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* and 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](http://bumc.bu.edu/ohr)
- Off-Campus Services [offcampus.bu.edu](http://offcampus.bu.edu)
- City of Boston [cityofboston.gov](http://cityofboston.gov)
- TranSComm [bumc.bu.edu/transcomm/](http://bumc.bu.edu/transcomm/)

**BUMC students live all over the Greater Boston area.**

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**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.

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**Price Ranges**

- **Very Expensive**
  - Studios: $2200–$3200
  - 1 Bed: $2500–$4100
  - 2 Bed: $2800–$4800
  - 3 Bed: $3500–$5300

- **Expensive**
  - Studios: $1600–$2500
  - 1 Bed: $1800–$2700
  - 2 Bed: $2600–$3500
  - 3 Bed: $3000–$3600

- **Moderate**
  - Studios: $1000–$1500
  - 1 Bed: $1200–$1900
  - 2 Bed: $2000–$2600
  - 3 Bed: $2300–$3000

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

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**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.
## Boston Housing Reference Sheet

### Getting Around Boston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Transportation Close to BUMC</th>
<th>Taxis: are plentiful on Washington and Tremont Streets, especially in the evening. Uber and Lyft available throughout Boston.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The MBTA <a href="http://mbta.com">mbta.com</a> is Boston’s public transit agency.</td>
<td>The BU Shuttle: <a href="http://bu.edu/thesbus">bu.edu/thesbus</a> a free shuttle that travels between the BUMC and Charles River campus. For the Evening Shuttle: Monday through Friday 5pm-midnight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trains: Orange Line (at Massachusetts Avenue), Red Line (at Broadway Station)</td>
<td>Bicycle Cages/Racks on campus and a bike sharing system, Blue Bikes <a href="http://bluebikes.com">bluebikes.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buses: #1, #8, #10, #47, CT1, CT3 (Newton and Concord Streets, Mass. Ave.), Silver Line (on Washington Street)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 Roommate Finder [offcampus.bu.edu](http://offcampus.bu.edu) BU login and password required to access roommate listings.
- Your BUMC Class Accepted Students Facebook page.

### Finding Housing

#### BU Resources

1. Housing Resources [bumc.bu.edu/ohr](http://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 617-358-5208 or ohr@bu.edu.

2. BU Off-Campus Services [offcampus.bu.edu](http://offcampus.bu.edu)

   is the apartment and roommate database with listings throughout the Greater Boston area.

3. BU Real Estate [bu.edu/realestate](http://bu.edu/realestate)

   offers University owned apartments and dormitories 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. Incoming classes have Facebook pages for students to connect, find roommates, ask housing questions and learn from others about their housing search.

#### For You To Know

- **Realtors: Agent/Broker**

  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 an agency fee or commission, which can be up to one month’s rent. You should always try to negotiate the agency fee. Sell yourself as a graduate student attending BU, which might work to your advantage. [offcampus.bu.edu/index/agent-broker](http://offcampus.bu.edu/index/agent-broker)

- **Property Managers**

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

- **Before You Sign the Lease**

  *It is strongly suggested that you view the property before you move in. If you cannot see the property yourself, connect with friends or family to see it for you. You can also ask to video chat with the agent/landlord, so you can at least see the property in real time.*

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**Move-In Day Standards:**

- Apartment clean & sanitary
- Landlord contact info posted
- Smoke alarms working
- Apartment is safe

All rental units must meet Standards on move-in day. Call 311 to report non-emergency issues.