



Off-Campus Student Living Guide

2021/2022





Patrick Deane

Principal and Vice-Chancellor, **Queen's University**

On behalf of Queen's University, it is my pleasure to welcome you! We have faced many challenges over the last year and a half but our community has adapted and continues to work together to maintain our commitment to a safe return to campus. As a Queen's student, you are part of the broader Kingston community and I encourage you to get involved. As you start to explore your community, take the time to learn about the different ways that you can positively contribute to your neighbourhood. Stay safe, take care of yourself and others. We are all in this together.



Bryan Paterson

Mayor, **City of Kingston**

On behalf of the City of Kingston, welcome back! As you reacquaint yourself with your neighbours and our community, I hope you take the time to explore the city and engage with all that Kingston has to offer. Please familiarize yourself with local public health guidelines, so we can work together in keeping Kingston a safe community for all as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. You are a vibrant part of our community and our hope is you make Kingston your home.



Student Leadership

Justine Aman, **SGPS** | Zaid Kasim, **AMS**

Welcome Students! Even though this year is going to look a little different, we are excited to welcome you back to Queen's. The Queen's and Kingston community is one to be enjoyed and cherished. The community has a lot to offer and we are here to support you and help you navigate your time living off campus so you can make the most of your university experience here in Kingston.



Be sure to check us out:

myams.org, sgps.ca



It's Your Community

As Queen's students, you are part of the broader Kingston community.

This Guide is intended to provide support as you navigate neighbourhood relations, city regulations, living with housemates, and public health guidelines.

We are here to help as you connect, learn, and grow with the community.

Contact scr@queensu.ca for questions about this guide.

For the most updated version, please visit queensu.ca/studentcommunityrelations.

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It's Your Community

➤ Welcome Back

Make your Move Safe during COVID-19

If you are moving into a new house or returning from away, it is important to keep in mind these precautionary steps to keep your move safe:

- Clean your home before you move in.
- Arrange with your housemates to move in one at a time.
- Ask your landlord if you need a move-in time or if you need to book an elevator in advance.
- Limit the number of people present during your move.
- Follow physical distancing and mask-wearing guidance.

Find out more information on [KFL&A Public Health's COVID-19 FAQ Page](#).

Have a Mindful Move-in

Consider taking the following steps to support a sustainable move-in:

- Choose reusable containers over cardboard boxes.
- Don't leave vehicles idling while moving in.
- Wait on big purchases to coordinate with housemates.
- Buy used. Save money while being sustainable.

For more information on a Mindful Move-in, visit the [Sustainable Queen's Website](#).



Tips for getting to know your housemates

Your housemates may be old friends or new friends.

Here are some activities to help you get to know your housemates:

➤ Get to Know your Housemates Game

Pair up and test your knowledge of your housemates. Find instructions at queensu.ca/ocla

➤ Housemate Potluck

Invite everyone to make their favorite dish from home and eat together.

Interacting with your Housemates

Now that you have moved into your place, it is time to foster a living environment that is inclusive and enjoyable.

Conversation Guide

It is important to discuss house norms and expectations with your housemates regardless of whether they are new housemates or old friends. Here are some conversation starters:



Cleaning

What does your cleaning schedule look like? Who will do what tasks? (e.g., bathrooms, floors, garbage)



Guests

When are guests allowed in the house? What about overnight guests? How will you host responsibly?



Bills

How will you organize and split bills? Will you split on groceries or buy separately?



COVID-19

What will you do if you or one of your housemates has to isolate? What will you do if you and your housemate have different vaccination statuses? What about the vaccination status of your guests?

Review our COVID-19 Prevention Checklist for Students, complete our Know Your Student Household COVID-19 Plan worksheet, and check out our COVID-19 vaccine conversations tips on queensu.ca/studentcommunityrelations.



Communication

Providing an open and welcoming space in your house for all to enjoy requires respectful communication from all housemates.

