Welcome to the Neighbourhood!

A Guide for AST Residents



Welcome to the community of the Atlantic School of Theology. We're delighted to have you join us!

AST is a small ecumenical theological school – our students study theology in preparation for some form of Christian ministry (ordained ministry, chaplaincy, religious education, etc.). Many members of our community are far from home – our residents not only attend universities all over the city; they come from all over the world.

We hope you'll make yourself at home here and get to know the other members of your community.

AST staff are happy to help you settle in and feel comfortable here. You may contact our Residence Manager, Bobbi Zahra, with any questions or concerns to help you get settled in the community. If there's something you need that we can provide within the terms of your tenancy here, we're always pleased to assist.

available to answer quick questions and provide fast assistance. One Don is assigned to each floor, and your Don's name and contact information will be posted in a common area and also on their door so that you can find them easily. You'll find their contact information under the heading, "I have some questions!"

On Campus & the Immediate Neighbourhood

Your Personal Space

Your postal address is your room number, 660 Francklyn Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 3B5. When you receive mail, you'll be assigned a mailbox on the first floor and given a key. Mail is processed on weekdays when the school is open (it is not processed on any holidays, nor is it processed after business hours). If you're expecting a package, check first in Nosh & Goods on the first floor to see if it's been placed there for you. If it isn't there, then it either hasn't arrived, or it's arrived after the mail was processed for the day. Additionally, you should be aware that we cannot sign for packages for students: if you expect something that requires acknowledgement of receipt, you should plan to be here when it is delivered; otherwise, it will be delivered to a postal outlet, and Canada Post will advise where it can be collected.

You should note that when you leave the AST Residence, it is **your responsibility to contact Canada Post to arrange mail forwarding.** We do not provide this service, and you are best advised to arrange for forwarding to begin in the week immediately before your departure. This is a paid service and may be arranged online: <u>Go Here to Arrange Mail Forwarding!</u> (https://www.canadapost-postescanada.ca/cpc/en/personal/receiving/manage-mail/mail-forwarding.page, or search "mail forwarding" at www.canadapost.ca)

AST offers typical university dorm-style living. Your room will have one (or two) closets, a bed, desk, chair, and desk lamp. We don't have air conditioning, but all our windows open, and it's warm and snug here in the winter.

Residents provide their own bed and bath linens, as these are not provided by the school. You can purchase them inexpensively at department stores throughout the city. We encourage you to make your space your own –

while you may not paint your room, you may hang posters or pictures (blutac, Command Strips, or other methods that don't involve trying to put nails into walls made of concrete and covered with plaster — this never ends well for the walls!). If you wish to purchase small pieces of furniture for your room, you may, but getting them into your room is entirely **your** responsibility, as we do not have the staff to assist with shifting furniture!

Residents are responsible for the trash bins in their rooms. Please do not dispose of your room's trash by bringing it to either the bathroom or the kitchen. Rather, it must be brought to the bins outside the lower level of the south wing (in the parking lot opposite the library).

What's that noise?! The Residence at AST is an old building. We have an old heating system! And when it comes on as the weather gets colder, you may be startled by the noise, which can sound like someone banging with a hammer. That's the sound of air being forced through pipes from the basement to the top of the building, criss-crossing each floor. It's why you'll be warm in winter! And the sound exists everywhere in the building – the good news is that you won't hear it all the time, only during the hours that the heating system is actively forcing heat during its cycle. There's no way to turn it off, though.

AST's guest policy is in line with other universities: while you certainly may have guests, they may not stay overnight. Additionally, the public washroom space for your guests is downstairs near the new kitchen. Guests should not use washrooms intended for residents.

Laundry Facilities

There are heavy-duty washers and dryers located in the south wing of the building, at basement level (below the first floor). All machines are \$2.00 each to operate, and it's a good idea to get a roll of \$1 coins (we call them loonies!) (\$25) so you're ready to wash! We don't supply laundry soap, but it is available at grocery stores, pharmacies/drugstores, or department stores.

You can also find it in our boutique corner store, Nosh & Goods (see below). The laundry room is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. There are lockers near the laundry room in which some residents leave laundry supplies — if you wish to use a locker, please purchase a lock for it to secure your belongings!

A Corner Store at Home?

