. Ensure you are not signing

a lease before seeing the property; however, a pre-move-in inspection usually outlines required maintenance, and pre-move-in inspections are attached to the lease when it is provided to you.

When you move into your extra space before bringing anything into the space, take a video and photos of the space. These images will be time-stamped when you take them and will show the state of the space upon move-in. When you are moving out, you want to ensure you are leaving the space in a similar condition to when you moved in. After you've removed all your belongings, take photos and videos of the condition you are leaving the space in.

A property owner may not keep your damage deposit to higher professional cleaners upon move-out unless the space was left in a condition beyond ordinary cleanliness. The property owner would be required to apply to Residential Tenancies to keep the Damage Deposit in this case. Taking photos and videos of the state of the apartment when you leave protects you.

COMMUNICATION & DOCUMENTATION

In Nova Scotia, both verbal and **written leases** are valid formats of leases. It is important to protect yourself by keeping a record of the terms of the lease, be it verbal or written. For **verbal leases**, ensure everything verbally agreed upon is documented. This can be documented by text-message confirmation, writing, including the date of the agreement. You should file your emails and text messages related to your housing in one space. Take photos of original leases and save the copy in your leases.

If you are renting a room, have roommates, or sharing a space in a family home, ask for a roommate agreement. Roommate agreements are used to help prevent conflicts in shared housing situations. These are agreements and records of the agreements between roommates. Roommate agreements often include communication for conflicts, guest permissions, cleaning/hygiene, share space usage, roommate meetings (monthly or otherwise), noise, shared items.

Property owners do not require or keep roommate agreements. Use our [Roommate Agreement](#) to help guide conversations between roommates.

TENANTS INSURANCE

Tenants Insurance is insurance for those who rent. This form of insurance usually covers damage to property not included in damage deposit, and other risks related to renting (floods, fires, etc.). Many property owners ask for tenants to have tenant insurance but cannot evict you if you do not have tenant insurance. Property owners can charge you for damages that would have been covered by tenants' insurance.

Plans cover different things and have different costs, from \$15 to \$30+ a month. It is important to shop around for quotes. NSCC highly recommends students gain tenants' insurance.

MODULE 4 - SEARCHING FOR HOUSING

Learning Objectives

- You will be able describe what to prepare for a housing search
- You will be able to identify authentic search tools and housing options
- You will be able to prepare a personal housing plan that meets their needs and capacity

OVERVIEW

Within this Module you will learn what to expect when starting your housing search and what you should prepare. At the end of this module, you should be able to know what questions to ask property owners, what to bring to a viewing, and where to search for housing.

Rental Properties Disclaimer

It is important that you make your own inquiries about apartment suitability and standards. NSCC does not inspect or check homes and/or rental properties listed on Places4Students or other off-campus housing posting sites.

Many students can find housing through online rental advertisements, including on sites like Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace. It is important to always be cautious of online housing and learn about **rental scams and illegal practices**. To help minimize the potential for being scammed, tour (virtually, or in person) prior to signing a lease. International students are at an increase likelihood of being targeted for rental scams, it is important to know the proper questions to ask the property owner prior to signing the lease, which is the purpose of this module.

Being safe when securing roommates is important. Prior to bringing in a roommate, it is good to meet with potential roommates in advance in a public and neutral place.

Starting Your Search

WHEN TO SEARCH

Nova Scotia is experiencing **a shortage of rental housing**, so finding long-term accommodation can be challenging and expensive—it might take up to 4 months to secure a place to live for the long term. It is important to search for housing early and often. Some webpages, like Places4Students and Happipad, have the potential to update daily.

As soon as you know which community you will attend, look at your housing options. Look early and often so that you can secure housing that meets your needs.

Often September–February, there are fewer postings in communities as Property Owners have confirmed current students for that academic year. Between February and August, there are often more postings as students graduate, change rental location/roommates, and other factors.

SHORT TERM HOUSING AS A SEARCH STRATEGY

Short-term housing should not be the solution to bridge the gap while you secure housing. Temporary accommodation (hotels, Airbnbs) can be quite expensive, have finite dates, and be difficult to secure, especially in the peak tourism months.

Short-term housing should only be used as a solution between your arrival and your lease start date. You should secure **long-term housing** and only use short-term housing as a method to view potential long-term listings.

Where to Search

There are a variety of places for you to start your search; and what is best to use depends on your individual needs. You need to assess your needs to decide which tool, or contacts are best to use.

CAMPUS HOUSING

Campus housing is more than a place to sleep and eat; it's a place to feel safe, secure and successful. When you live on campus, you're exposed to opportunities and experiences that create community, promote inclusivity, and most of all, support your personal and academic success. For information about Campus Housing, visit the NSCC Campus Housing Webpage.

We currently offer campus housing at three locations, with more campus housing coming soon at three additional locations. NSCC uses a 'first applied, first considered' approach to campus housing admission. You don't need to be accepted into an academic program to apply, but priority is given to students who've confirmed their acceptance offers. If you have questions about living on campus, email campushousing@nsc.ca

- [Centre of Geographic Sciences \(COGS\)](#) Campus housing in Lawrencetown, NS
- [Strait Area Campus](#) Campus housing in Port Hawkesbury, NS
- [Truro Campus](#) Campus housing in Truro, NS

COMING 2024

Three new campus housing projects have been announced by the Provincial government for NSCC's Akerley, Ivany and Pictou campuses. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

- [Akerley Campus – opening in fall 2024](#) Campus housing in Dartmouth, NS
- [Pictou Campus – opening in fall 2024](#) Campus housing in Stellarton, NS

COMING 2025

- [Ivany Campus – opening in fall 2025](#) Campus housing in Dartmouth, NS

LOOKING FOR ROOMMATES

A roommate is a person who shares an apartment (or sometimes a room) with you. Signing a lease with someone you don't know can be risky. Choose your roommate carefully and be honest about who you are. If you're looking for a quiet spot, avoid roommates who want to be social regularly. Make sure you always meet with potential roommates prior to having them sign a lease.

You may also use Places4Students roommate finder to help find your roommate, by posting a profile and engaging with others who have posted profiles. On your profile you should include:

- Your name
- Your gender
- Your program
- Living preferences
- Budget

Examples

- My name is Quinn, I am non-binary and use they/them pronouns. I have one other roommate that is female, and uses she/her pronouns. We are looking for 2 roommates for the upcoming school year. The house is a 5-minute walk to Ivany campus, and a bus ride from Akerly Campus. We are hoping to find 2 roommates who are LGBT or Allies. We are fairly quiet and enjoy board game nights with friends every Friday. We do have a cat, Tibbo, who is fairly chill. Rent is \$500/Month, with \$25 per person for Wifi/Utilities. If you are interested, please contact me. We will ask to have a video call or coffee with you prior to adding you to the lease.
- I'm Jane, I am a female (use she/her/hers pronouns). I am looking for 1 roommate to join our female only house, with 3 other female roommates. 3 of us are in Natural Resources, and 2 are in Practical Nursing. Our house is located a short walk from Lunenburg Campus and the local shops. We are fairly social and prioritize tidy spaces. We are not permitted animals with our lease, so no pets are permitted. The rent is \$400/Month with utilities. We pay \$5/month for shared wifi. If you are interested, please contact me. We will ask to have a video call or coffee with you prior to adding you to the lease.
- Hi, my name is John, and I am male, use he/him pronouns. I have a nice pet-friendly 2-bedroom apartment and am looking for a roommate for the other room. I'm in my second year of Mental Health Recovery and Promotion at NSCC. The apartment is a 30-minute drive away from campus, I have a car and travel every day, so carpooling isn't an issue. The rent is \$900/month with utilities, including internet. I will ask to have a video call or coffee with you prior to adding you to the lease.

It's important to have conversations around expectations before moving in with your roommate — especially if you don't know them ahead of time. When more than one tenant signs a lease, they are all responsible for the lease. You should have a **written roommate agreement**, useful in case of disputes. Use the [NSCC Roommate Agreement](#) to help you navigate living with others. **Disputes between roommates** can be resolved through [the small claims court](#).

PLACES4STUDENTS

Places4Students is a Housing Listing Partner with NSCC. NSCC encourages property owners to post their listings on Places4Students. To see what's available near your campus, or to post a free ad for a roommate or sublet, use [Places4Students](#).



