



# STUDENT HOUSING

**THE CARIBBEAN MEDICAL  
SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

AMERICAN CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE





# COMMAND YOUR FUTURE

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## 03 FAQ

To streamline the process and address common queries, we've compiled this FAQ guide to provide quick answers to some of the most pressing questions about campus accommodation.

**CONTACT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AT [STUDENTSERVICES@ACSOM.EDU.DM](mailto:STUDENTSERVICES@ACSOM.EDU.DM) IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS A CHANGE TO THE ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**



# LIVING IN DOMINICA

**In Dominica, aspiring medical professionals are greeted by pristine natural landscapes and a commitment to health and wellness tourism, making it an ideal destination for their educational journey. Nestled amidst lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and breathtaking vistas, Dominica offers an unparalleled setting for immersing oneself in the study of medicine while fostering personal growth and well-being.**

Choosing the right place to reside during your medical education journey is important, and Dominica provides an array of off-campus living arrangements tailored to meet students' diverse needs. Each option offers unique advantages aimed at supporting students through the rigors of medical school while allowing them to experience the island's natural beauty and vibrant culture.

Dominica's emphasis on health and wellness aligns seamlessly with the ethos of medical education, offering students the opportunity to integrate their academic pursuits with a lifestyle centered around holistic well-being. With its focus on natural healing modalities, eco-friendly practices, and a tranquil ambiance conducive to

learning, Dominica epitomizes the perfect blend of academic excellence and environmental harmony.

By choosing to study medicine in Dominica, students embark on a transformative journey where they not only acquire medical knowledge and skills but also cultivate a profound appreciation for the interconnectedness of health, nature, and community. With its unparalleled natural beauty and commitment to fostering holistic health, Dominica emerges as an unparalleled destination for aspiring medical professionals seeking to embark on their educational journey amidst an environment that nurtures both mind and spirit.



## HOUSING OPTIONS

At the American Canadian School of Medicine (ACSOM), we know learning takes place on campus and in one's private residence, and that primary needs like housing must be comfortable, safe, and convenient for student success. With this in mind, ACSOM awarded a contract to Safe Haven Real Estate to provide Housing and Apartment rental services to students. Safe Haven Real Estate is the point of contact for all housing related questions for new and current students. They provide an active list of apartment inventory, check-in assistance, apartment concerns discussions with landlords, payment processes for students, all while keeping ACSOM Student Services informed of student issues, student locations, and housing quality reviews. Housing options are located within walking distance of the school and academic facilities, allowing students an easy commute to and from campus. Whether students prefer a one-bedroom apartment or larger accommodations, Safe Haven's inventory of apartments is designed to meet their diverse needs and preferences.

One-bedroom apartments range from \$600 to \$700 USD per month and are equipped with

basic amenities, including a study desk and whiteboard, air conditioning, and backup generators. Additionally, each apartment is equipped with private bathrooms, Wi-Fi, and other essential features to ensure a comfortable living environment conducive to studying and relaxation. Furthermore, our off-campus apartments boast great views of the surrounding area, providing students with a serene and inspiring backdrop for their studies. Housing options associated with Safe Haven Realty are occupied by students and are monitored by dedicated security personnel, providing students with peace of mind and a sense of safety.

We understand the importance of having a welcoming and supportive place to call home. The housing program through Safe Haven Real Estate aims to provide students with the resources and assistance they need to thrive during their time in Dominica. We are committed to ensuring that all students have access to comfortable and secure housing options that enhance their overall academic experience.

## ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

**\$600 - \$700 USD  
PER MONTH**

### Basic amenities include:

- Study Desk
- Whiteboard
- Air conditioning
- Backup Generator
- Private Bathrooms
- Wifi