Next to the mailboxes on the first floor, you'll see Room 130, where we're running a pilot project to offer boutique-style corner store supplies for residents. Nosh & Goods is designed to supply things that you need quickly, when you're just not in the mood to go to the grocery store. It's new this year, and the first supplies on its shelves were chosen in response to a survey of residents. We will survey residents periodically to make sure that Nosh & Goods is providing the things that you'd like to purchase, so if there's something you'd like to see there, just let us know! Payment of anything you purchase at Nosh & Goods is by card (credit or debit), so you won't need cash. To enter Nosh & Goods, simply enter code **1540** on the keypad on the door.

Nosh & Goods is also the spot where you'll collect any packages waiting for you – when you receive a text, just head to Nosh & Goods, enter the door code, and grab your package (and perhaps a treat?)!

Shared Bathrooms

All shared bathrooms are identical: they contain a row of stalls with toilets, a row of sinks, and 2 gym-style showers (with curtains, not doors). Each bathroom also has a cubicle with tub & shower and a door that locks for more privacy. Please be sure that you don't walk into the wrong bathroom – there are men's and women's bathrooms on each floor, clearly marked! All bathrooms were renovated in 2024, and while Facilities staff manages trash disposal, mopping, etc., they do not wipe out showers daily, nor do they rinse hair from the sinks daily – that's the responsibility of the folks using the facilities! Please remove any hair from shower or sinks every time you use the facilities.

Common Room

Our large Common Room overlooks the Northwest Arm. This is the only room on campus wired for cable, and it's furnished with very comfortable couches and a large flat-screen smart TV for resident use. The TV has been set up with a streaming service, so there's plenty of choice when you have some free time! (While it's easy enough to fall asleep watching tv, the Common Room is not an extra bedroom, for residents or for guests.) There are tables here where students often work, and if you'd like to host an event here, please contact your Residence Manager to discuss and schedule something! We love things that make our community stronger, so if you want to offer a yoga class to residents, or host a movie night, we want to help you do that!

Community Kitchens

We're proud of the role our shared kitchens play in development of our diverse community. Students from many schools often prepare meals together and sit to eat together, but **you are responsible for cleaning up after yourself, every time**, so that those who come in behind you don't have to clean up before they can begin cooking! You'll find dishes, pots, pans, and

cutlery here; there are refrigerators, freezers, microwave ovens, kettles, and toasters as well. You are responsible for keeping these assets clean and in good condition. If you see that something has broken, please advise us so that we can take care of it! AST Maintenance Staff empty the large kitchen bins (trash, recycling, and organics), but the trash in the bin in your room must be brought to the large outside bins and not left in the kitchens.

Twice each year (at the end of the Spring semester and again before the Fall semester), AST Facilities staff deep clean every kitchen: refrigerators and freezers are emptied and scrubbed; ovens are cleaned; every surface is dusted, cleaned, and disinfected; floors are scrubbed. After that, it is entirely up to residents to keep the kitchens clean, because we do not have the resources to provide housekeeping. Our Resident Dons monitor the kitchens, and if it's found that they are not being cleaned, an email is sent from the Residence Manager to all residents. Two charts follow: the first is a chart of community responsibilities, and the second a reminder of individual responsibilities for the kitchens. Everything you see on the first chart will have been done in Spring and again in Fall, so if a kitchen's condition is not maintained, these are the things that must be done to return it to standard.

Task	Details
Floor cleaning	Move everything off the floors, and pull out stove & refrigerator in kitchen; sweep all floors, then
	mop them all, using CLEANING SOLUTION and hot water (not just water alone).
Microwave	Remove plate from microwave and wash with soap & hot water; clean inside of microwave with
	soap & hot water. This includes top, bottom, and all sides, and door. Clean the outside of the microwave. Replace plate.
Toaster	Empty crumbs from toaster into the compost bin. Clean outside of toaster with soap & hot water.
Kettle	Clean outside of kettle with soap & hot water.
Counters	Remove everything from counters. Scrub the with cleaning solution and hot water.
Dish Drainer	Scrub dish drainer with soap and hot water. DRY IT with paper towels. Put it in cupboard under
	sink. It should be on the counter only when you're doing dishes. It doesn't live there.
Drawers	Empty all drawers in kitchen. Dump any crumbs into the compost bin. Scrub drawers with cleaning
	solution & hot water. Replace everything that was removed.
Cupboards	Remove everything from cupboards. Scrub them with cleaning solution & hot water. Replace what was removed.
Stove	Remove oven racks. Wipe out any crumbs or spills in oven. Replace racks. Scrub the entire top of
	stove with cleaning solution & hot water: the flat surface, as well as the surfaces where the element
	knobs are. They should all be 100% grease-free.