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=120#oembed-1>

HAPPIPAD

[Happipad](#) is a shared housing experience partner with NSCC. NSCC encourages alumni and their communities with potential for shared living opportunities to create profiles on Happipad. To see what's available near your campus have a look at the [Happipad website](#).

RENTAL COMPANIES

Rental companies usually require you to submit an application. Private property owners might not require one. In general, to apply for housing, you must show that you'll be a good tenant by abiding by the rental agreement, committing to the duration of the lease and paying rent on time. Once you've signed a lease, it's difficult to break the contract.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=120#oembed-2>

HOUSING CONSULTANTS

[Van Sweet Home](#) provides private consultation for international or domestic students who are looking to find a place to live. For a fee, they will seek out accommodations on your behalf and support you in the rental process. Van Sweet Home offers a discount to NSCC students; and only services the Halifax Regional Municipality. [Find out more about their pricing and services](#).



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=120#oembed-3>

CANADA HOMESTAY NETWORK

[Canada Homestay Network \(CHN\)](#) provides an option for domestic and international students who are looking to live with local families in the Halifax and Dartmouth areas. Homestay families are carefully screened, and homes are vetted. You can [apply directly for homestay](#) through the Canada Homestay Network.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=120#oembed-4>

WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Be sure to also check the internet (e.g., Google search, social media) for other rental listings. Websites like Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace are often locations property owners publish rental listings. Be sure you have reviewed the rental scam information from the previous module prior to using these tools.

WEBSITES AND FACEBOOK GROUPS BY AREA

***Disclaimer:** NSCC does not inspect or check homes and/or rental properties listed on Places4Students or other off-campus housing posting sites. NSCC does not take responsibility for the postings or webpages included below, and are included as community run resources.*

Annapolis Valley Campus (Middleton, COGS), Digby, Kingstec – Annapolis Valley

| | |
|--|--|
| Annapolis Valley For Rent | Public Facebook Group |
| Annapolis Valley NS Landlord/Tenant Listings | Private Facebook Group |

Burridge Campus – Yarmouth

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Yarmouth Houses/Apartment For Rent | Public Facebook Group |
| Apartments for Rent Yarmouth | Private Facebook Group |

Cumberland and Amherst Campus – Springhill and Amherst

| | |
|---|--|
| Amherst landlord listings | Private Facebook Group |
| NEW Amherst NS Landlord Listings | Private Facebook Group |
| Springhill and area apartments or houses – 4 rent or sale | Public Facebook Group |

Lunenburg Campus – Bridgewater

Rooms Apartments FOR RENT Bridgewater and Area [Public Facebook Group](#)

Marconi Campus – Sydney

Homes/Apartment Rentals in Industrial Cape Breton [Public Facebook Group](#)

Cape Breton For Rent [Public Facebook Group](#)

Pictou Campus – Stellarton

For Rent – Pictou Country [Public Facebook Group](#)

New Glasgow Landlord Listings [Public Facebook Group](#)

Pictou County House & Apartment Rentals *** NO SELLING [Public Facebook Group](#)

Strait Area Campus / Nautical Institute -Port Hawkesbury

Port Hawkebury Buy & Sell [Public Facebook Group](#)

Truro Campus – Truro

Truro and Area for Rent [Public Facebook Group](#)

Apartments and Houses for Rent [Private Facebook Group](#)

What to Prepare

When going into the Housing Search process you should be prepared to apply for housing. To secure housing you will need to ensure you have the proper documentation to help the process go smoothly.

THE VIEWING

Prior to signing a lease and submitting an application you should ask to attend a tour (virtually or in person) of the unit or home which you will be renting. During this tour you can use the [Rent Viewing Checklist](#) to ensure you are asking the right questions to help you secure housing.

Renters may be asked to:

- Give biographical information about yourself and all other occupants of the property.
- Provide information about where you've lived before and offer references.
- Provide proof of financial means and undergo a credit check.
- Provide details of a Canadian bank account (if you're an international student, opening an account should be a priority).
- Provide a guarantor if you don't have full-time work.
- Pay a damage deposit (half a month's rent) to secure the apartment. If you've kept the apartment in good condition, you get the damage deposit back when you move out.
- Provide proof of **tenant** insurance. Even if you're not required to provide proof, you should have tenant insurance in case of a fire or another unforeseen event. Tenant insurance costs between \$15 and \$30 a month. If you have a car or other insurance coverage, investigate combining your plans to save money.

THE APPLICATION

The application process is often similar between property owners, with many using similar application documents. A [typical application](#) will include brief personal information, banking information, and reference information.

You will **NEVER** be asked for your social insurance number and should never provide social insurance number to property owners to secure housing. This indicates a potential rental scam.

When you are applying or preparing to apply, you will require:

- Co-signer/guarantor
- Canadian bank account
- Proof of funding
- References



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=122#oembed-1>

PETS AND YOUR HOUSING SEARCH

In Nova Scotia, Property Owners can make all sorts of rules around pets, such as only allowing certain sized pets, certain animals for pets, and only allowing pets in certain parts of the building. We encourage students to engage with the Property Owners about allowing pets.

In Nova Scotia only [Service Dogs](#) are a protected class of pets . This means that property owners have the legal ability to not permit pets in their rental properties. Property owners do not need to permit emotional support of animals or other pets.

Having pets can limit your options for housing. If you have a pet and are struggling to secure housing in your community of study, you may need to consider a temporary foster for your pet while you attend your studies or secure pet friendly housing.

MODULE 5 - SECURING YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to evaluate and understand a lease
- You will be able to describe what should be included on a lease
- You will be able to differentiate between reasonable and unreasonable rules

OVERVIEW

Within this module you will learn how to interpret a lease and gain a base understanding of Nova Scotia Tenancy Act and regulations. At the end of this module, you should feel confident in negotiating and signing a lease.

Signing Your Lease & Residential Tenancies Act Overview

SIGNING YOUR LEASE AND RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

A lease is a legally binding contract between the property owner and yourself. Both the property owner and you should have the same copy, if there is something different on either copy it is not valid. So long as the lease isn't in contradiction of the Standard Form of Lease, everything included in the lease you are responsible for as signing the document indicates that there is an agreement. A [Standard Form of Lease](#) is a standardized form for property owners to ensure consistency between property owners and documents. If you disagree about a point on the lease, address it with the property owner prior to signing.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=140#oembed-1>

Suggested Further Viewing: [Signing a Rental Lease/Contract in Nova Scotia](#)

Your property owner should give you a copy of the lease within 10 days of signing. The property owner is also legally responsible for providing tenants with a copy of the Residential Tenancies Act. The copy of Residential Tenancies Act can be either a hard copy, email, or electronic link to the act. If your property owner does not provide you with a copy of the lease or Residential Tenancies Act, you may terminate your lease. You may terminate a lease any time prior to receiving the copy of the Lease or Residential Tenancies Act. Make sure you are familiar with the amount of notice your lease requires to quit. You have protected rights under the Nova Scotia Tenancies Act, it is very important you are aware of your rights.

If you are signing a lease as a roommate, make sure that you are also signing a roommate agreement (see previous module). This can be very useful in case of disputes.

Terms of a Lease

TERMS OF A LEASE

“Terms of a Lease” is the length of time the lease is valid for. There are three different “terms of a lease”. The three Terms of Lease are: **Monthly**, **Yearly**, and **Fixed Term**.

For monthly and yearly termed leases, the lease automatically renews itself each month or year, unless you give notice in writing that you will not be renewing your lease.

Fixed Term leases do not have a notice period, the tenancy period ends on the stated end date in the lease. There is no right as a tenant to stay in the unit after the fixed term lease ends. For students with multi-year programs a monthly or yearly lease may be more secure than a fixed-term lease. At the end of a fixed-term lease property owners do not have to resign with the same person and may mean you end up searching for housing.

What Should be Included in a Lease

CONTACT INFORMATION

The contact information for your property owner or a property manager should be included. This contact information should include after hours (4PM – 8AM) contact information for emergencies (floods, electrical/breaker issues, etc.). There is a legal obligation for property owners to include their (or their property managers) name, a physical address, and phone number on the lease.