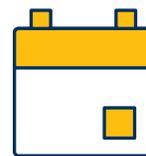
Here are some ideas to keep communication flowing in your house:



Whiteboard



Group Chat



Chore Chart



House Meetings



House Agreement

For more information visit queensu.ca/ocla

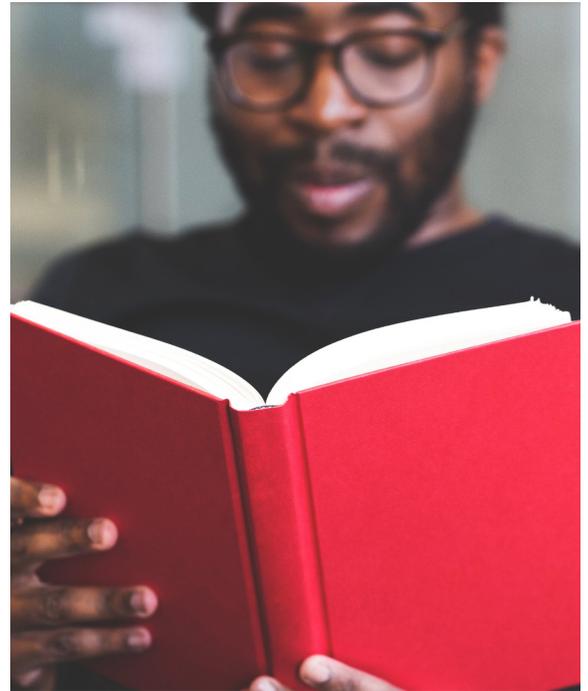
Conflict

When living with housemates, it is natural that conflicts will occur. How we approach and deal with conflict can sometimes be challenging. Ignoring conflict can result in damaging relationships (and, in the worst case, compromise your living arrangement).

For resources to help you navigate conflict, Student Community Relations and the Off-Campus Living Advisor offer support and conflict coaching appointments.

For conflicts with neighbours and housemates, email scr@queensu.ca.

For conflicts with landlords, email ocla@queensu.ca.

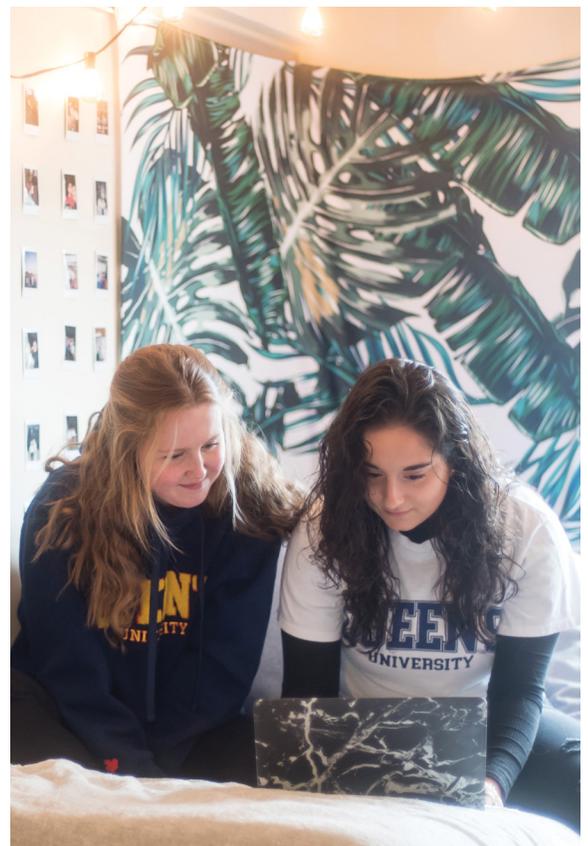


Meeting Your Neighbours

Living off-campus provides you an opportunity to belong to the broader Kingston community. Your neighbours will have varied backgrounds and cultures and include professional people, families with children, senior citizens, and other students.

Introduce yourself to your neighbours:

- Share contact information in case of an emergency.
- Greet your neighbours.
- Offer to help rake leaves or shovel snow.
- Know your neighbours. It will widen your support network if your house is required to isolate.
- Talk to your neighbours if there is conflict. Issues can usually be resolved through a friendly conversation.



