# Kaya - Initial Ideas

A list of features/ideas that could be used to enhance the roommate search process by solving the how might we questions.

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## How might we increase access to reliable roommate profiles?

- **Verified Profiles:** Require identity verification (e.g., government-issued ID) and social media/account linking to ensure authenticity.
- **Detailed Profiles:** Encourage users to include comprehensive details such as habits, interests, work schedules, and lifestyle preferences.
- **Profile Completeness Meter:** Add a progress bar to show how complete a profile is, incentivizing users to provide more information.
- **Review and Rating System:** Allow previous roommates to leave reviews and ratings for individuals.
- **Preference Matching:** Include filters for preferred living arrangements (e.g., cleanliness, noise levels, pets, etc.) to ensure compatibility.
- Trust Badges: Display badges for actions like profile verification, providing references, or positive reviews.

## How might we reduce the time spent searching for roommates?

- **Quick Filters:** Allow users to apply detailed filters (budget, location, gender preference, etc.) right from the homepage.
- **Interactive Map Search:** Integrate an interactive map that displays potential roommates by location.
- **Saved Searches & Alerts:** Let users save their search criteria and receive notifications when new matches are available.
- **Interest Gestures:** Allow users to express interest in a profile with a single click or swipe.
- **Speed Matching Events:** Host virtual speed-dating-style roommate-matching sessions.

## How might we enhance communication between potential roommates?

- **In-App Messaging:** Provide a built-in, secure messaging platform for real-time communication.
- **Icebreaker Prompts:** Add fun prompts or questions (e.g., “What’s your dream weekend activity?”) to kick start conversations.

- **Voice/Video Call Integration:** Offer the ability to schedule and conduct voice or video calls directly within the app.
- **Message Templates:** Provide suggested templates for initiating conversations (e.g., “Hi, I’m interested in learning more about your living preferences!”).
- **Highlight shared traits:** Show mutual interests or overlapping preferences as prompts during chats.
- **Group Chats:** Enable users to create group chats if multiple people are exploring living together.

## How might we promote trust and safety when looking for potential roommates?

- **Letter of recommendation submission:** Allow users to submit documents to verify their compatibility as a roommate
- **Background Checks:** Offer optional background checks that users can pay for or opt into.
- **Safety Guides:** Provide a guide on safe practices for meeting potential roommates or discussing living arrangements.
- **Conflict Mediation Resources:** Include resources or tips for resolving disputes among roommates.
- **Report and Block Features:** Ensure users can report or block suspicious profiles easily.
- **Roommate Agreements:** Provide a template for creating a roommate agreement, ensuring both parties are aligned.
- **Transparent Reviews:** Allow users to view how others have rated someone’s reliability, cleanliness, and communication.
- **Emergency Contact Integration:** Let users optionally share emergency contact information with verified roommates.