PROPERTY OCCUPANTS

All occupants should be included on the lease. This includes all individuals who will be living in the unit, even those who may not be responsible financially for the space (children/youth).

INCLUDED ASPECTS

Everything that is included in your rent payments should be outlined. For example, if your rental includes appliances, parking, and all utilities, it needs to say all three aspects on the lease. All the included aspects are covered by your rent and the property owner is responsible for providing it for you.

INSPECTION DETAILS

All details on inspection should be attached to the lease. You should do an inspection just prior to moving into your space, if you did not get an opportunity to do an inspection that should also be outlined on the lease. It is important to ask for an inspection if not already provided, and not sign a lease for a space you haven't seen in person.

PROPERTY SPECIFIC RULES

All property rules that are reasonable are permitted to be included in the lease. These are usually outlined in Section 17 of the Standard Form of Lease and are titled Statutory conditions and reasonable rules. These rules must be consistent between everyone in the building, and must relate to the well-being of tenants, be within the law, and relate to the well-being of the building. All these conditions and reasonable rules must be attached to the lease.

Pets are often included under this section of the Standard Form Lease. It is important to know that emotional support animals are not a protected right under the law in Nova Scotia. Only certified Service Dogs are a protected right in Nova Scotia and are exempt from rulings related to pets under Section 17.

Some examples of reasonable rules are:

- No nails or screws for mounting, only 3M, Tape, and other wall safe adhesives may be used.
- Building quiet hours are from 11PM – 8AM Daily.
- No smoking inside the building or within 15 feet from entrances and windows.
- Cats are permitted, but no dogs or other pets.

Some examples of unreasonable rules:

- Only locally purchased and manufactured lawn chairs may be permitted on the property.
- Your neighbor is permitted to have a pet cat, but you are not permitted to have a pet cat.
- You may only decorate your patio for July 1 – July 30.

A NOTE ON PETS

As mentioned in previous sections, in Nova Scotia property owners have the legal right to add a rule to not permit pets, allow only certain sized pets, certain animals, or only allowing pets in specific areas. The only exception to this is Certified Service Dogs under the Nova Scotia Service Dog Act. The property owner may update rules to disallow pets, but if there are already pets in the building they are grandfathered in, which is another way to say allowed to stay, but no new pets are permitted. If you sign a lease that says no pets, and you bring a pet in, you are in violation of your lease and could be evicted for breaching the lease. If you have a lease that says no pets, you must receive a signed, written amendment to your lease to allow for you to bring in a pet. As rules have to be equal throughout the building property owners may not make exceptions for you, as then the building itself would have to permit pets.

A NOTE ON SMOKING

A property owner is allowed to make rules related to smoking in the building, like no smoking inside, only smoking on balconies, and not during the day. Similarly, to rules related to pets, if you have a lease that says no smoking, you must receive a signed, written amendment to your lease to permit smoking on a balcony, or otherwise. If smoking is permitted by the lease, you need to ensure your smoking does not interfere with another tenant, under Nova Scotia Law second-hand smoke can be considered interference of another tenant it is the property owners' responsibility to ensure they resolve interference.

A NOTE ON CANNABIS

Cannabis smoking is considered with smoking rules by the property owner. Property owners have the right to create reasonable rules related to cultivation and recreational smoking. This can include limited or prohibiting cultivation and/or smoking in the unit, or permitting a limited number of plants, or hours for recreational smoking. The only exception to this rule is related to medical cannabis usage, which is protected under the [Nova Scotia Human Rights Act](#).

Pets, Smoking, & Cannabis

A NOTE ON PETS

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Fees, Payment, & Security Deposit

SECURITY/DAMAGE/SAFETY DEPOSIT

It is typical for property owners to ask for a deposit when you sign a lease. This is often referred to as a security deposit, but also is called a damage deposit or safety deposit. You pay this at the time of signing the lease, and if the apartment or home is in similar condition as when you moved in. The property owner may keep the deposit if there are damages or if keys are not returned.

The security deposit may only be up to half of the total cost of monthly rent. It's illegal to ask more than half month's rent as a damage deposit. If rent is \$1000 the security deposit can be no more than \$500.

RENT PAYMENT

You should pay rent in cheque or e-transfer. Be wary of property owners that require cash payments as the method for paying rent. If paying rent in cash ensure you are keeping a record, including a receipt of the withdrawal, receipt of payment. This is to protect yourself and the property owner.

Ensure you are always timely in your payments. Property owners may charge a late fee of up to 1% of rent for delayed payments, but may only do so if this is included in the rent.

ILLEGAL FEES

It is illegal for property owners to ask for fees associated with the following:

- Multiple months
 - It is not legal for property owners to require multiple months of payment upfront.
- First and Last
 - Property owners are not legally able to ask for first and last months rent.
- Application Fees
 - In Nova Scotia it is not legal to require a fee to apply for an apartment. There should not be application fees charged to apply for any rental property.
- Keys
 - Property owners may not charge you for key access, however they can charge you for duplicates, lost or missing keys. Property owners can apply to the tenancy act to keep your deposit at the end of tenancy if your keys are not returned.
- Fire extinguishers

- As an essential component of fire safety property owners cannot charge tenants for fire extinguishers.
- Carpets
 - Property owners may not include carpet fees to your rent.
- Pets
 - Property owners may not add fees to permit pets in the building, however they may restrict pets. If there are damages associated to pets they may apply to the Tenancy Board to keep the deposit at the end of your tenancy.
- Children
 - Children are classified as occupants by the tenancy act and property owners cannot add a charge to your rent to permit youth occupants to live with you.

RENTAL INCREASES

A property owner may only raise the rent **once every 12-months**, this is inclusive of all rental terms. Your property owner must provide you with written notice that there will be an increase. For monthly or yearly rent it must be 4 months before your anniversary date (the day you signed the lease).

Taking away a service included in the terms of your lease is equivalent to raising rent under the law. If the property owner removes a service included, like electricity, they must lower rent to have it not considered a rental increase. Even if you pay extra for the service, a change can be considered the same as a rental increase under Nova Scotia Law.

References & Guarantors



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REFERENCES

In Nova Scotia it is common to request a reference. Often times you can use a previous property owner that you have rented from. If you have not previously rented you can use an employer or a peer as a character reference. It is beneficial if the reference is in Nova Scotia, or familiar with renting in Nova Scotia, but not a strict requirement from all property owners.

As an NSCC Student you can also complete this workbook, and associated quiz to get a “Statement of Completion”. You can provide this to property owners as an additional document of reference along with your Proof of Enrollment.

GUARANTORS

A guarantor or a co-signer, somebody that commits to pay rent on your behalf if for any reason you cannot pay it. Guarantors are typically required when renting through property management companies.

If you haven't got any, include your bank statements with currency in Canadian dollars so that you can show to the person you renting from or you applying for the you can pay for your rent.

If you rent through a private property owner, you might not submit a rental application, but you will still need to demonstrate that you can pay for your rent.

MODULE 6 - COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to describe in brief the laws, bi-laws, and where to find out more information regarding such.
- You will be able to identify different methods of conflict prevention through community responsibility and expectations
- You will be able to describe how to be a positive community member

OVERVIEW

Within this Module you will learn what the expectations are to be a good community member. At the end of this module, you will feel confident in reflection on actions and how behaviours may impact the community.

Roommates, Conflicts, & Working Towards Resolutions

A **roommate** is a person who shares an apartment (or sometimes a room) with you. Signing a lease with someone you don't know can be risky. Choose your roommate carefully and be honest about who you are. If you're looking for a quiet spot, avoid roommates who want to party regularly. When more than one tenant signs a lease, they are all responsible for the lease. You should have a written roommate agreement, useful in case of disputes. It is important to know what you are, and where your rights are under the tenancy act.

It's important to have conversations around expectations before moving in with your roommate — especially if you don't know them ahead of time. Often, students will meet with potential roommates on a video call or in person over coffee to discuss expectations and personal preferences. Having these first meetings helps you know if you are a good fit to live with the other person, or if you should continue looking for other roommates.