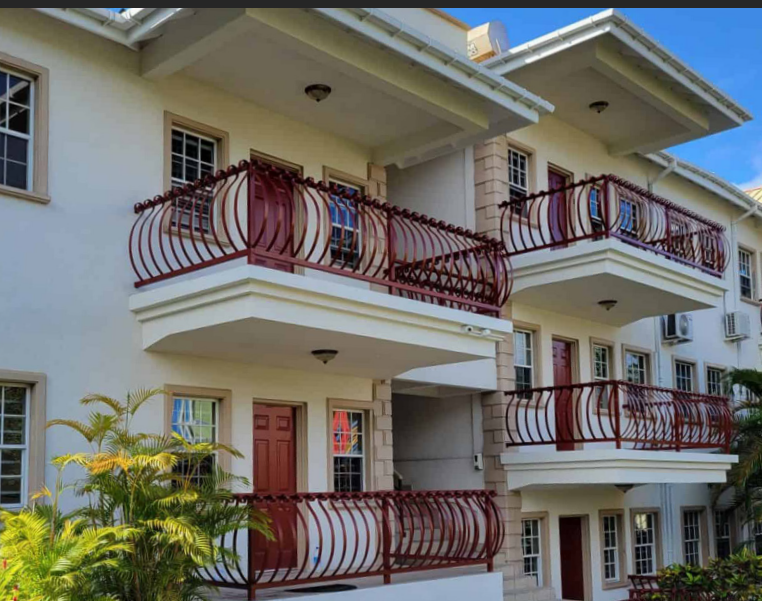


## APPLYING FOR HOUSING

Safe Haven's dedicated Rental Agent, Kesha Gilbert, is available to provide guidance and support throughout the housing selection process, ensuring that students find the perfect living arrangement to suit their preferences and budget. Kesha Gilbert is available to provide virtual tours of apartments so students are comfortable about transitioning to Dominica.

Each residence is equipped with basic amenities. Choose from the following apartment complexes:

- **AVIES VILLE COMFORT**
- **CLARA HOUSE**
- **COMFORT ZONE APARTMENTS**
- **FORTUNE APARTMENTS**
- **LIFESTYLE LUXURY APARTMENTS**



## AVIES VILLE COMFORT

Located a mere 8-10 minutes' walk away from the ACSOM facility along paved roads to Blanca Heights. The town of Portsmouth is just a short drive away from Avies Ville Comfort where other amenities such as banks, restaurants, hospital etc. are available. There are 12 identical fully furnished double apartments. This stylish and elegant structure houses a pool and gazebo in the center of the property. This facility consists of a fully functional kitchen, living room, study space with desk and shelving, twin rooms with individual

- **Swimming pool and gazebo**
- **Fully furnished 1 and 2 bedroom apartments**
- **High speed internet**
- **Bring your own linen**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Hot water**
- **Apartment equipped with basic necessities**
- **Automatic back-up generator (within 10 seconds of power disruption)**
- **Full time gardener/handyman**
- **On site caretaker**
- **Bring your own linen**
- **Only service dogs**
- **Pay-as-you-go electricity system**
- **On site laundry available at additional cost**

### Basic amenities include:

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • Fridge            | • Dinnerware set          |
| • Stove             | • Dining table and chairs |
| • Microwave         | • Study desk and chair    |
| • Iron              | • White board             |
| • Kettle            |                           |
| • Few pots and pans |                           |
| • Cutlery           |                           |

# APARTMENT COMPLEXES

## CLARA HOUSE

Clara House is located directly opposite campus and contains a total of 12 units. These self-contained fully air-conditioned apartments are a true reflection of modern living, with an onsite restaurant and pharmacy. Some units are located on the western side of the building and offer an astounding view of both the Caribbean Sea and the verdant mountains of Dominica. The balcony is the perfect spot for watching the sun set beyond the horizon. Clara House is truly a step above most student accommodation. Units are fully furnished. Apartment features:

- **Modern 1 bedroom apartments**
- **Restaurant, Pharmacy and Ice cream shop on site**
- **High speed internet**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Hot water**
- **Apartment equipped with basic amenities**
- **Bring your own linen**
- **Automatic back-up generator (within 10-15 seconds of disruption of power)**
- **On-site caretaker**
- **Electricity is “Pay-as-you-Go” system**

## COMFORT ZONE APARTMENTS

Situated just two minutes walk from the ACSOM main campus grounds, this unique location affords residents quick access to the main shopping centers, restaurants and places of relaxation in the area.

- **Fully furnished**
- **High speed internet access**
- **Automatic back-up generator (within 10 seconds of disruption of power)**
- **Full time gardener/handyman**
- **On site caretaker**
- **Hot water**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Apartment equipped with basic necessities**
- **Pay-as-you-go Electricity system**

## FORTUNE APARTMENTS

Fortune Apartments is just an 5 minute walk away and consists of 11 fully furnished units. These units are designed with an open concept layout which consists of a fully functional kitchen, living room, separate study space with desk and shelving, large bathroom, two closets and a large bedroom. Some units are lined with a beautiful flower garden towards the entrance of the building. The pleasant soothing ambiance and the faint sound of the river is a relaxing gesture to one soul, a perfect atmosphere for relaxation and study. Apartment complex features:

- **Fully furnished 1 bedroom apartments**
- **High Speed internet**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Hot water**
- **Apartment equipped with basic necessities**
- **Back-up generator (within 10-15 minutes of disruption in electricity)**
- **Night time security**
- **Full time gardener/handyman**
- **On site caretaker**
- **Electricity is “Pay as you go” system**
- **On site washer and dryer**
- **Bring your own linen**

## LIFESTYLE LUXURY APARTMENTS

Located a mere 5-minute walk away from the ACSOM Facility and amenities such as Supermarkets and a Pharmacy these apartments offer the ideal location. Lifestyle Deluxe apartments are all self-contained, single-bedroom, well-appointed, nicely designed, and have a well-managed system providing regular maintenance and quality assurance. Apartments features:

- **Modern one bedroom apartments**
- **High speed wireless internet**
- **Solar water heating system**
- **Air conditioning**
- **Apartment equipped with basic necessities**
- **Hot water**
- **Automatic back-up generator (within 10-15 seconds after disruption of power)**
- **12 hour security**
- **Full time gardener/handyman**
- **On site caretaker**
- **Pets are allowed on a case-by-case basis**
- **Electricity is “Pay-as-you-go” system**
- **Bring your own linen**



## STEPS FOR SECURING HOUSING

**01**

To initiate the housing application process, students will be contacted Safe Haven's dedicated Student Rental Agent, Kesha Gilbert.

**02**

Ms. Gilbert will guide students through the selection of available housing options on the portal, ensuring that each student finds the ideal living arrangement to match their preferences and budget.

**03**

A fact sheet containing all the essentials and need to know of the specific apartment is sent after the initial contact and introduction to the students.

**04**

Students are offered the opportunity to have a virtual viewing of their housing options.

**05**

Upon selection of the apartment, the lease agreement is prepared and sent to the student for signature.

**06**

Housing deposits and monthly payments are made directly to Safe Haven Real Estate. If a student uses ACSOM financial aid and loans, housing will be deducted from the loan and paid directly to Safe Haven by ACSOM on behalf of the student.

## CAMPUS SECURITY

At ACSOM, our unwavering commitment is to cultivate a safe and secure campus environment. Fostering a culture of vigilance, we urge all students, faculty, and staff to actively embrace personal safety responsibilities and contribute to the well-being of the community. The ACSOM Office of Safety and Security operates around the clock, maintaining constant communication with local law enforcement in accordance with our established policies.

Our dedicated team diligently monitors the campus, adjacent residences, and surrounding neighborhoods through surveillance initiatives and a reliable shuttle service. Additionally, they are entrusted with emergency response procedures and conducting wellness checks.

## **EXPLORE** **FITNESS CLUB**

Leveraging the collaborative efforts between ACSOM and InterContinental Dominica Cabrits Resort & Spa, an IHG Hotel, all ACSOM faculty and students now enjoy exclusive access to IHG's exceptional fitness and pool facilities. This exciting partnership not only elevates the well-being of the ACSOM community but also underscores our commitment to cultivating a healthy and supportive environment for all. Immerse yourself in the experience at Intercontinental Dominica Cabrits Resort and Spa!

## **EXPLORE** **COMPLIMENTARY** **SHUTTLE SERVICE**

During the late evening hours or in case of bad weather, ACSOM security is available to offer shuttle service from campus to surrounding neighborhoods.



## **EXPLORE** **NEIGHBORHOOD** **SHOPPING GUIDE**

### **SAVERS SUPERMARKET:**

#### **Location:**

2 minutes' walk from campus.

#### **Description:**

A well-sized supermarket providing a diverse selection of essential food items, ranging from fresh produce and imported vegetables to dairy, bottled water, sauces, pasta, spices, eggs, juices, canned goods, and bread. Additionally, Savers Supermarket offers a limited array of household items.

### **JAMES STORE:**

#### **Location:**

2 minutes' walk from campus.

#### **Description:**

Primarily a convenience store, James Store offers a selection of household items along with a limited assortment of groceries, making it a convenient stop for various essentials.

### **LULU'S/HOPE SUPERMARKET:**

#### **Location:**

Adjacent to the school entrance.

#### **Description:**

This dual-purpose establishment features a small corner store offering grocery essentials like meats, cheese, bread, eggs, pasta, juices, cookies, and baking supplies. The adjoining section operates as a convenience store, providing a variety of household items and appliances.



## RELOCATING A PET

Certificates and documentation for the vaccinations should be obtained from a reputable provider, such as a government-approved source. Please email these documents to [livestockdevunit@dominica.gov.dm](mailto:livestockdevunit@dominica.gov.dm) before your arrival for necessary approvals.

By adhering to these guidelines, you contribute to a smooth and compliant process for relocating your pet(s) to Dominica. If you have any further queries or require additional assistance, feel free to reach out to the provided email address.

**When bringing your pet(s) to Dominica, it is imperative to obtain an import permit in advance of your travel. Ensure that your pet(s) have completed the following requirements:**

### **BLOOD WORK:**

- Rabies Antibody Titer
- Proof of freedom from internal and external parasites for dogs.

### **VACCINES:**

- Canine Distemper
- Parvovirus
- Leptospirosis
- Coronavirus
- Lyme Disease
- Icterohaemorrhagiae



**How do I get my apartment keys?**

Upon your arrival at your apartment, your landlord or caretaker will be present to greet you. Subsequently, they will conduct a walkthrough of the apartment, providing explanations on how appliances operate and pointing out the location of key items. Your landlord will also demonstrate the proper usage of specific appliances. Throughout this time, it is expected that the student verifies the full functionality of all appliances and amenities and signs a waiver to confirm this. Upon completion of the process, the student will receive the keys to their apartment.

**What should I bring?**

Please bring personal items including linen anything that may be critical to make your stay more comfortable at your new location.

**What is typically included in a lease?**

The standard lease agreements typically outline the terms of the lease, including the rental amount, lease duration, security deposit details, maintenance responsibilities, and any rules or regulations specific to the property. All approved units are fully furnished, with AC and back-up generator. The kitchen is equipped with a coffee maker, microwave, cooking utensils to include pots and pans.

**Should I have my attorney review the rental contract or lease agreement?**

While it's not required, you're welcome to have your attorney review the lease agreement before signing if you have any concerns or questions about the terms.

**How much should I expect to pay for rental units?**

Rental prices vary depending on factors such as location, size, amenities, and market demand. Safe Haven can provide you with current rental rates for available units upon request. Currently the approved apartment rentals range from US\$600-840 with additional fees of US\$100 which covers water and housekeeping monthly.

**Are there specific contract terms to avoid or terms I should avoid?**

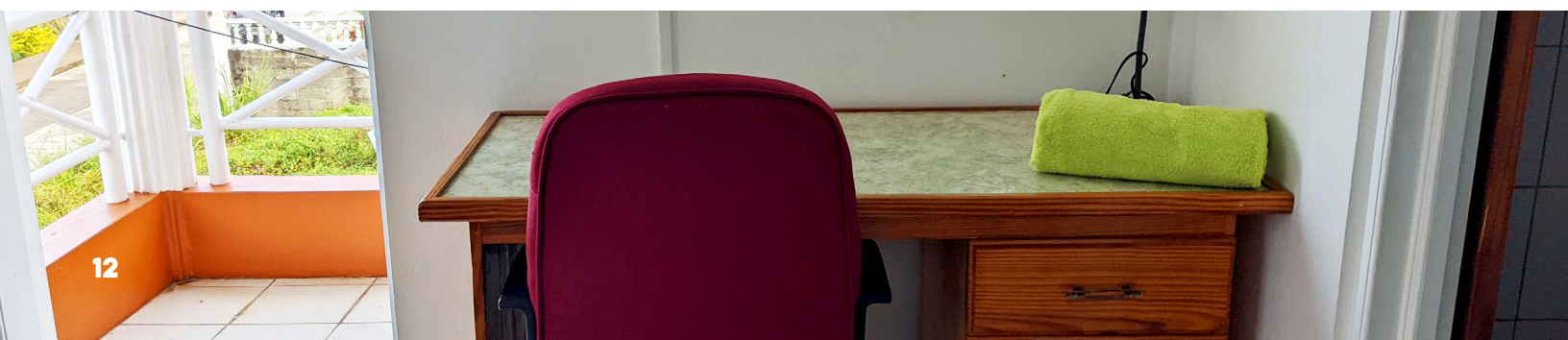
Safe Haven strives to ensure that the lease agreements are fair and transparent. However, it is always a good idea to review the terms carefully and raise any concerns you may have with the Safe Haven team before signing.

**What are typical lease time lengths?**

The standard lease terms typically range from 6 to 12 months, but there may be some flexibility depending on availability and your specific needs.

**Are there any specific things I should do or look for when I move into my rental unit?**

It is recommended that you thoroughly inspect the rental unit upon move-in and document any existing damage or issues. This will help ensure that you're not held responsible for pre-existing conditions when you move out. Safe Haven has a checklist which is completed upon arrival and ensures that the students are thorough in the inspection of the unit.





### **When should I expect my deposit to be returned?**

Your security deposit will typically be returned within 30 days after you move out, providing the unit is returned in good condition and all lease terms have been met.

### **What if the rental unit becomes uninhabitable due to natural disaster, utility failure, pests or a failure to properly maintain the unit?**

In such cases, please notify the Safe Haven Property Management team immediately, and they will work to resolve the issue promptly, whether it involves repairs, pest control, or other necessary measures. Please contact **Kesha Gilbert at 767-612-1729**.

### **How should checkout be handled at the end of the lease term?**

Safe Haven will provide you with detailed instructions on how to properly clean and prepare the unit for checkout. Once you vacate the premises and return the keys, Safe Haven will conduct a final inspection and discuss any potential deductions from your security deposit, if applicable.

### **How should I handle issues with my rental unit?**

Make sure you communicate problems, issues, and concerns in writing to Safe Haven Real Estate using the following Housing Issues/Concerns Form. Always request a copy of the concerns form go to your personal email and follow-up with an email to check the status of requested repairs. The student should always make these requests and provide notices, as the landlord is not obliged to respond or answer questions from ACSOM. Likewise, it would benefit you to document verbal conversations and follow-up written correspondence/emails or through the submission of the online form. Keep a digital copy of all documents and your check-in review list.

### **What support does the ACSOM Student Support Services provide in these cases?**

Student Support Services staff may communicate concerns with Safe Haven, or provide a student with direction on how to make a request to clarify the needs and issues clearly. ACSOM Student Support Services staff do not provide legal advice nor can they act as a student representative. ACSOM is copied on concerns submitted to Safe Haven through the form to track issues and complaints brought forward by students in order to identify trends or patterns of questionable or unethical business practices. ACSOM works with Safe Haven to improve the quality of housing services provided to students over time but are not able to intercede on immediate issues. An identified pattern, might result in a housing complex being removed from the Safe Haven housing list until adequate corrections are made. A student's housing contract is with the landlord and early terminations are subject to the laws governing the Commonwealth of Dominica. Decisions to end a lease early may result in financial costs and hardships to the student. You are encouraged to consult legal representation if you would like to terminate a lease prematurely. In only rare circumstances should contracts be terminated early – gross negligence or severe health hazards that resulted in injury or illness. For advising purposes only, you may contact Student Support Services - **Amanda Massicott at [amanda@acsom.edu.dm](mailto:amanda@acsom.edu.dm) or [studentservices@acsom.edu.dm](mailto:studentservices@acsom.edu.dm)**.

### **I am still not satisfied with the result. What should I do?**

If you have any concerns or issues during your tenancy, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Safe Haven Property Management Team. Your concerns will be addressed within reason so your experience with Safe Haven is as positive as possible.

# AMERICAN CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**ACSOM**

Robert Ross Blvd  
Picard-Portsmouth, St John's Parish  
Commonwealth of Dominica  
00109-8000  
Toll Free +1-800-418-0424  
Local +1-767-276-9373