



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, CLASS OF 2020

LAUNCHING INTO POSTGRADUATE LIFE → A VIRTUAL PRIMER

Every year we love hosting our How to Adult series to help you launch into life post-Bates -- and we missed the opportunity to do that this year!

For the next several weeks, we want to share with you advice, suggestions, and resources for all those adulting questions. If you have "how to adult" questions you'd like us to address, email them to us at purposefulwork@bates.edu.

This week, we're focusing on: **YOUR NEW APARTMENT.**

While COVID-19 may be cramping your style right now, we know that many of you will be heading off to graduate school, internships, jobs, and other great opportunities soon. In preparation, we thought we'd help you get a head start on planning for your new digs.

- ❑ As you think about moving into your own place, one of the first things you should ask yourself is: How much rent can I afford to pay? This ties directly into last week's recommendations for [budgeting and managing personal finances](#). If you're moving to a new area, check out the [cost of living](#) and see how it compares to where you're moving from. Think about what you're willing to spend and penny pinch on. You may want a place with a lot of amenities, but are you willing to eat and play less for them?

- ❑ Anyone who works in real estate knows the chant: LOCATION. LOCATION. LOCATION. You should be chanting this too, especially since where you live can impact your daily life significantly. From the sights, sounds, and smells that greet you in the morning; to the amount of time it takes you to commute to school and work; to how far you have to go for groceries; to your desire for community, safety, and walkability, think about your priorities and explore multiple neighborhoods before you commit.

- ❑ Depending on your personal and financial needs, you may want to consider whether a roommate would be great to come home to or cramp your style too much. Would splitting the rent with someone free up your funds for other expenses? Or would you happily trade more discretionary income for more privacy?
- ❑ Once you've settled on your parameters, make sure you have references in mind (professional ones work better than personal ones), your checkbook in hand (to cover the application fee, a credit check, and a potential security deposit), and your finances in order ([a good credit score can be really valuable](#)). Some property managers may ask for a guarantor, which is essentially a co-signer who can cover your rent in case something happens. If you have someone in mind, make sure you've asked them in advance and they've agreed to serve in this capacity. If you don't, you may need to pay a higher security deposit or consider other apartments.
- ❑ Find places on-line and in-person -- it's surprising how many rental websites exist but also how many options you can find simply walking around neighborhoods you're interested in. Make appointments, ask a lot of questions, and take notes. If you ask the same questions for every place, you can do a more straightforward comparison at the end. Don't forget to ask about average utility costs, preferred internet vendors, and any other additional expenses, including parking, storage, and pet fees.
- ❑ Once you've decided on an apartment, submit your application with the necessary fee. Once you've been approved, read through the lease with extreme care. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask them. Can you sublet if you need/want to? What happens if you need/want to move out early? You shouldn't have any lingering questions or concerns when you sign your lease. If any changes are agreed upon, get them in print before signing the document. Leave nothing to chance or good faith.
- ❑ Purchase renters insurance -- don't think twice. Whether or not it's a requirement of your lease, renters insurance protects your possessions in cases of emergency or catastrophe. Given what 2020 has already brought in terms of dramatic occurrences, who wouldn't want to be more cautious at this point? So before you do anything else, ask yourself: [Can I Move During the COVID-19 Outbreak?](#)

For more detailed advice, check out these great links:

- ❑ [Spring 2016: How to Adult Series - How to Apartment](#) (YouTube recording)
- ❑ [The Balance: 9 Steps to Finding an Affordable Place to Live](#)
- ❑ [NerdWallet: How to Get Your First Apartment](#)
- ❑ [The Simple Dollar: A Guide to Renting Your First Grown-Up Apartment](#)
- ❑ [The Simple Dollar: The Best Renters Insurance for 2020](#)

****WHERE TO FIND US THIS SUMMER****

- **Counseling Appointments via Phone, Zoom, or Google Hangout**

As is the case every summer, our team will continue to be available, so don't hesitate to reach out should you need help with anything related to Purposeful Work. Our counselors are available for appointments via phone, Zoom, or Google Hangout. You can make an appointment for Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM ET through Handshake (log in, click "Career Center" in the upper right, then click "Appointments"). If you have any trouble making an appointment, please email us at purposefulwork@bates.edu.

- **Resume and Cover Letter Reviews**

If you'd like to submit your resume and/or cover letter for review, please email your document(s) to purposefulwork@bates.edu. We'll have an advisor available every Monday-Friday 1-3PM to provide feedback on your document(s).

- **Quick Consultation**

If you'd like to reach out with a quick question or for a quick consult, we'll have an advisor *LIVE* on Zoom every Wednesday 7-9PM through the summer. Find us at this Zoom link: <https://bates.zoom.us/j/92562630956>. You'll enter a waiting room and the on-call advisor will be with you as soon as possible.

NOTE: If you've missed any of the Class of 2020 messages since March 23, you can find them [here on the Purposeful Work COVID-19 page](#).

As always, we're here for you. Have a wonderful summer!

The Team at the Center for Purposeful Work