Recommended Webinar: [Living with roommates](#)

Once you move in with others, it will be important to ensure you are having open communication about chores, hygiene, study times, and other topics. Open communication is a great tool to help prevent conflict. It is also recommended that you complete a roommate agreement with your roommates. This agreement can guide interactions, purchasing of shared items, communication, and all other items. Use the NSCC Roommate Agreement: [Roommate Agreement](#).

One common issue between roommates is hygiene and chores. As part of the roommate agreement, discuss chores and shared space cleanliness. A tool many will use is a chore chart. This chart outlines which spaces are communally cleaned, when, and by who. It helps ensure the cleaning tasks are distributed evenly between all roommates.

Despite our best efforts to avoid conflict, it is normal to have disagreements. You should prepare for when disagreements arise by having detailed conversations during the roommate agreement about how you would like to manage conflicts in your home. Often, regular house meetings will also help prevent conflicts and provide a designated time to discuss any concerns you have. When discussing your concerns, ensure you are following the communication tips provided in the [Roommate Agreement](#), such as using "I feel..." statements and centering the conversation on the impacts of the issue.

Recycling, Waste Management, & Sustainability

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

In Nova Scotia, it is standard to sort your waste and recycle. How you sort will depend on your community and region. Learning to recycle can be very difficult, but it is important for your community and the environment. It is a good idea to download or print a copy of your region's sorting guide and put it near your waste sorting station to ensure you are properly disposed of waste. You can visit [Divert NS](#) to find the sorting guide for your community. Speak with your Property Owner about waste removal and collection.

SUSTAINABILITY

At NSCC, we are dedicated to advance the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to support the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have ensured Sustainability is a pillar of our Strategic Priorities and commit to continuing to improve our sustainability.

You can learn more about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals on the [Sustainable Development Goals at NSCC Subject Guide](#).



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Socialize Responsibly

If you plan to host a social event or party, it is important to consider your neighbours and community.

It is good practice to do the following:

- Let your neighbours know if you are planning to host an event at home.
- When you let your neighbours know, you should provide them with contact information for yourself for if you get too loud or if they have other worries.
- Ensure the number of guests is manageable for the space, minimize the number of people you invite, and let guest know of expectations related to noise in advance
- Ensure you are cleaning up after, especially if guests have left litter in the yard or outdoor areas.
- Be aware, and make sure your guests are aware, of the rules and laws.
- Open alcohol in public spaces, including the paths outside your home, can result in a fine, or charge by the police.
- As the host of the social event/party, and tenant or property owner, stay sober during the event to ensure you can make responsible decisions in the event of any issues or conflict.

You should also know the lease rules related to hosting social events or parties; your property owner may have a rule in Section 17 about the maximum number of guests at a time without notifying the property owner. If hosting a large social event or party, ensure you are aware of your community's by-laws. Common issues with social events are related to noise, litter, open alcohol, and traffic flow.

Sexual Wellness & Consent

SEXUAL WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS

At NSCC, we know that personal wellbeing is essential to your academic well-being. Part of your personal well-being is being aware of your sexual wellness, the impacts your behaviours have on roommates or other housing occupants, and those you interact with. Everybody has the right to work and study in a secure environment free from any form of sexual violence. We at NSCC want to ensure that all members of the College community understand what sexual violence is and know how to respond.

This section of the guide discusses sexual wellness, consent, and sexual violence. This section briefly overviews supports for both physical and mental health, however, this is further discussed in the section on Health & Wellness.

SEXUAL WELLNESS

There are various sexual health wellness clinics and services throughout the province.

Supporting your sexual wellness, and that of your roommates includes insuring you are being respectful about where, when, and how loud your sex is. In the roommate agreement, speak about roommate's comfort related to sex, sex in shared spaces (for example, showers), and if they would prefer prior notice if bringing a partner home for sex.

For your physical sexual wellness, ensure you are using barrier methods (condoms, dental dams, gloves) when having sex. Always ensure you are getting tested between partners. This can happen at community health clinics. **This is for both you and your roommate's wellness. For more information, visit [Sexual Health Nova Scotia](#).**

CONSENT

Consent means someone freely agrees to engage in a certain act. Consent is an active, ongoing, affirmative, conscious, direct, unimpaired and voluntary agreement to engage and continue to engage in sexual activity. It is a non-negotiable part of sexual activity. A person who is asleep or unconscious is incapable of consenting to sexual activity. In other words, if consent is not present, it is sexual assault.

A person may be incapable of consenting to sexual activity when there is an imbalance of power or authority, or when one person is in a position of trust and persuades another to engage in sexual activity. The act of using subtle pressure, drugs, alcohol, or force to have sexual contact with someone against their will (when they have already expressed that they do not want to have sexual contact) is sexual coercion.

It is important to be knowledgeable about the Canadian laws related to sexual interactions. The age of consent is typically 16 years old, however, there are exceptions in Canada, where the legal age must be higher related to a

person in a position of trust, influence, and dependency. Please read the [Age of Consent to Sexual Activity](#) on the Government of Canada's website.

Also, it is prohibited in the NSCC Employee Code of Conduct for the NSCC Employees to engage in romantic and/or sexual relationships with students.



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SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual Violence is an umbrella term describing any act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without their consent. These include in-person and digital/cyber actions. This violence takes different forms including, but not limited to sexual harassment, cyber harassment, cyber stalking of a sexual nature, sexual abuse, sexual assault, criminal harassment (stalking), indecent exposure, voyeurism, non-consensual distribution of sexual/intimate images, and human trafficking.



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Sexual Violence also includes:

- Coercion of another person's sexuality by physical or psychological intimidation
- Denial of another person's sexual decision-making rights.
- Retaliation or threats by an individual because of their sexual advances not being accepted.
- Removal of or failure to use a condom during intercourse without consent is also considered sexual assault.

Sexual violence can be:

- A single occurrence, or can be ongoing by the same or different perpetrator(s)
- Experienced by people of all genders
- Experienced by people of any age
- Is most likely perpetrated by someone known to the victim/survivor

- In-person or online (i.e. using social media such as Facebook and Tinder, sharing nude pictures, texting)

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault refers to any form of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to, unwanted kissing, fondling, touching, disrobing, oral or anal sex, vaginal intercourse, or other forms of penetration. It also includes inducing intoxication, impairment, or incapacity for the purpose of making another person vulnerable to non-consensual sexual activity.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual Harassment is a course of unwelcome, humiliating, and/or embarrassing comments of a sexual nature, persistent or abusive sexual solicitation or advances directed at an individual based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, by another individual or group who knows, or ought reasonably to know, that this attention is unwelcome; any solicitation or advance which is known, or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome, humiliating and/or embarrassing made by an individual who is in the position to confer or deny a benefit; and /or any reprisal or threat of reprisal, for refusing to comply with an implied or expressed sexual solicitation or advance.

Sexual harassment also includes, but is not limited to:

- unwanted and repeated direct or indirect communication, including emails, gifts, letters or notes
- display of sexually suggestive pictures, posters, objects or graffiti
- unwanted behaviors or comments that fetishize perceived personal characteristics such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and/or race, age, size, etc.
- any of the behaviors described here when these behaviors are displayed or communicated on any form of social media or other electronic media

IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

If you are in immediate physical danger:

- Go somewhere safe
- Call [911 Emergency](#) if it's an emergency and you require emergency responders (ambulance, police, fire)

If you are on Campus:

- activate the Emergency Blue Pull Station

If you are out of immediate physical danger and need immediate care:

- [SANE](#) – can put you in touch with the nearest Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (SANE).

If you need any support related to the topic of sexual violence while studying at NSCC you can contact your Campus Counsellor, or the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Lead.

Talk to an NSCC Counsellor

This **is** confidential (in most cases)

- Receive emotional support, resources and possible accommodations.
- Contact [Student Services Counsellor or ALP Counsellor](#) to book an appointment with a Counsellor.

Talk to an NSCC Employee

This **is not** confidential.

- The employee will connect with NSCC's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Lead about your conversation.
- Names do not usually need to be provided at this point, but this can result in action, which may include opening an investigation.
- The Housing Coordinator or Manager of Student Services at your campus are examples of NSCC employees who are familiar with the sexual violence policy.

Talk to the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Lead

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

- Contact Shannon Pringle, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Lead, directly at Shannon.Pringle@nsc.ca or call 1-782-641-5117.
- Shannon can explain what is confidential and what is not, describe options and processes and let you know what supports are available.
- You will also decide how and if you wish to participate in any process ahead.

