

Boston Housing Reference Sheet

Map of Boston and neighborhoods



Basic Boston Housing

Traits:

1. *Boston is an old city, and our housing is old too. Many apartments do not have elevators, central air conditioning, or laundry in-building.*
2. *Boston's rental housing is in short supply. Many apartments too pricey to afford alone. Finding roommates is key.*
3. *Boston is a college town, which means most apartments begin to turn over during the summer and continue up to the beginning of September.*

Students are *strongly* encouraged to start their apartment search early and to visit apartments before signing a lease. Most landlords will not rent to tenants who they have not met.

Good Links to have:

Housing Resources
bumc.bu.edu/ohr

Off-Campus Services
offcampus.bu.edu

City of Boston
cityofboston.gov

TransComm -
Transportation Solutions for
Commuters
bumc.bu.edu/transcomm

BUMC students live all over the Greater Boston area.

Popular Neighborhoods

1. **The South End**
Home of BUMC, closest to campus. About 25% of BUMC student population lives here.
2. **Fenway/Kenmore**
Location of the Charles River Campus, easy to access from BU Shuttle. About 15% of BUMC students live there.
3. **Allston/Brighton**
Not very convenient, but cheap and easy to find housing. About 5-7% of students live here.
4. **Back Bay**
Fairly convenient, beautiful. Near 5% of students live here.

Price Ranges

■ Very Expensive:
Studios: \$2200-\$3200
1 Bed: \$2500-\$4100
2 Bed: \$2800-\$4800
3 Bed: \$3400-\$5200

■ Expensive
Studios: \$1700-\$2500
1 Bed: \$1900-\$2700
2 Bed: \$2600-\$3500
3 Bed: \$3000-\$3600

■ Moderate
Studios: \$950-\$1500
1 Bed: \$1200-\$1800
2 Bed: \$1800-\$2500
3 Bed: \$2300-\$2900

■ Inexpensive (for Boston)
Studios: \$800-\$1200
1 Bed: \$1000-\$1400
2 Bed: \$1200-\$1800
3 Bed: \$1600-\$2200

Commuting Times

■ Close
Commute under 30 minutes, no transferring.

■ Average
Commute under 45 minutes, one transfer.

■ Long
Commute up to 60 minutes, Sometimes two transfers.

Search Timeline

5-6 months before move-in:

- Do your research
- Decide on your housing budget and where in Boston you want to live
- Choose at least two neighborhoods to explore
- Begin contacting potential roommates
- Schedule a visit to Boston

2-3 months before move-in:

- Visit Boston
- Meet your potential roommate(s)
- Using the Housing Resources available, search for an apartment
- View apartments
- Submit an application for the apartment you want
- Meet the landlord prior to signing a lease

4 weeks before move-in:

- Reserve a truck for moving day
- Apply for a parking permit from the city

1 week before move-in:

- Review your lease
- Notify the post office about your address change
- Double-check your move-in directions
- Make sure you have a parking permit
- Confirm truck reservations
- Call to have utilities turned on during your moving day, and turned off at your old apartment

Move-In Day Standards:

- Apartment unit is safe, clean & sanitary
- Landlord contact info is posted
- All smoke alarms working

All rental units must meet Standards on move-in day.

Call 311 to report non-emergency issues



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Getting Around Boston

Public Transportation Close to BUMC

The MBTA is Boston's public transit authority mbta.com

Trains: Orange Line (at Massachusetts Avenue), Red Line (at Broadway Station)

Buses: #1, #8, #10, #47, CT1, CT3 (Newton and Concord Streets, Mass. Ave.). Silver Line (on Washington Street)

Taxis: are plentiful on Washington and Tremont Streets, especially in the evening. Uber and Lyft available throughout Boston.

The BU Shuttle: a free shuttle that travels between the BUMC and Charles River campus. It stops at Albany Street every 10 to 20 minutes bu.edu/thebus

Bicycle Cages/Racks on campus bumc.bu.edu/transcomm
Hubway: Boston's bike sharing system, thehubway.com

Finding Roommates

Most students in Boston will live with roommates to make housing more affordable. Before deciding to live with a roommate, students should make sure they have three "C's": *credit*, *consideration*, and *communication*. Roommates in Boston are "jointly and severally" liable for rent, meaning that if one roommate doesn't pay, everyone else has to make up the rest.

Popular Roommate-Finding Resources

Off-Campus Services offcampus.bu.edu
BU login and password required for access roommate listings.

Your BUMC Class Facebook page

Craigslist. Carefully search for roommates boston.craigslist.org

Finding Housing

BU Resources

1. Housing Resources bumc.bu.edu/ohr
Located on the Medical Campus, Housing Resources assists students with their housing search from the beginning of the process to reading and signing a lease. Contact 617-638-5125 or ohr@bu.edu.

2. BU Off-Campus Services offcampus.bu.edu, is the apartment and roommate database with listings throughout the Greater Boston area.

3. BU Real Estate bu.edu/realestate
offers University owned apartments for rent. Graduate students who want to live in housing that is managed by Boston University and located on the CRC should call 617-353-4101.

4. Facebook
Incoming classes have pages for students to connect, find roommates, ask housing questions and learn from others about their housing search. There are also a number of Boston Housing Facebook groups allow those seeking housing in the Boston vicinity to connect.

Online Resources

1. Offcampus.bu.edu Best online resource to available apartments begin by searching these listings.
2. Boston.craigslist.org/nfa
Boston's largest online apartment-hunting tool. It can be used to find apartments, roommates, short-term housing, even furniture. See apartments 'By Owner'.
3. Padmapper.com Search for no-fee listings by neighborhood.

Realtors

If you are short on time or have very specific criteria, using a realtor is a good option. They can drive you around, show you several apartments during one appointment, and may know a lot about the neighborhood where they work. Most Boston realtors charge a **realtor fee** or commission, which can be up to one month's rent. offcampus.bu.edu

Property Managers

Landlords hire managers to rent/maintain their buildings. No realtor fee is charged.