Visit the queensu.ca/studentcommunityrelations page for helpful tips and resources

> Stay Informed

Staying Healthy and Safe in the Community with COVID-19

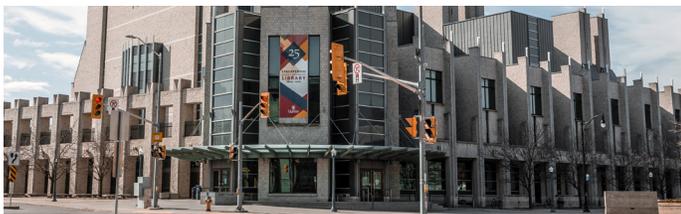
To stay up-to-date on the current situation, visit the [KFL&A Public Health COVID-19 Website](#). You can find answers to questions around cleaning practices, social gathering, and what to do if you get sick.

To view Queen's University's Return to Campus plan, government regulations and updates on academics and operations, please visit the [Queen's Safe Return Website](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines

As per Queen's August 12th announcement, all staff, students, faculty and visitors to campus will require COVID-19 Vaccination. Do you have a question about getting a vaccine? Students can book a medical appointment with a physician to get answers to their questions and to discuss any concerns. To schedule an appointment, please visit [Student Wellness Services](#).

For a list of local vaccination clinics, please visit: queensu.ca/studentwellness/sws-updates# covid-vaccine.



Update your SOLUS Information

To ensure that you receive the most up-to-date and relevant information from Queen's, update your current address and cellphone number in SOLUS. Don't forget to update your emergency contact information at the same time!

Apps to Download



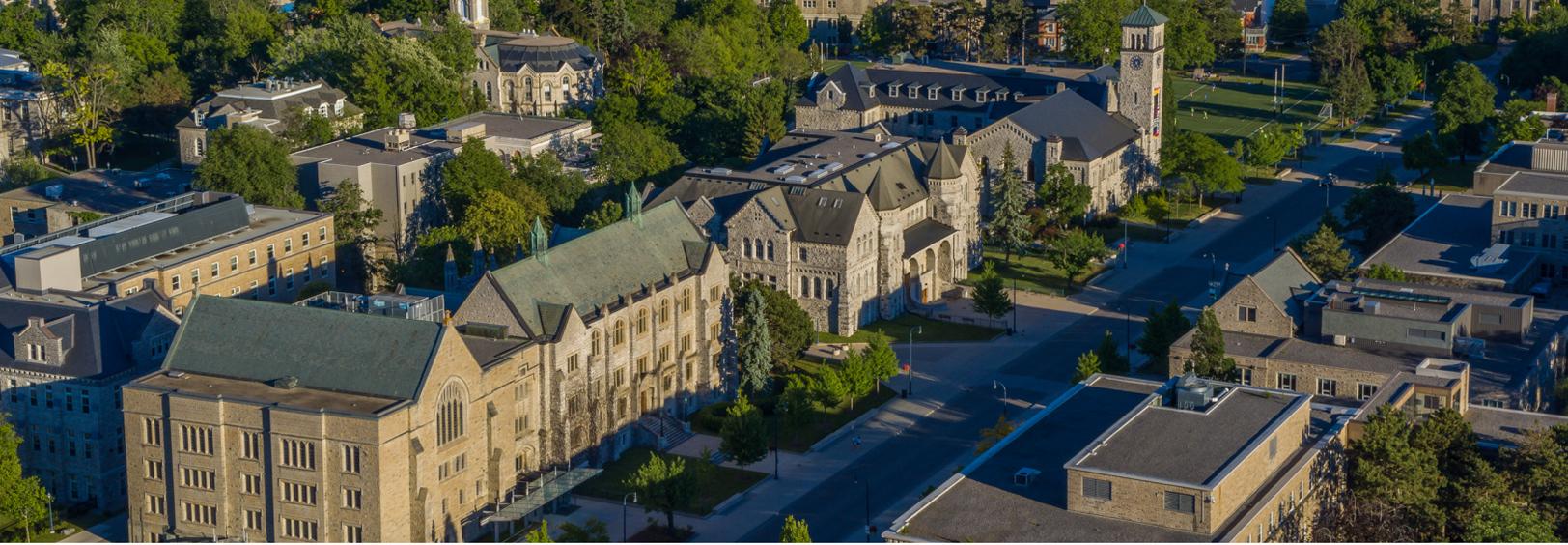
SeQure

Before coming to campus, you must download the [SeQure App](#). You will need to complete a short COVID-19 assessment before accessing any indoor campus spaces. The app will advise whether you can proceed with your visit.