Call the Good2Talk Support Line

This is confidential and available 24/7.

- Receive crisis counselling and information about supports, services and community resources.
- Contact [Good2Talk](#) by calling 1-833-292-3698 or text GOOD2TALKNS to 686868.

To learn more information on sexual violence supports off-campus visit the NSCC [Get Support](#) web page.

To learn more information on sexual violence supports, policy and procedures visit: [NSCC Sexual Violence Supports](#)

Laws & By-Laws

As a community member, you will be responsible for knowing the community laws and bi-laws which you live. Federal and Provincial Law will be the same between communities, however towns and communities have different regulations, called bi-laws, which regulate all non- Provincially Regulated issues like noise, smoking, social gatherings, etc.

PROVINCIAL LAWS

Alcohol & Cannabis

Students are responsible for knowing, understanding, and complying with Provincial laws and College regulations regarding alcohol, its transportation, purchase, and restrictions. NSCC is committed to creating an environment in which controlled substances, such as alcohol and cannabis, are used responsibly and in moderation and discourage abuse of these substances.

In Nova Scotia, the legal age of consumption is 19 Years old. This means it is illegal to purchase, transport or consume alcohol at a younger age. It is also illegal to provide someone under the age of 19 with alcohol. **If you are above the age of 19 and your roommate is below the age of 19, you should have open and clear communication about where you choose to store your alcohol and cannabis and ensure they do not have access to your substances.**

There are great resources on how to ensure you keep your substance use social, visit [How to Keep it Social](#)

Driving License

In Nova Scotia, if you are operating any kind of motorized vehicle (including car, motor bike, tractor, etc.) you are required to have a license. Additionally, to be able to drive legally, you must have a registered motor vehicle, properly inspected motor vehicle, and up-to-date insurance on your vehicle. If you do not have all three, in addition to a driver's license, you will be breaking the law.

According to the Nova Scotia Registry of Motor Vehicles:

Visitors or Newcomers who have a valid driver's licence from another part of Canada, or from another country, can drive in Nova Scotia for up to 90 days without getting a Nova Scotia Driver's Licence. After that, you need a Nova Scotia licence.¹

Using a bicycle

You may choose to use a bicycle to get to and from your apartment with groceries and classes. Under Nova Scotia

1. Province of Nova Scotia. (n.d.). Drivers license. In Registry of Motor Vehicles. <https://novascotia.ca/sns/paal/rmv/paal269.asp#:~:text=Visitors%20or%20Newcomers%20who%20have,4%2C%20below.%20.%20.>)

law, you have the same rights and responsibilities as a person driving a vehicle and need to know your road laws. It is Nova Scotia law that you wear a helmet while you are biking. For more information related to NS Bicycle Laws read [Nova Scotia Bicycle Safety](#).

BI-LAWS

It is also important to be up to date with your community's by-laws. Be sure to go to their Town/Municipal websites and review by-laws on noise, alcohol, social gatherings/events, and any other by-law you may be interested in.

GET LEGAL ADVICE

If at any time you need legal support, we encourage you to reach out to Dalhousie (DAL) Legal Aid. DAL Legal Aid is a community-based law office funded by the Dalhousie School of Law. They provide free and low-cost legal services to students and community members related to living in Nova Scotia. Find out more about DAL Legal Aid on the [Dalhousie Legal Aid Website](#).

MODULE 7 - UNDERSTANDING YOUR COMMUNITY

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to describe different ways to be involved in their community
- You will be able to identify different community resources to support them during their studies
- You will be able to describe the different places to purchase their needs in their community

OVERVIEW

Within this Module you will learn how to become involved in your new community, different community supports, and being a positive community citizen. At the end of this module, you should feel confident in being able to access resources and engage with community groups.

Planning Transportation to Your Campus

BY PLANE

If you arrive in Nova Scotia by plane you will most likely be arriving at Halifax Stanfield Airport, which is in Enfield Nova Scotia, a 20 minute car ride to Halifax City proper. Rural campuses are connected to Halifax Airport via shuttle service. Usually, shuttles take you to a drop-off location; you then must reach your destination using a taxi.

If going to Marconi Campus in Sydney Cape Breton, you may also fly in to Sydney Airport. To reach your destination from the airport you will either need to use a taxi, or rent a car.

Shuttles to Reach your Campus from Halifax International Airport:

- Annapolis Valley Campus, Centre of Geographic Sciences, Burridge Campus, Shelburne Campus and the School of Fisheries can be reached with [Annapolis Valley Travel](#).
 - IMPORTANT Be sure to go to Lawrencetown in Annapolis Valley with postal code B0S 1P0 (there is another Lawrencetown in NS)
- Strait Area Campus can be reached with [Ceilidh Shuttle](#);
- Cumberland Campus (including Amherst), Kingstec Campus, Lunenburg Campus, Marconi Campus, Pictou Campus and Truro Campus can be reached with [Maritime Bus](#)



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/housing/?p=157#oembed-1>

In most cases, you can book shuttle service online and get a student discount. It is important that you check shuttle schedules carefully; shuttles might not operate every day of the week and operational hours vary. You may need temporary accommodation until the shuttle or taxi can take you to your new home.

BY CAR

If you are driving to your campus from another community in Nova Scotia, or Canada, it is important that you plan your drive accordingly. Look up your route ahead of time, consider the time of year (traffic/construction), and where you should stop along the way (gas, tourism, food, etc). If you are keeping your vehicle with you, you

will need an NSCC Parking Pass, which you can get during orientation. You will also need to ensure your housing includes parking.

IMPORTANT: If going to COGS campus ensure you are going to Lawrencetown in Annapolis Valley with postal code B0S 1P0 (there is another Lawrencetown in NS).

Health & Well-being

HEALTH SERVICES

Knowing your health care options, costs, and benefits is important to be well. Healthcare access will vary between communities, and it is important to know where your health care options are located in proximity to where you will be living.

Many Nova Scotians will be recommended to go to their primary care provider (Family Doctor) for health care needs. Some Nova Scotians, new residents, and international students will not have a primary care provider. When you do not have a primary care provider, you will need to go to a health clinic, or for urgent/emergency needs, the Emergency Room.

You can use the Nova Scotia Health Authority tool online to find out where to go for health services: [Where to Go for Health Care](#)

HEALTH INSURANCE

If you are staying in Nova Scotia from out of the province, you may consider getting a MSI Card. Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance (MSI) is the provincial plan for insured medical services. It is designed to pay for the cost of a wide range of medically necessary physicians' services, as well as certain dental and optometric services for residents of Nova Scotia. Without insurance, medical care in Canada is extremely expensive. [Find information on provincial MSI eligibility.](#)

As long as you don't opt out, you are covered by NSCC Student Benefits. Your extended health coverage runs for as long as you remain an enrolled and eligible student at NSCC. Your myBenefits Card allows you to direct bills with pharmacies and dental offices.

To access direct billing from paramedical practitioners or vision care services:

- Register on the [Canada Life webpage](#) and update your address on your profile.
- Learn more about NSCC Student Benefits on the [NSCC My Student Plan website.](#)

If you are Mik'maq student and status, you are covered by ISC or NIHB and may consider opting out. Connect with your Indigenous Supports for help to navigate the health insurance plans application, and opt out process.

SUPPORTING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

If you're like most students, you're probably feeling a mix of emotions in attending college: excitement, hope, perhaps even worry, self-doubt and many other emotions. Your wellness matters to us, and you're not alone on your academic journey.

We are here to help you thrive, both academically and personally, during and beyond your time with NSCC.

Helping you care for your mental health and wellbeing is essential to us so you can excel in reaching your academic goals and dreams.

Please be sure to check out our carefully curated [Student Wellness Hub](#) on Connect—you can access free counselling, 24/7 urgent care, community and online wellness resources, and stay in the loop about campus wellness events—we would love to see you there! Our hub is a one-stop shop for all of NSCC's wellness supports, including links for Meeting Your Campus Counsellor, Financial Aid, CampusWell, our wellness e-magazine; along with info about upcoming workshops, peer support, how to get involved, self-help resources, and more! We even offer collections of resources to help support our equity deserving students: 2SLGBTQIA++, African Canadian, Indigenous, International, and Former Foster Youth.