Wall around stove & refrigerator	The wall around the stove, including the side of the refrigerator, is often very greasy. Scrub this with a solution of soap & hot water.
Refrigerator	Remove everything from refrigerator & freezer. All shelves and drawers, including the door, must be scrubbed with soap & hot water. Any food that is not clearly labelled with the owner's name and room number is to be disposed of. (Thus, if you're reading this and are aware that you have not labelled food as you're required to do, you should either do that now, or be prepared for its loss.)
Freezer	It must first be emptied and cleaned. The only food to be replaced there is food that is properly labelled with owner's name and room number. Any food not labelled is to be disposed of.
Window	The windowsill is not extra counter space. It's not a food prep surface, although we've noted that it's consistently used to defrost meat, or to pile garbage while you're cooking. Windowsill is to be scrubbed with hot water & soap. There should be nothing left on the sill.

Each time you use the kitchen, be mindful that you share this space and that everyone prefers to work in a clean kitchen.

Task	Details
Floor	Sweep the kitchen every time you use it, even if you think you didn't spill a single thing. Even small
cleaning	crumbs attract pests. If you have spilled food other than crumbs, mop it up.
Microwave	Every time you use the microwave, wipe it out with soap & hot water. Even the steam from your
	food, and occasional tiny food splatters, will contribute to the dirt there.
Toaster	Wipe it down, and dispose of any crumbs, every time you use it.
Kettle	Wipe it down every time you use it.
Counters	Every single time you use the counters, wipe them all down with cleaning solution and hot water.
Dish	The dish drainer belongs in the cupboard under the sink. It should be on the counter only when
Drainer	you're doing dishes, and put away immediately. Dishes left in the dish drainer may be removed
	with no notice.
Drawers	Be sure that drawers are closed when you're using the kitchen, to reduce the problem of crumbs &
	spills getting into them.
Stove	Every time you use it, wipe up any crumbs or spills. Scrub the entire top of stove with cleaning
	solution & hot water: the flat surface, as well as the surfaces where the element knobs are. They
	should all be 100% grease-free.
Wall	Every time you use the stove, clean the wall around the stove, including the side of the refrigerator,
around	is often very greasy. Scrub this with a solution of soap & hot water.
stove &	
refrigerator	

Cameras & Video Recording in Residence

The **only** cameras permitted in Residence are those installed by AST in certain common areas of the school. The presence of recording equipment in Residence was not permitted when faculty and staff still worked in this building, but in 2003, the policy was updated to permit the limited use of

cameras in common areas. The people with authority to view/review anything captured by these cameras is strictly limited and controlled.

Students who live in Residence may not place cameras or other recording devices in any common areas of the Residence Building. If any recording is required as part of a school project, it would be permitted only under these conditions:

- 1. Permission must **first** be sought by email to the Residence Manager. The person requesting permission must provide a detailed explanation of the need to use the equipment in the Residence Building. Permission will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 2. If permission is granted, the **only possible locations for recording** will be the Common Room, either of the 2 laundry rooms, or Nosh & Goods, the boutique shop on the first floor.
- 3. In the event that permission is granted, there must be sufficient notice in the request that all residents can be advised, as they may wish to change their routines accordingly so as to not be in view of cameras. Please request permission at least a week in advance.
- 4. In the event that permission is granted, the student will be required to place a poster at the door of the room in which the camera is placed, on which their contact information is also provided.

Paying the Rent

You may speak with our Business Officer, who you'll find in the President's Lodge, just down the hill from the Library. The most effective way to reach her, however, is by email: businessoffice@astheology.ns.ca It's important to pay your rent on the first day of each month, not just because that's when it's due but **also** because unpaid rent may affect your continued accommodation in Residence.