COVID Alert

COVID Alert is Canada's free COVID-19 exposure notification app. It can alert you to possible exposures before you have symptoms. Learn more at the [Government of Canada COVID Alert website](#).



It's Your Community

Take Care of It

Outdoor Maintenance and Garbage Collection

A clean neighbourhood instills a sense of pride for you and other residents in the area. It also prevents pests and tickets from the City. Check your lease or talk with your landlord about who is responsible for garbage and yard upkeep (e.g., mowing, snow removal).

Garbage Collection Tips

- Only put your garbage out on collection days.
- Bag tags can be purchased at the Pharmacy in the Queen's Centre.
- Keep your garbage and recycling bins tidy.
- Pick up any garbage that blows away.
- Consider donating furniture and large items, which won't be picked up curbside by the City.

Parking

Look for posted signs and follow any regulated zones and times. Do not park on your front lawn.

Check the overnight street parking rules for your neighbourhood. Remember that street parking rules change in the winter.

Be respectful of your neighbour's driveway and do not park on their property.

Winter Maintenance Tips

- Clear stairs and sidewalks of any snow and ice.
- Keep de-icing salt on hand.



Download the Kingston Waste App for the waste collection calendar and reminders.



It's Your Community

➤ Keep It Safe

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Download the [Queen's SeQure App](#) and review these tips to ensure you, your housemates, and neighbours live in a community that values safety.

Theft Prevention



Always lock your windows and doors when leaving.



Ensure your vehicle is locked day and night.



Consider [registering your bike](#) with the Kingston Police.



Keep track of your valuables and secure them.



Be alert to suspicious behaviour and look out for your neighbours.

If the house will be vacant for an extended period (e.g., winter break, reading week), contact your landlord and have someone check on the house periodically.

[AMS Holiday House Check Program](#) is available to monitor your house over the winter break.

Fire Safety



Know where your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are on each floor and test them regularly.



Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher or know where they are located.



Practice safe cooking techniques.



Know how to safely evacuate and where to go for help.

Walking Home

- When possible, walk home with a friend when leaving campus or downtown.
- Be aware of your surroundings when walking at night or in isolated areas that you are unfamiliar with.
- [AMS Walkhome](#) provides a safe walk home to students both on Queen's Campus and within the community.
- Show respect for private property by using public sidewalks when travelling to and from places.
- Be alert when walking (don't be looking at your phone), be mindful of vehicles and try to cross streets at marked intersections.





Responsible Hosting

Getting together with friends is a great part of university life. When you host, it is essential to remember that you have a responsibility to guests, neighbours, and the community. Here are a few things you can do to host respectfully and safely:

- Follow [KFL&A Public Health guidelines on Social Gatherings](#).
- Inform your neighbours and invite them to come to you with any concerns.
- Keep guests off your neighbour's property and clean up immediately afterwards.
- Know the regulations set out in the [University District Safety Initiative and Nuisance Party Bylaw](#).
- Call 911 if the party gets out of control or if someone gets injured.

Alcohol

Hosts may be liable for the actions of their guests during and after a party even when guests bring their own drinks. You need to know that:

- Selling alcohol requires a special license, including cups at a keg party.

It's against the law to:

- Have open alcohol in public (including sidewalks and roads).
- Serve alcohol to an intoxicated person or someone under 19.
- Be publicly intoxicated.

Learn more about your hosting responsibilities from [Queen's Legal Aid](#).

Virtual Hosting Ideas

With limits on social gatherings, here are some great ideas to socialize with your friends from a distance:

› Teleparty:

Grab some popcorn and put on a virtual movie night.

› Jackbox Party:

Grab your smartphone and choose from a variety of party games.

› Online Escape Rooms:

Work with your friends to solve unique puzzles to try and escape an online room.

