REVIEWS AND ADVICE ROM CURRENT STUDENTS

BU MEDICAL CAMPUS

HOUSING GUIDE

HOUSING DATA NEIGHBORHOODS EXPLAINED APARTMENT RATINGS

Boston University Medical Campus

715 Albany Street



TOP PROPERTIES LANDLORD INFO RENTER RESOURCES > TheSerenity.com | 855-410-1757
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Boston Apartments

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE GUIDE



Start with the Housing Facts section. This section should help you determine the type of apartment you'd like to live in and how much you should expect to pay in rent.



Read about different neighborhoods and narrow down your search to parts of the city that you like most.



Use the Apartment Ratings section to identify the best apartment buildings across the categories (e.g. best amenities, highest rated) that matter most to you.



Visit VeryApt.com to read reviews, get pricing, and set up appointments for the apartments you like most.

ABOUT THE DATA IN THIS GUIDE

All of the data in this guide are based on feedback from real renters in Boston. We asked students to rate their apartments on a scale of 1-10 across six categories:



Overall



Value

Ľ



Management



Amenities



Location

Safety

Based on their feedback, we compiled a list of the best apartment buildings for BUMC students. If you are interested in additional data that is not in the guide or have a housing question, you can reach us at contact@veryapt.com.

DISCLAIMER: The reviews and ratings presented throughout the guide and the VeryApt website do not reflect the opinions, position, or endorsement of VeryApt. The responses and reviews presented are solely those of the survey respondents. VeryApt assumes no responsibility for readers' or users' interpretation of the data. The results do not in any way constitute a warranty or representation by VeryApt as to the quality, safety, or other features of a property. We encourage you to check all available sources of information about properties prior to renting.



Where BUMC students live



- 35% South End20% Fenway/Kenmore
- 15% Allston
- 15% Dorchester
- 15% Other

Who BUMC students live with



- 17% Alone30% Spouse/partner
- 53% Roommate (excluding spouse/ partner)

18% of BUMC students live with pets

What type of properties BUMC students live in

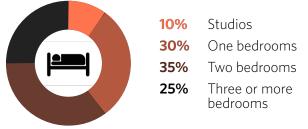


45% Large property (50+ units)

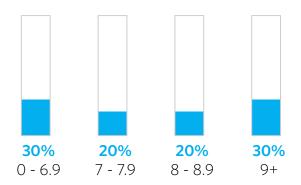
30% Small property (2-9 units)

25% Mid-size property (20-49 units)

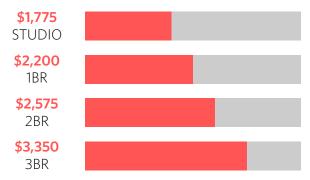
What size residences BUMC students live in



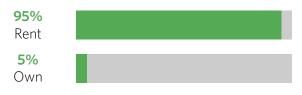
Distribution of property ratings



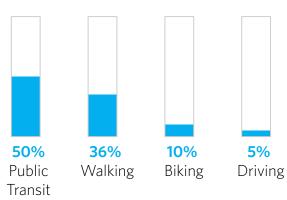
Average rent by apartment size



Rent versus own



Commute methods



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CHEF-INSPIRED KITCHENS

OVERSIZED WINDOWS ALLOWING FOR EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL LIGHT

STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES

FULL-SIZED WASHER/DRYER IN EACH APARTMENT HOME

LARGE WALK-IN CLOSETS

SMART THERMOSTATS AND LOCKS

ed Rd 235 RR i

10-Min Commute to Boston University

Enjoy peaceful riverfront living with bike and running paths, restaurants, shops, and proximity to the Boston Landing commuter rail stop Boston, MA 02135 <u>GREYSTAR</u> ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽²⁾

Rent with Confidence

Time Savers

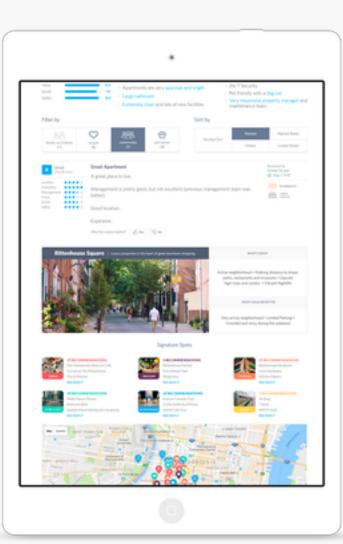


All the information you need in a single place. Photos, prices, floor plans, maps, and amenities -VeryApt has you covered.