We also have a [Mental Wellness Strategy](#), and you're welcome to view our most recent [progress report](#). Promoting and supporting student and employee mental health and wellbeing is a key priority for NSCC!

Shopping & Supplies

FOOD AND GROCERS

In Nova Scotia, there are a variety of different grocery stores, farmers markets, and shops with food items.

GROCERS

Overarching grocery companies are Sobeys and Loblaws, which own most of the chain grocery stores in the province.

Depending on your community, or neighboring community, you may see the following grocery store names:

- Freshmart
- Foodland
- Co-Op
- Sobeys
- Atlantic Superstore
- No Frills
- M&M Food Market
- And Many Others...

There are many private and specialty grocery stores throughout the Province, in addition to the larger chains. It is important to do your research on your community to know which stores are available to you, and to offer the best pricing to fit your budget. Some community's groceries options will be smaller and more limited due to community size. Some offer student discount on specific days of the week.

FARM/FARMERS MARKET

Farmers markets, and produce stands are very common throughout Nova Scotia. A Farmers Market is a locally hosted market where vendors, typically farmers and artisans, sell their produce. Farmers markets often are hosted in communities once a week. Find a farmers' market near your community using the feature on [Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia.](#)

PHARMACIES

If you need prescriptions, medications, first aid, or other health care needs, you will want to know where your

local pharmacy is. The pharmacy brand and size will depend on your community. Some pharmacies have grocery sections, others are limited to hygiene, pharmaceuticals, first aid, and other non-food supplies. Some pharmacies in Nova Scotia are:

- Lawtons Drugs
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Medicine Shoppe
- Guardian Pharmacy
- PharmaChoice
- Others...

You can use the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia's webpage to find a pharmacy near your [Pharmacy Finder](#).

Families, Childcare, & Schools

School-aged children will be required to purchase school supplies. The amount of school supplies needed, and types, will vary on the grade of your youth, and the school of attendance.

Each school has a parent navigator that you can contact for advice. To find one, refer to the Regional Centre for Education of your community.

- [Annapolis Valley](#) (Kingstec, Annapolis Valley, COGS)
- [Cape Breton-Victoria](#) (Marconi)
- [Cape Breton](#) (Strait Area)
- [Chignecto Central](#) (Amherst, Cumberland, Pictou, Truro)
- [Dartmouth](#), (Akerley, Ivany) * francophone resource*
- [Halifax and Dartmouth](#) (IT, Akerley and Ivany)
- [South Shore](#) (Lunenburg, Shelbourne)
- [Yarmouth](#) (Burridge)

You should start looking for childcare services as soon as you start finalizing your move to Nova Scotia, as wait lists to place your child can be very long. Childcare can be costly and difficult to acquire in Nova Scotia. In Halifax, childcare costs average between \$853 – \$957 monthly. Costs outside of Halifax will vary, depending on the region. If you need childcare, it is important to look early and get on a wait list.

Tip

- Use this [search tool to find childcare](#) close to your area.

Becoming a Active Community Member

There are many ways to become an engaged member of your community, both on-campus and off-campus. Knowing the different key resources will help you in learning to navigate ways to be an engaged community member.

NSCC STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Association (SA) is a group of students working together to improve student life. The SA creates opportunities for balanced lifestyles, promoting health and wellness, and encouraging campus-wide communication and participation. The mission of the SA is to organize activities and events (both on campus and off), provide important programs to encourage your growth as a student, and offer great services that make your learning environment more supportive and enjoyable.

You're automatically a member of your Student Association (SA) as a full or part- time student. Each of our [campuses across the province](#) has its own SA, which is governed by an elected student committee.

Each campus has a unique combination of offerings depending on their specific student membership. Activities may include representation on college committees, orientation events, peer tutoring, fundraising and charitable giving, and sports and recreation. [Visit the NSCC SA website to keep up to date on your campus events and activities.](#)

The best way to ensure that the Student Association is meeting your needs is to become an active part of the organization. Some ways to get involved include:

- Run for an Executive Committee position on the Student Association.
- Serve as a Class Representative on the SA Students' Council.
- Apply for a job as Sports and Recreation Coordinator, Social Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator or other hired coordinator position.
- Start a student club or society on campus.
- Get involved in our sports, recreation and wellness activities.
- Volunteer with the Student Association.
- Participate in activities and programs.

Visit the [NSCC Student Association Webpage](#) for more information or to connect with the Student Association.

NSCC LIBRARIES

NSCC has [13 campus libraries](#). Library services are provided in-person and online by knowledgeable and friendly library staff.

NSCC Libraries provide:

- access to a wide range resources including print and electronic books, electronic journals and streaming video.
- research and assignment support
- help with academic integrity, and citing sources
- study rooms
- technology troubleshooting
- laptop loans and more.

If you need any help with your research and assignments, or have any other questions, contact your [Campus Library staff](#).

Libraries and Learning Commons Videos

Check out the [NSCC Libraries and Learning Commons YouTube channel](#) for short, instructional videos.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

There are 80 Public Libraries in Nova Scotia offering a variety of services and opportunities to community members. Libraries are separated into 9 distinct regions to ensure supports and tools are available between them. Libraries often host public events, and provide community engagement information, high-speed internet access, community services, and a variety of other programs. Getting a provincial library card is free. Find out more about libraries at [Nova Scotia Libraries](#).

NOVA SCOTIA CONNECTS

[Nova Scotia Connect](#) is an online resource that allows people to find information about active living and recreation opportunities in Nova Scotia. You can search both provincially and regionally for postings. This tool can be used to learn more about what is offered in your community, who to contact to get involved, and different events happening. This site is a project of Recreation Nova Scotia, a provincial non-profit supporting recreation across the province. You can learn more about the goals of the tool the [Nova Scotia Connect](#) website.

Working in Your Community

Many students will secure part time employment while they study at NSCC. It is important to consider how much time you need to commit to your studies, time for sleep/self-care, family commitments, and other restrictions on your time when looking for employment. If you are an International Student, the number of hours you can work may depend on the visa you are on. It is possible to be a successful student and work a part-time job, but this may not be workable for every program or person.

Whether you're a student, a recent graduate or a member of our established alumni community, NSCC offers a variety of employment supports:

- Prepare for the job search.
- Get tips on how to stand out during your job search.
- Visit [NSCC Libraries and Learning Commons](#) resource guides on [preparing for employment](#) and [career development](#).
- [Connect with our Writing Centre](#) to get free, on-on-one support with your resume, cover letter and portfolio documents.
- Access English as an Additional Language (EAL) supports for listening, speaking (including pronunciation), reading and language for interviews. [EAL Supports and Resources Guide](#)
- Practice your interview skills.
- Explore your career options and learn about labor market trends. [Contact an advisor](#)
- There are additional resources available for current students through NSCC Connect, which you need your W# Login to access.

For family members, partners, and other non-nscc students, [NS works](#) can help you with workshops or advice about finding employment in Nova Scotia. The [Connector Program](#) is a great way to grow your professional network of contacts. The program is active in:

- [Cape Breton](#) (Marconi and Strait Area)
- [Halifax](#) (IT, Ivany and Akerley)
- [Colchester, Cumberland, and Pictou counties](#) (Cumberland and Pictou)
- [The Valley Region](#) (Kingstec, Annapolis Valley and COGS)
- [The Western Region](#) (Burridge)

For international students, supporters, family, and partners, the [Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia](#) (ISANS) is based in Halifax and can be very helpful also. Please contact intake@isans.ca to register. Sometimes, the [YMCA Employment Centre](#) may offer employment advice to clients on temporary work permits.

Recognition of Completion

Upon completing the NSCC All About Housing Workbook you may the associated quiz. If you pass the quiz with 75% or higher we will email you a statement of completion. This statement of completion can be used when trying to secure accommodations.

If at any point you have questions about the content, or need further clarification, email housing@nsc.ca.