Our Facilities Staff

The Residence at AST has dedicated Facilities staff, who you will often see throughout the Residence. Their job is to keep the Residence clean, to make repairs as required, and to ensure that rooms are ready for students who are arriving to Residence. They also manage departure inspections. Once you're here, if you have an issue with the physical space – something has broken in your room, for instance, please contact them directly at residenceservices@astheology.ns.ca. When you're ready to move out of Residence, you'll also contact them directly to arrange your departure inspection (this is required in order for any or all of your security deposit to be returned to you).

Connecting to the Outside World!

Your access to AST WiFi is directly related to your arrival in Residence. When you first arrive, use your own mobile device to search for the Residence network, AST-GUEST6. You'll be asked to enter your email and create a password, which creates your account (it will be active for 12 months). You can then log on to AST-GUEST6 on up to 4 devices. Should you need IT support, our networks are managed through Saint Mary's University, and so you'll contact the SMU Helpdesk at 902-496-8111. They will first ask if you are a SMU student, so you'll have to explain to them that you're in Residence at Atlantic School of Theology, and that our IT support comes through SMU. If you don't receive the assistance you need from SMU Helpdesk, please contact ithelpdesk@astheology.ns.ca, and a dedicated IT technician will contact you as soon as possible.

We're also active on social media – check out our Facebook group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/739723643145655/?epa=SEARCH_BOX, or search **AST Residents - Halifax, NS.** We'll use this group to let you know important information quickly, to update status in the event of a power outage, to run contests for residents, etc.

Walking Around

Pleasant Park, 190 acres of groomed trails in a beautiful wooded area. You can walk or jog here, and even make friends with the dogs of the park, who are there with their owners for exercise most days! From July through mid-September, Shakespeare By The Sea performs plays in Point Pleasant Park, generally at the batteries (former military installations), which are unforgettable. You'll get superb views of the Northwest Arm and the mouth of Halifax Harbour, as the park has plenty of water frontage. On November 11th, Remembrance Day, services of remembrance are also held here.

As you go north from campus, towards Spring Garden Road area, you'll discover the **Halifax Public Gardens**, a beautiful Victorian garden and oasis of quiet in the middle of the city. Take your lunch with you and relax on a bench, get a coffee or an ice cream at the coffee shop in the middle of the Gardens. Like Point Pleasant Park, there is no admission here.

Halifax has many museums and art galleries, including both national and provincial exhibition centres. We are a short drive away from beaches that are beautiful in any season (you're never more than 26 km away from a beach and open ocean here!) and from a number of internationally known tourist attractions, such as Citadel Hill, George's Island, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg, etc.

Please check out the map on the next page to take a look at your new neighbourhood!



I have some questions!

Excellent! Questions ensure that we can give more complete information to newer residents! You should start with your Floor Don, but you are always welcome to contact Residence Manager, Bobbi Zahra. If she doesn't already have the answer, she'll find it! You can reach Bobbi in her first floor office (where hours are posted each semester), or at bzahra@astheology.ns.ca

After hours, holidays, and weekends, Floor Dons are there for assistance. Please note the Dons' contact information in your phone – if you forget your access card and find yourself locked out after hours, the Duty Don is your first point of contact! (Your Floor Don's name will be posted in common areas on your floor, and on the Don's door.) If your Floor Don isn't able to assist you, they are always able to contact the Residence Manager.

Off Campus

Public Transit

Need a bus? If you're going downtown, to NSCAD, the train station, or anywhere along Barrington Street, walk up Pine Hill to the bus stop you'll see at the intersection of Tower Road and Harbourview Drive. The #29 bus brings you to the end of Tower Road, and then continues downtown via Inglis and Barrington Streets. Going to Dalhousie? Walk to Inglis Street and hop on a #14 bus that goes right to Dalhousie Campus.

If you are a full-time university or community college student, Halifax Transit's UPass Program is pretty sweet. As part of the enrollment fee paid to Halifax educational institutions, service on any of Halifax Transit's regular bus routes and ferry service is included. Just carry your valid Student ID card with you! To find out when a bus will be leaving a given stop, call (902) 480-8000.