Noise

Be considerate and mindful of noise levels at all hours. Adopt these hints to minimize any disruption:

- Keep singing, yelling, and music at a moderate volume and avoid slamming doors and honking horns.
- Keep social gatherings inside and close doors and windows to contain noise.
- Be aware of shared walls and the noise level of electronics and conversations.
- Review the [Noise Bylaw](#).
- Review the [City's Administrative Monetary Penalties \(AMPs\)](#) and be aware that an AMP is a fine issued by the City of Kingston for a Bylaw Violation that would usually be processed by the Provincial Offences Court.



It's Your Community

➤ Engage with It

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering provides an opportunity to connect with your neighbours and builds a cohesive community. Student Community Relations, Career Services, and the AMS offer resources to help you get started on your volunteer journey.

AMS Clubs

The clubs community is an integral part of the Queen's experience. No matter what you are passionate about, there is something for everyone to get involved in on campus and in the community. Find out more about AMS Clubs.

Athletics & Recreation

Queen's Athletics & Recreation offers opportunities for physical activity and health and wellness. With a wide variety of programming, you can find your favorite way to stay active or try something new.





It's Your Community

➤ Explore It

Get to know what the Kingston community has to offer.

Kingston Transit

Kingston is very walkable and has a good transit system to get you around.

Visit [Kingston Transit](#) for rates and pass options.

When using public transit, be sure to follow [City of Kingston's Rider Etiquette Tips](#).

Local Attractions and Businesses

Kingston is a beautiful city with lots of activities for you to enjoy. Check out these resources for more information on local attractions and business.

- [Visit Kingston Website](#)
- [Love Kingston](#)
- [2021 Kingston Visitor Guide](#)



› Important Contacts



Campus Community Contacts

Student Wellness Services

Information about remote services, appointments, in-person services, and self-help resources.

queensu.ca/studentwellness

613-533-2506

› For general health inquiries:

health.services@queensu.ca

› For counselling inquiries:

counselling.services@queensu.ca

› For accessibility inquiries:

accessibility.services@queensu.ca

Student Community Relations

Information on supports for community-related matters, please reach out to Mary Ann Tierney.

queensu.ca/studentcommunityrelations

scr@queensu.ca

Off-Campus Living Advisor

Information about housing off-campus, please reach out to Adam King.

queensu.ca/ocla

ocla@queensu.ca

Student Affairs Student Resource

Up-to-date information about student affairs services.

queensu.ca/studentaffairs/students/student-resources

For general support, questions, or help figuring out where to go, email:

supportservices@queensu.ca

Community Services

City of Kingston

Recreation, events, and parking.

613-546-0000

cityofkingston.ca

Waste Management

Collection schedules and waste sorting lookup.

cityofkingston.ca/resident/garbage-recycling

Kingston Utilities

Electricity, water, and natural gas accounts.

utilitieskingston.com

Emergency Utility Service

Report a power outage or basement flooding.

613-546-1181

Ontario Energy Board

Programs to help lower income customers.

1-877-632-2727

oeb.ca

Kingston Transit

Trip planning, maps, and rates.

cityofkingston.ca/residents/transit

2-1-1

Connects you to community information.

2-1-1

211ontario.ca

KFL&A Public Health

COVID-19 guidelines, flu clinics, and healthy living resources.

613-549-1232

kflaph.ca

Emergency Services

For Emergencies, Call 911

› Kingston Police Services

Non-emergency reporting and background checks.

613-549-4660

kingstonpolice.ca

› Kingston Fire Services

Building codes and fire prevention.

613-548-4001

cityofkingston.ca/residents/emergency-services/kingston-fire-rescue

Tenant Services

Landlord and Tenant Board

Rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

1-888-332-3234

sjto.gov.on.ca/ltb

Ontario Human Rights Commission

Resources on Ontario's Human Rights Code.

416-326-9511

ohrc.on.ca

Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Rent-increase guidelines and other rental resources.

416-585-7041

ontario.ca/page/ministry-municipal-affairs-housing



STUDENT AFFAIRS
SUPPORT SERVICES AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT