

# Apartment Interviews?

Apartment hunting is very much like interviewing for a job. You are basically competing against other people (older probably) for the same place. Here's what you should do to increase your chances of calling that apartment you like your new home. You need to realize that you are fighting the many stereotypes that most young adults have earned over the years.

## 1. Dress to Impress

The way you dress for an appointment is important. Don't come dressed like you would for school. You want to present yourself as responsible, hard working, successful and intelligent. If you are young you should "dress" older or more mature (nothing too trendy). If you are working, then you might wear your work clothes. It's very important not to bring friends or boy/girlfriends (especially if they are not dressed to impress).



## 2. Positive Answers

You should avoid comments/questions that might give off "bad vibes" such as the following:

- "Are pets allowed?"
- "How long can friends stay overnight?"
- "I don't work that much"
- "Can I pay the 1<sup>st</sup> rent/deposit in payments?"
- "I don't have a bank account"
- "My credit is pretty messed up"
- "I was going to IVC but I had to drop out"

Instead, give positive answers, avoid bad questions and avoid negative statements about yourself. You should say you are working, you are going to college, you do have a bank account, you have the deposit and 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent already.

## 3. Come Prepared to Move In

Before landlords can approve your application, they have to do a background check on your finances, previous landlords/employers etc. This process can be time consuming. Consider coming to your landlord with this information in hand and ready to complete an application on the spot:

- a) Personal information (ID, license, social security, etc.)
- b) References, work history (with dates and phone #s), apartment history for application.
- c) Money to pay for credit check; landlords will check on this when you turn in application