[Take the quiz](#)

Guide Resource Index

ARRIVAL RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| NSCC iCent | https://www.nsc.ca/international-students/get-ready-for-nsc/download-icent/index.asp |
| Halifax Airport | https://halifaxstanfield.ca/ |
| The Greater Moncton International Airport | http://www.sydneyairport.ca/ |
| JA Douglas McCurdy Airport | http://www.sydneyairport.ca/ |

BLACK AND AFRICAN CANADIAN EDUCATION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Black Loyalist Heritage Centre | https://blackloyalist.novascotia.ca/ |
| Scarborough Charter | https://www.utoronto.ca/principal/sites/utoronto.ca.principal/files/docs/Scarborough_Charter_EN_Nov2022.pdf |
| We Are One – Film | https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/african/black-nova-scotian/history-in-nova-scotia |
| The Halifax Declaration | https://www.blackcanadiansummit.ca/_files/ugd/3d2952_9e01c19d71134a36a9cc7b0de33955b5.pdf?index=true |
| Fighting Racism and Discrimination | https://curio-ca.ezproxy.nsc.ca/en/catalog/themes/4ef07b8b-8a75-4c65-a168-fee3855e0291 |
| African/Black Nova Scotian Resources | https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/african/black-nova-scotian |

BUDGETTING TOOLS

| | |
|---|---|
| Money Matters Financial Planning Document | https://www.nsc.ca/getstarted/docs/money-matters-financial-planning.pdf |
| NSCC Cost of Living | https://www.nsc.ca/international-students/services-for-students/cost-of-living/index.asp |

CAMPUS HOUSING

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| NSCC Campus Housing | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/housing/campus-housing/index.asp |
| NSCC Living on Campus | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/housing/campus-housing/living-on-campus.asp |
| Applying for Campus Housing | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/housing/campus-housing/apply-for-campus-housing.asp |

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

| | |
|--|---|
| NSCC Student Life Get Ready for Winter | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9i_xX_si0ug |
| NSCC Student Life Winter Blues | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyVowCjG-MY |

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Dalhousie Legal Aid | https://www.dal.ca/faculty/law/dlas/about-dalhousie-legal-aid.html |
| Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia | https://farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca/ |
| NSCC Student Association | https://www.nscstudentassociation.ca/ |
| Nova Scotia Public Libraries | https://library.novascotia.ca/ |
| Nova Scotia Connects | https://novascotiainconnect.cioc.ca/ |
| Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia | https://www.isans.ca/ |

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| NSCC Climate – Environment Canada | https://weather.gc.ca/forecast/canada/index_e.html?id=NS |
| Public Libraries – Winter in Canada | https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/blogs/post/your-guide-to-enjoying-your-first-winter-in-nova-scotia/ |
| Tourism Nova Scotia | Plan Your Trip to Nova Scotia Tourism Nova Scotia |

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Career Resources | https://www.nsc.ca/library/learning-supports/career-resources/index.asp |
| NS Works | http://www.ymcansworks.ca/ |
| Connector Program | https://connectorprogram.ca/ |
| YMCA Employment Centre | http://www.ymcansworks.ca/ |

FAMILY RESOURCES

| | |
|--|--|
| Find Childcare | Child Care / Information for Families (ednet.ns.ca) |
| Directory of Licensed Childcare Facilities | Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities Nova Scotia Department of Education |
| Registering Youth in School | Going to School in Nova Scotia Education and Early Childhood Development (ednet.ns.ca) |

HEALTH SUPPORTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Nova Scotia Service Dog Act | https://novascotia.ca/servicedogs/ |
| Nova Scotia Human Rights Act | https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/human%20rights.pdf |
| Sexual Health Nova Scotia | https://shns.ca/ |
| Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program | https://avaloncentre.ca/sexual-assault-nurse-examiner-sane-program/ |
| Student Services and ALP Counsellor | https://nsc.sharepoint.com/services/Pages/Find-a-counsellor.aspx |
| Good2Talk | Good2Talk |
| Keep it Social | https://keepitsocial.ca/how-to-keep-it-social/ |
| Where to Go for Health Care | https://www.nshealth.ca/wheretogoforhealthcare |
| MSI Eligibility | https://novascotia.ca/dhw/msi/eligibility.asp |
| NSCC Student Plans | https://www.mystudentplan.ca/nsc/en/home |
| Pharmacy Finder | https://pans.ns.ca/find |

MI'KMAQ EDUCATION

| | |
|--|---|
| Mikmaq Online | https://www.mikmaqonline.org/servlet/words/pjila%27si.html#:~:text=Translation%3A%20You%20are |
| Nova Scotia Buzz | https://www.nsbuzz.ca/travel/new-sign-at-canso-causeway-to-welcome-travelers-in-mikmaq/amp/ |
| NSCC Indigenous Resources – Truth & Reconciliation | https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/indigenousresources/truthandreconciliation |
| NSCC Indigenous Resources – Treaties | https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/indigenousresources/treaties |
| Peace & Friendship Treaties | https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028589/1539608999656 |
| Our home on native land website | https://native-land.ca/ |
| Truth and Reconciliation Commission | https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/ |
| Cape Breton University MIKM Classes | https://vimeo.com/showcase/4376432 |

NSCC RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Strategic Plan | https://www.nsc.ca/docs/about-nsc/publications/nsc-strategic-plan.pdf |
| Tuition and Student Fees | https://www.nsc.ca/admissions/tuition-fees-and-costs/index.asp |
| Program Fees | https://www.nsc.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/programfees/default.aspx |
| Academic Calendar | https://www.nsc.ca/admissions/academic-calendar/default.aspx |
| Order Textbooks and Store Hours | https://bookstore.nsc.ca/ |
| Accessibility Services | https://www.nsc.ca/getstarted/student-supports/accessibility-services/index.asp |
| Student Awards Portal | https://www.nsc.ca/admissions/financial-support/student-awards/awards-for-current-st |
| NSCC Sexual Violence Support | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/student-supports/wellness-counselling-services/sexual-violence-support/get-support.asp |
| NSCC Connect Student Wellness Hub – Available to Enrolled Students Only | Student Wellness Hub – Home (sharepoint.com) |
| NSCC Connect Mental Wellness Strategies – Available to Enrolled Students Only | Mental wellness strategy (sharepoint.com) |
| NSCC Campuses | https://www.nsc.ca/campuses/index.asp |
| NSCC Campus Libraries | https://www.nsc.ca/library/about-nsc-libraries/locations/index.asp |
| NSCC Writing Centre | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/student-supports/learning-support-services/writing-centre |
| EAL Supports and Resources Guide | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/student-supports/learning-support-services/eal-supports |
| Student Services Advisors | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/student-supports/student-advisors/default.aspx |
| Human rights, equity, and inclusion | Human rights, equity and inclusion NSCC |

OFF CAMPUS HOUSING RESOURCES

| | |
|--|---|
| NSCC Housing | https://www.nsc.ca/study-at-nsc/housing/off-campus-housing/index.asp |
| NSCC Student Life YouTube | https://www.youtube.com/user/StudentLifeNSCC |
| Tips for Tenants from Halifax Magazine | https://halifaxmag.com/blog/tips-for-tenants/ |
| Tips for Students from Places4Students | https://www.places4students.com/Help/Index?tc=6&id=13 |
| DAL Legal Aid – Tenants Rights Guide | https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/law/DLAS/TenantRightsGuides/Tenant%20Rights%20Guide%202019.pdf |
| Renting Guide | https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-1764/residential-tenancies-guides-renting-en.pdf |
| Places4Students | https://www.places4students.com/Search/Result?Keyword=nova%20scotia%20community%20college |
| Happipad | https://happipad.com/ |
| Van Sweet Home | http://vansweethome.ca/en/ |
| Canada Homestay Network (CHN) | https://canadahomestaynetwork.ca/for-students/ |
| NSCC Sample Rental Application | https://www.nsc.ca/docs/study-at-nsc/student-life/sample-rental-application.pdf |
| NS Tenancy Act Standard Form Lease | https://beta.novascotia.ca/standard-form-lease-form-p |