Taxis

Local

Casino (902) 429-6666 Yellow (902) 420-0000

Airport

You can expect to pay anywhere from \$60 to \$80 for one-way transport to the airport. The huge variation has to do with the type of transport, and whether you share the ride with someone else. Uber is always a possibility, of course; and below are a series of websites chosen based on their star rating on Yelp – we don't officially endorse them and encourage you to investigate them all before picking one!

https://www.besttaxi.ca/	http://halifaxairporttcab.com/
http://www.eastshuttle.com/	https://halifaxairportcab.ca/
http://ladydriveher.com/	

Halifax Transit also goes to and from the airport, at either 30-minute or 60-minute intervals throughout the day, Monday through Friday, depending upon time of service. They operate **coming from the airport** from 5:45 a.m. until 12:15 a.m. You may **go to the airport** starting at 4:40 am. until 11:20 p.m. The schedule is slightly different on weekends.

If you choose public transit to go to or from the airport, here's what you need to know. The fare is \$4.75, and you must have exact change, as drivers do not make change. If you have only a \$5 bill and cannot find anywhere to get change, then your fare is going to cost \$5! You should also be aware that the bus leaves from and arrives at Albermarle Street, near Scotia Square. If you're arriving, you may walk to Duke Street, just down the hill, to catch a bus coming to AST. If that's your plan, be sure you ask the airport bus driver for a transfer so that you can take the next bus. **City transit buses to and from AST do not operate as early or as late in the day as the airport bus.** This could mean that you'll use a local taxi to get to or from Albermarle to connect with Route 320 to/from the airport.

Hospitals & Clinics

There are several hospitals and walk-in clinics (other than clinics that may be available on your school's campus) within a short distance of the AST campus. You may search Medimap for the location of a walk-in clinic close to the campus: https://medimap.ca/Location/Halifax. Specific hospital locations are below:

Halifax Infirmary, 1799 Robie Street, (902) 473-2700

IWK Women's & Children's Hospital, 5980 University Avenue, (902) 470-8888

If you need to seek medical attention, bring proof of student status and medical insurance. Nova Scotia students should bring their MSI card.

Emergency services are reached by dialing 911 from any telephone.

Pharmacies/Drugstores

Other than grocery stores, the closest pharmacy/drugstore to AST is Shopper's Drugs, at 5595 Fenwick Street (near Sobey's on Queen). You will also find Shopper's on Spring Garden Road, as well as Lawton's Drugs. Shopper's Drugs offers Optimum frequent flyer points and bargains; Lawton's offers Air Miles frequent flyer points and bargains.

Department Stores

For quick, inexpensive shopping for household items (cleaning supplies, dishes, bath linens, some food items), try the Dollar Store at Park Lane (at the intersection of South Park Street and Spring Garden Road).

For larger items and greater selection, hop on a bus to Halifax Shopping Centre on Mumford Road and check out Wal-Mart, which is are located in what's called the Halifax Shopping Centre Extension – on the opposite side of the road, there's a multi-level shopping mall.

Coffee & Tea

If you're a coffee (or tea) drinker, you'll feel right at home in Halifax, because we have much excellent coffee, and some of it is just a few minutes from your front door! With no endorsement intended or implied, here are your nearest coffee/tea options:

Uncommon Grounds

1030 South Park Street
Halifax Public Gardens
(Hot & cold coffee and tea; sweets, light lunches – sandwiches, etc.)

Tim Hortons

Saint Mary's Campus and Dalhousie Campus (Hot & cold coffee and tea; breakfast, sweets, light lunches, etc.) Barrington Street (near SuperStore)

Coburg Coffee

6085 Coburg Road (Hot & cold coffee and tea; sweets, light lunches – sandwiches, etc.)

Ampersand

Central Library, Spring Garden Road at Queen Street

World Tea House

1592 Argyle Street

Groceries

Sobey's, at 1120 Queen Street, is an easy walk – just head up Pine Hill, left on Tower Road, right on Inglis Street, left on South Park Street, right on Victoria Road, and left again on Queen Street. (It's about a 15-minute walk.)

Superstore, at 1075 Barrington Street, is a little further than Sobey's – head up Pine Hill, left on Tower Road, right on Inglis, and walk down to the bottom of Inglis, where it intersects with Barrington (about a 20-minute walk).

Both grocery stores have a fully-licensed pharmacy and offer frequent buyer programs. If you participate in Sobey's Air Miles program or Superstore's Optimum program, you'll earn points that can help you save money on groceries; additionally, if you present your valid student ID on Tuesday, you will receive a 10% discount on top of points that get you to free groceries! Participation in these programs is free. Both grocery stores also offer a decent selection of international foods, including Halal and Kosher products.

Finally, check out the Flashfood app (for Android or iPhone) – it's a nifty little app that tells you about food discounts of up to 50% on foods that are nearing their best before date. Read about the app here:

www.flashfood.com Best of all? It's entirely free to the user!

Shopping Centres

On the Halifax side of the harbour, you can visit

- Park Lane Mall, 5657 Spring Garden Road
- Halifax Shopping Centre, 7001 Mumford Road
- Scotia Square Mall, 5201 Duke Street
- Bayer's Lake Park

Or you might like to take the ferry and go to Dartmouth, where you can visit

- Mic Mac Mall, 21 Mic Mac Boulevard
- Dartmouth Crossing
- IKEA (in the Dartmouth Crossing shopping park)

Book Stores

Book Mark

5686 Spring Garden Road (across from Park Lane)

Chapters

Bayer's Lake or Mic Mac Mall

Art Supplies

DeSerres

1546 Barrington Street (near Spring Garden Road)

Michael's

Bayer's Lake and Dartmouth Crossing

Places of Worship

Jewish

There are 3 synagogues in Halifax. Chabad House is at 1171 Waterloo Street (near Dalhousie Campus), https://www.chabadmaritimes.com/; Beth Israel (Orthodox), is at 1480 Oxford Street (near Dalhousie Campus), www.thebethisrael.com; and Shaar Shalom (Conservative) is at 1981 Oxford Street (near Quinpool Road), www.theshaar.ca.

Christian

You will find much more representation of Christian tradition in Halifax than any other. Christian churches include Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Baptist, Presbyterian, and other Protestant traditions. Rather than create a listing of dozens of pages, we urge you to search your tradition of choice online to find the one that's most convenient for you!

Muslim

Centre for Islamic Development, located at 2728 Robie Street (https://www.cidonline.ca/)

Masjid Al-Barakah Islamic Centre, located at 12 Hillcrest Street (http://unitedmuslimsofhalifax.ca/)

Ummah Masjid and Community Centre, located at 2150 St. Mathias Street (https://www.ummahmasjid.ca/)

Sikh

Maritime Sikh Society, located at 10 Parkhill Road (http://www.maritimesikhsociety.com/)

Hindu

Vedanta Ashram Society, located at 6241 Cork Street (http://hindutemple-halifax.org/)

Libraries

Did you know that because AST is part of the NovaNet library system, you may return books belonging to your school's library here at the AST library? It's true! And if you find a book on NovaNet that you'd like to use, you may request that it be delivered to the AST library, even when that book is at a university that's not actually in Halifax! The Library is generally open weekdays during business hours; if extended hours are offered for the summer, they will be announced on the Facebook page, in an email to residents, and posted on bulletin boards and the Library's own front door.

Besides university libraries, check out Halifax Central Library, at 5440 Spring Garden Road (at the intersection with Queen Street). In addition to the usual library offerings, there's an excellent café, and there are often cultural and musical events held in Paul O'Regan Hall at the library, many of which are free of charge.

Entertainment

Cineplex, a multi-screen complex, is located at Park Lane Shopping Centre, 5657 Spring Garden Road. They show films 7 days a week. There are other Cineplex cinemas in Halifax, but Park Lane will be the closest for you.

Did you know that Halifax has a professional orchestra? **Symphony Nova Scotia** performs at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, located on campus at
Dalhousie University. Definitely check out their website, because they offer
terrific deals on ticket subscriptions for students!
(www.symphonynovascotia.ca)

Economy Shoe Shop (http://www.economyshoeshop.ca/)
1663 Argyle Street
Not, in fact, a shoe shop! It's a decent restaurant with excellent live music!
Halifax also offers a number of options for people who enjoy live theatre.
Check out

Neptune Theatre (www.neptunetheatre.com) 1593 Argyle Street

Pond Playhouse (www.tagtheatre.com) 6 Parkhill Road

Eastern Front Theatre (www.easternfronttheatre.com) 1580 Barrington Street

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