SAFETY RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Home Fire Escape Plan | https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Escape/EscapeGrid.ashx |
| Health Canada Fire Safety | https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-safety/fire-safety.html |
| Emergency Kit Checklist | https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/docs/emergency-kit-checklist-en.pdf |
| Power Outages | https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/docs/power-outages-en.pdf |
| Nova Scotia Emergency and Disaster Preparedness | https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/ |
| Nova Scotia Age of Consent | https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/clp/faq.html#:~:text=The%20age%20of%20consent%20to%20sexual%20activity%20is%2016%20years. |
| Nova Scotia Emergency Information | https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/rngl/ns-en.aspx |
| 911 Emergency | https://beta.novascotia.ca/911-emergency-when-call |
| Nova Scotia Bicycle Safety | https://novascotia.ca/tran/publications/novascotiabicyclesafety.pdf |

SUSTAINABILITY

| | |
|--|---|
| DivertNS | https://divertns.ca/sorting-guides |
| Sustainable Development Goals – NSCC Subject Guide | https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/sdg/welcome |
| Do you know all 17 SDGs? | https://youtu.be/0XTBYMfZyrM |
| NSCC Sustainability | About sustainability at NSCC NSCC |

TRANSIT RESOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Halifax & Dartmouth U-Pass | https://www.nsc.ca/admissions/tuition-fees-and-costs/upass.asp |
| Halifax Regional Municipality Transit | https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/halifax-transit |
| Halifax Regional Municipality Transit Application | https://transitapp.com/ |
| How to Ride Halifax Transit – YouTube | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C87KMkWjv_w |
| How to Ride Halifax Transit – YouTube | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6F5tZaIL7Y |
| How to Ride Halifax Transit – YouTube | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szs-mziFgWQ |
| NSCC International The Bus (HRM) | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc7pN8mL8GI |
| Kings Transit Authority | https://www.kbus.ca/schedule-information/ |
| Bridgewater Transit | https://www.bridgewater.ca/our-town/visitor-information6/bridgewater-transit/transit-home |
| Yarmouth Transit | https://www.townofyarmouth.ca/transit-route-schedule.html |
| Transit Cape Breton (Sydney) | https://www.cbrm.ns.ca/transit.html |
| Pictou County Transit | http://pctransit.ca/ |
| Nova Scotia Drivers License | https://novascotia.ca/sns/paal/rmv/paal269.asp |

NSCC Key Resources

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

For more information about studying at NSCC and living in Nova Scotia,:

- view [International Students](#) and download the iCent app on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#)
- [Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia \(ISANS\) website](#)

NSCC Student Services Advisor and International Supports Team

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+1 902 491 4799

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Mike Duggan

Ivany Campus

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Mike.Duggan@nsc.ca

Farhana Afroz

All campuses outside of Halifax Regional Municipality

+1 902 893 5360

Farhana.Afroz@nsc.ca

INDIGENOUS SUPPORTS

Our Indigenous supports are a resource for students of First Nation, Metis and Inuit descent. They can answer your questions and help you find the information, culturally specific supports and academic supports you need to succeed.

Your advisor/resource can:

- Offer [career exploration](#).
- Help you with your NSCC application process.
- Connect you with funding opportunities (e.g., emergency financial supports and tutoring).
- Offer guidance around applying for NSCC awards available for Indigenous students.
- Introduce you to learning supports (e.g., tutoring) and other student services.

- Connect you with other Indigenous learners.
- Work with your campus community to offer Indigenous perspectives and approaches.
- Indigenous student gatherings and organize cultural events.

Reach out to your Indigenous supports advisor or campus resource person. A contact list is included on the [Indigenous Student Supports web page](#).

BLACK & AFRICAN CANADIAN RESOURCES

Our African Canadian supports are a resource for students of African descent. They can answer your questions and help you find the information, culturally specific supports and academic supports you need to succeed.

Your advisor/resource can:

- Offer [career exploration](#).
- Help you with your NSCC application process.
- Connect you with funding opportunities (e.g., emergency financial supports and tutoring).
- Offer guidance around applying for NSCC awards available for Black students.
- Introduce you to learning supports (e.g., tutoring) and other student services.
- Connect you with other Black learners.

Our advisors also work with your campus community to offer an Africentric approach to events and activities.

Reach out to your Indigenous support's advisor or campus resource person. Find who to contact on the [Black and African Canadian student supports](#) web page.

2SLGBTQIA+ RESOURCES

Moving to a new community can be challenging.

- 2SLGBTQIA+ Resources and Groups nearest you — [NS Health Resource Guide for 2SLGBTQIA+ Folks](#)
- Multi-lingual resource guides — [Halifax Prides Webpage for New Immigrants](#).
- Support for 2SLGBTQIA People — [Youth Project](#) (support and services to youth, 25 and under, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.)
- The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project — non-profit that supports 2SLGBTQIA+ Folks through education, political engagement, and public outreach. Learn more at [NSRAP \(@NSRAP\) / X](#)

NOVA SCOTIA 211

211 Nova Scotia is a free, confidential helpline and web service, that connects you to community and social services in Nova Scotia, in over 140 languages.

Call 222, or visit the [211 Nova Scotia website](#).

Glossary

1-, 2- or 3-bedroom apartments

They have 1, 2 or 3 separate bedrooms, with separate bathroom, living, and kitchen space.

Bachelor

Bachelor apartments are ideal for one person. Also known as studio apartments.

Basements

Apartments that are below ground level.

bed bugs

Bed bugs are a small, insect that feed on people and animals as they sleep.

Bed bugs are found throughout Nova Scotia and are transported through travelling somewhere that has had bedbugs.

For more information on Bed Bugs, Identification, and Pest Control visit: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/environmental-health/bed-bugs.asp>

community gardens

A publicly cultivated piece of land, often overseen by government or a non-profit association.

Consent

Consent means someone freely agrees to engage in a certain act. Consent is an active, ongoing, affirmative, conscious, direct, unimpaired and voluntary agreement to engage and continue to engage in sexual activity.

Damage Deposit

A damage deposit is also known as a security deposit. It is the amount of money paid to a property owner when renting to ensure the rental is kept in good condition. Upon ending your rental lease property owners may keep this amount if there are damages, otherwise they must return your deposit.

farmers market

A shop, a market, or collective of sales booths where farmers and other vendors sell their products directly to consumers. Often artisanal and produce related sales occur at these locations

grocery store

a store that sells groceries (food, and other essential items)

Ground Level

These apartments are on the street level, not in a basement or on a second or higher story.

In and Out Inspection

The inspections that occur upon move in and move out of a rental space. These should occur with the property owner present, or be recorded if the property owner cannot be present.

ISANS

Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia

Islanders

Someone who does not live on the mainland, someone who lives on an Island. Like someone who lives in PEI or Cape Breton

long-term housing

A furnished or unfurnished accommodation that is secured for 3 months or longer.

Mainlanders

Someone who lives on the mainland of Nova Scotia, someone who does not live on an Island

Mi'kmaw

The language of the Mi'kmaq people

roommate

a person who you share an apartment or house with

Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault refers to any form of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to, unwanted kissing, fondling, touching, disrobing, oral or anal sex, vaginal intercourse, or other forms of penetration.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassments is a course of unwelcome, humiliating, and/or embarrassing comments of a sexual nature, persistent or abusive sexual solicitation or advances directed at an individual based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, by another individual or group who knows, or ought reasonably to know, that this attention is unwelcome

Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence is an umbrella term describing any act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without their consent.

Short Term housing

Temporary furnished rental, including hotels, AirBnb, campgrounds, where accommodation is payment by night or week

tenant

a person who leases or rents a premise from a property owner. The premises rented is often an apartment, room or house.

Tenants insurance

Also known as rental insurance, is a type of home insurance that protects those who do not own their home

but rather rent it. Without tenant insurance you may be liable for damages caused by fire, or other incidents. You can get tenant insurance through providers with home insurance and other forms of insurance.

The Basin

The large enclosed bay, forming the northwestern end of Halifax Harbour

The Residential Tenancies Act

The law for rental housing in Nova Scotia.

thrift stores

Stores that sell second hand items including clothing, household goods, and variety of other items.

unfurnished

Without furniture, especially available to be rented without furniture. Typically with appliances but no other furnishings.

Verbal leases

A verbal agreement that is equivalent to a written agreement or Standard Form Lease.

winter parking bans

a limitation on parking to minimize inconveniences or barriers that would prevent snow removal from roads or highways

Written leases

A written agreement that cannot be changed through a verbal agreement it may only be changed through writing. The most common written lease is the Standard Form of Lease provided through the Residential Tenancy Board.