Concierge Service



On demand rental experts that can provide apartment recommendations, set up apartment tours, and help you with your rental application - all at no extra cost.



Intelligent Search



Personalized apartment recommendations based on the amenities you want, your proximity to school or work, and your desired price range.

Trusted Reviews



Hundreds of verified apartment reviews from current and past tenants that help you make an informed decision about where you want to live.

WHY WE STARTED VERYAPT

VeryApt was born from the simple realization that the small things about an apartment are often the most important: a friendly doorman, lots of sunlight in the living room, a running trail nearby, or that amazing hole-in-the-wall Thai restaurant across the street. We understand that the frustrations of apartment hunting are universal, but share a belief that it doesn't have to be. We know what makes an apartment truly feel like home is unique for each person and that's why our focus is on bringing you personalized recommendations based on timely, relevant, and real user reviews. We'll be there every step of the way to help you find your perfect apartment.

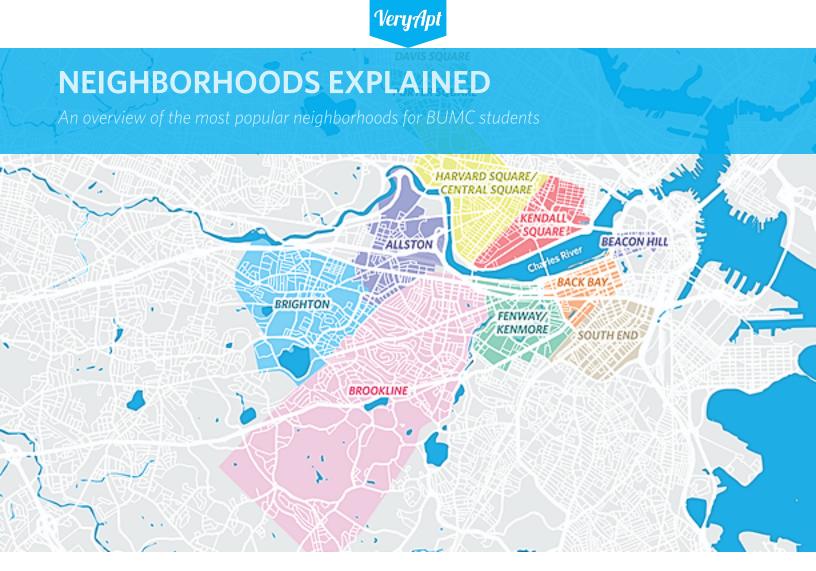
Julia Rizio VP Operations juliar@veryapt.com





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 Expansive bike storage room with repair facilities • Private dining room with lounge and chef's kitchen



1 South End

35% of BUMC students

Filled with bars, trendy eateries, and popular entertainment, many students enjoy life here while attending classes. Gracing South-End streets are rows of brownstones, which offer great views of stately houses, overflowing flower boxes, and gaslight streetlamps.



15% of BUMC students

Filled with hip and trendy shops, Allston has become a popular spot for BU Questrom students. Many students choose to live here due to the convenient location to campus. The Charles River Reservation is a great state park situated along a river. Like many areas of Boston, the restaurant and bar scene is great in Allston.



20% of BUMC students

Fenway/Kenmore is home to the historic Fenway Park and boasts plenty of restaurants and bars. Cultural landmarks that are definitely worth a visit include the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Symphony Halls.

4 Dorchester

15% of BUMC students

Dorchester is one of Boston's largest neighborhoods. The Neponset River Reservation is a popular location for enjoying the outdoors. It is also home to Franklin Park, a large section of Boston's Emerald Necklace, with a golf course, 500 acres of green space, and a zoo. Dorchester also has plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from.

Other Neighborhoods



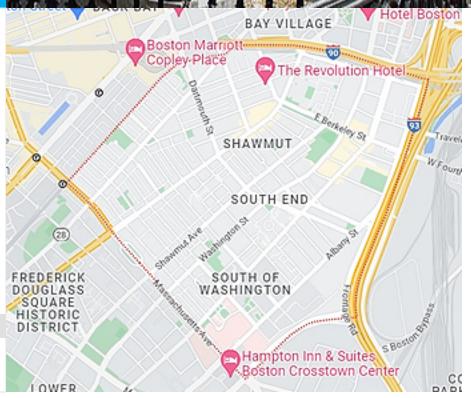
South End

Lively Area Filled With Young Professionals

ABOUT SOUTH END

Filled with bars, trendy eateries, and popular entertainment, many students enjoy life here while attending classes. Gracing South-End streets are rows of brownstones, which offer great views of stately houses, overflowing flower boxes, and gaslight street lamps. There is also Peters Park, a popular social hub where locals enjoy basketball and tennis. There is also a garden and dog-friendly area at the park. For food shopping, there's Ming's Market, Whole Foods Market, and Tropical Foods.

Brownston	es Young Pr	ofessionals
MED	IAN RENTS IN SOUTH	END
\$2,370 Studio	\$2,835 1 Bedroom	\$3,430 2 Bedroom



WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT SOUTH END

Review by BUMC Student

? THE SMITH

South End is a very quiet and safe neighborhood. Close to campus which is nice. It has a few restaurants and entertainment places, but you can find attractions and restaurants around Chinatown, Boston Common or Newbury street, which takes about 30 minutes walk.

Review by **BUMC Student**

• NORTHAMPTON ST

Absolutely love the South End as a neighborhood. Most of it is very safe and family friendly. The restaurants and bars are incredible. There is so much beauty and lots of park/green space. By far my favorite neighborhood in Boston.

Fenway/Kenmore

Get an Authentic Boston Experience

ABOUT FENWAY/KENMORE

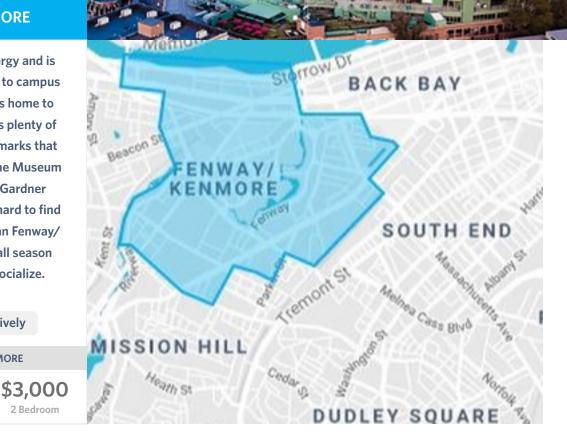
This neighborhood has a ton of energy and is great for students who wish to walk to campus because of the proximity to BU. It is home to the historic Fenway Park and boasts plenty of restaurants and bars. Cultural landmarks that are definitely worth a visit include the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Symphony Halls. It's hard to find a spot in Boston with more buzz than Fenway/ Kenmore, especially during baseball season which makes it a great place to socialize.

MEDIAN RENTS IN FENWAY/KENMORE

\$2,400

1 Bedroom

Easy access to transit



WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT FENWAY/KENMORE

\$2,000

Studio

Review by BUMC Student

BURBANK APTS

Lively

2 Bedroom

Such a great location near Northeastern and Berklee. So many food/ bar options and always lively at night which makes it a safer location for young professionals/ students.

Review by BUMC Student

COMMONWEALTH

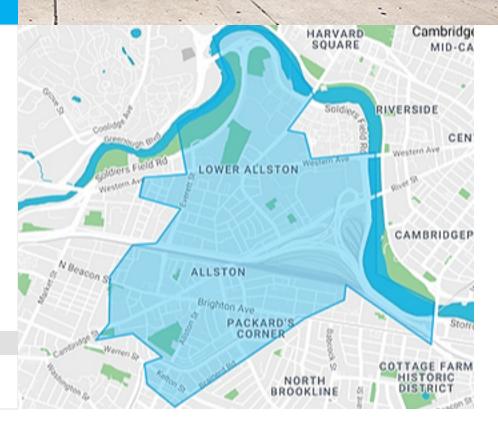
Very secure, safe place and you have accessibility to whatever you need. Pretty social area.



ABOUT ALLSTON

Filled with hip and trendy shops, Allston has become a popular spot for BU Questrom students. Many students choose to live here due to the convenient location to campus. The Charles River Reservation is a great state park situated along a river. The park offers running, walking, and even skating with unbeatable views. Like many areas of Boston, the restaurant and bar scene is great in Allston.





WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT ALLSTON

Review by BUMC Student Q 1277 COMMONWEALTH

I really like living in Allston! It's a little far from BUSPH but the neighborhood has so many fun restaurants and bars, plus it's close to the main BU campus which is nice for the FitRec and other amenities.

Review by BUMC Student ♀ 1384 COMMONWEALTH

Very student-oriented neighborhood, which means weekends can be noisy. The commute to the medical campus is about 45-50 minutes, but saving on rent makes it worth it for me.

Dorchester

-

Boston's Largest Neighborhood

ABOUT DORCHESTER

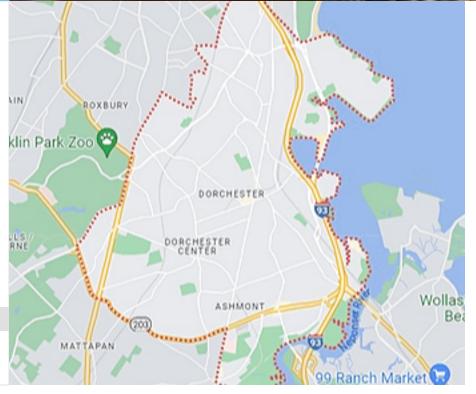
Dorchester is one of Boston's largest neighborhoods. The Neponset River Reservation is a popular location for enjoying the outdoors. It is also home to Franklin Park, a large section of Boston's Emerald Necklace, with a golf course, 500 acres of green space, and a zoo. Dorchester also has plenty of restaurants and bars to choose from.

Water-front Cheaper Rent Parks MEDIAN RENTS IN DORCHESTER

> \$**2,160** 1 Bedroom

\$2,025 Studio





WHAT RESIDENTS THINK ABOUT DORCHESTER

Review by **BUMC Student**

? The Andi

Close to grocery store and shopping don't need a car the bus takes you right to school. Not too far is Mass Ave but you never see that by the apartment.

Review by **BUMC Student**

? THE ANDI

Pretty nice area. Convenient to have shops and grocery nearby but can feel a little unsafe at times.

APARTMENT RATINGS

VeryApt

KEY

••

•

- Excellent for a category ...
- ••• Great
 - Average
 - Below average

- \$\$\$\$ \$2300+ per renter
- \$\$\$ \$2000-\$2299
- \$\$ \$1700-\$1999
- \$ < \$1700

* Prices subject to change and may vary significantly by room type

	/	J. Po		, 8	ular (ets	^a miliec	ent '			/ ,
	Loopert	Rollin	Price D	Mor. No.	Beer Popular	Beer Pets	Man Families	Ame.	Values	Socie	Safer.
1163-1191 Boylston Street Apartments	Apt	7.0	\$\$\$				••	•	••	•	••
14 Buswell	Apt	8.4	\$\$	~			•••	••	••••	••••	••••
14 E Springfield St	Apt	8.0	\$\$		~	~	••	•••	•••	•••	••
10 Intervale St	Apt	7.0	\$\$\$				•••	••	••	••	••
219 Harvard St	Apt	8.0	\$\$\$\$				••	••	•	••	••
345 Harrison	Apt	9.7	\$\$		~	~	••••	••••	•	••••	••••
580 Commonwealth Avenue	Apt	8.3	\$	~			•••	•••	••••	••	•••
601 Albany Street	Apt	6.0	\$\$				••	•	•	•	••
Babock Tower	Apt	6.0	\$\$				••	•	•••	•••	••
Beach House Apartments	Apt	9.0	\$\$\$\$				••••	••••	•••	••••	••••
Burbank Apartments	Apt	9.2	\$\$\$				••••	••	••••	•	••
Camelot Court	Apt	9.6	\$\$				•••	•••	•••	•	•••
Girard	Apt	8.0	\$\$\$\$				••	•••	••	•	••••
Greenhouse Apartments	Apt	8.9	\$\$\$\$				•••	•••	••••	••••	••••
Halstead Malden Square	Apt	6.0	\$\$				••	•	•	•	••
Hanover North Cambridge	Apt	8.0	\$\$\$			~	•••	••••	•	••	••••
Harbor Point on the Bay Apartments	Apt	7.0	\$	~	~		••	••	••	•••	••
Highlands at Faxon Woods	Apt	9.0	\$				•••	•••	••••	•••	••••
Hub25	Apt	9.9	\$\$\$				••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
Ink Block	Apt	8.0	\$\$\$\$				•••	•••	••	•••	••••

** Buildings with fewer than 3 reviews or ratings below 7.0 are not listed in this guide but reviews can be found online at VeryApt.com. *** Some buildings with fewer than 3 reviews are included above because of high ratings but do not appear in the top 10 lists.

V	'ery	A	pt
	· · · ·		-

APARTMENT RATINGS

RATINGS		, Troe		200	pular	Pets	Man for Families	ment	es.	/ /	
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James Court	Apt	7.8	\$\$\$\$	~		ĺ	••	••	••	•••	•••
James and Harrison Court Apartments	Apt	8.0	\$\$\$\$				•••	••	•••	••	•••
Medical Student Residence	Apt	7.0	\$\$				••	••	••	••	••
Ocean 650 Apartments	Apt	7.0	\$				••	•	•••	•••	••
Parkside Commons	Apt	7.8	\$			~	••	••	•••	••	••
Piano Craft Guild	Apt	9.0	\$\$			~	••	•••	•••	•••	•••
Port 45	Condo	9.7	\$\$		~		••••	••••	•	•	•••
Rumney Flats	Apt	9.0	\$				••	••	••••	••	••
The Abby	Apt	9.5	\$\$\$		~		••••	••••	••••	••••	•••
The Andi	Apt	8.6	\$\$				••••	••••	••••	••••	••
The Atrium	Condo	6.6	\$\$				••	•	••	••	••
The Cara	Apt	9.0	\$\$\$				••••	••••	••	••••	••
The Peninsula	Apt	9.0	\$\$\$				••	••	•	••	••
The Point @ 180	Apt	6.0	\$\$\$				••	•	•	••	••
The Smith	Apt	9.4	\$\$\$\$	~			••••	•••	••	•••	•••
Ttoren Flats	Apt	6.0	\$\$				••	•	•	••••	•••
Walden Park Apartments	Apt	9.0	\$\$\$\$				•••	••••	•••	•	••

ABOUT OUR CATEGORIES

Property Type

Apartment (Apt)	Properties with one building manager. Often have consistent pricing/features.
Condo	Properties with multiple owners. Lease terms and features can vary significantly by unit.

Key Building Factor Ratings

Overall Rating	Overall feedback on building quality.
Popularity	Estimated # of students in the building.

Living Situation Ratings

Families	
Pet Owners	

How students with partners and/or children rated the building. How students with pets rated the building.

Building Quality Ratings

Management	Maintenance and service quality.
Amenities	In-room and building features beyond the basics.
Value	Building quality given cost of rent.
Social	Building community and social scene.
Safety	Building neighborhood safety.

VeryApt

MOST POPULAR

Buildings with the most BUMC students

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What students typically look for:



- Excellent location
 - Reasonably-priced apartments
 - Solid amenities



TOP 5





Review by **BU Dental Student**

"A good place to live for a family with kids; not the best school system but super close and makes everything easier. The kids are happy with the green spaces and happy with their school. I requested a washer and dryer in the apartment. This is why my rent is a bit high. It is about 2.5 miles away from BUMC, which makes transportation convenient. I go by my car, but you can take the number 8 bus, which has multiple bus stops just outside the property. Maintenance is great. Management can be uptight. Overall, good for the two years I'm spending in Boston."



Review by BU Grad Medical Sciences Student

"Since it's part of BU Housing, it's more budget-friendly and slightly less stressful as it is already furnished for the most part. Location is also great. Only con is that there are other unoccupied buildings behind the apartment complex, so they block any natural light from coming into the rooms in the lower floors."



Review by *BU Grad Medical Sciences Student* "Cant beat the location, expensive but worth for first year while getting footing of town"

Ve<mark>ry</mark>Apt

HIGHEST RATED

Buildings with the best overall ratings

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

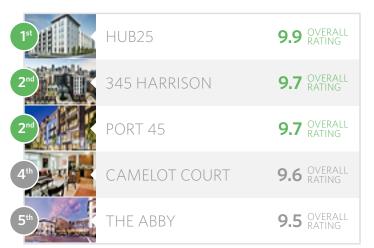
What the highest-rated properties typically offer:

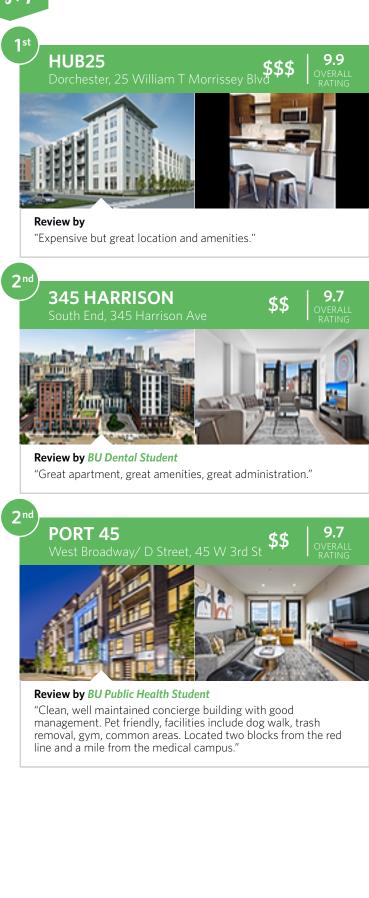


- High-end amenities
- Close proximity to work/ school
- Nearby stores/grocery
- Excellent management



TOP 5





BEST FOR AMENITIES

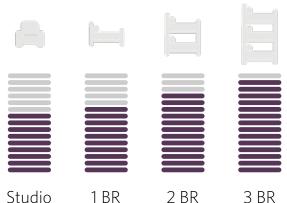
Highest-rated properties for amenities

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What top amenity properties typically offer:



- Great common spaces
- Convenient location
- Excellent management
- Newer construction



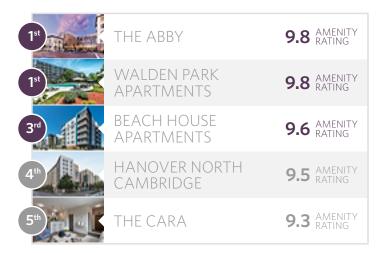
\$2,400

\$1,875



3 BR \$2,875 \$3,650

TOP 5





Review by BU Grad Medical Sciences Student

VeruAp

"The Abby is only a 12-15 minute drive or 30 minute T and bus ride to the medical campus. The red line and Target is located right on site which is very convenient. They have great amenities including a state of the art fitness facility, conference/study rooms, solarium, courtyard with grills, and pool deck. It's pet friendly as well!"



Review by BU Grad Medical Sciences Student

"This place comes with an unheated outdoor pool, gym, pay laundry in the basement, tiny elevator, and card access main entrance. The neighborhood has parks, a blue bike station nearby, and zipcars in the parking lot. It's a 20 minute walk to the T and no busses come down this street so the commute can be tough at times. If you own a car, parking is reasonably affordable. If you can commute here I recommend it."



Review by BU Public Health Student

"While this property is expensive, if you don't want to live in the city center it's a great option. It is right in the beach, the management is amazing and helpful, and the other residents love doing things together and getting to know each other. The gym is also really nice so you won't need to pay for a membership"

VeryApt

BEST FOR VALUE

Highest-rated properties for value

READ MORE REVIEWS AT VERYAPT.COM

What top value properties typically offer:



- Great price-to-space trade off
- Good location
- Solid amenities and basic features



TOP 5



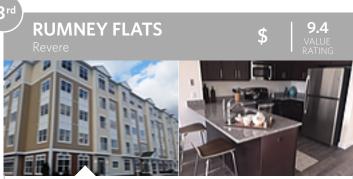


Review by BU Dental Student

"Very peaceful and pretty building in Quincy . More affordable and decent enough size compared to apartments in the city. Good amenities. Commute take 20 mins in the subway and a short 5 min bus ride to school."



Review by *BU Dental Student* "Cheap housing rental (for Boston) in a great location. Can't really expect much (in terms of amenities) at the price you're paying."



Review by

"A bit further from campus but definitely a cheaper option than those in the city. I really like the apartment."

Brownstones

Smaller properties and how to find them

ABOUT BROWNSTONES

Brownstones are apartments in older buildings, typically a few stories tall. They usually do not have a doorman, an elevator, or many amenities, but can be cheaper and more spacious than the apartment and condo units in high-rises.

WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A BROWNSTONE

	CHEAPER	LARGER	FLOOR PLANS	
	3+ BEDROOMS AVA	ILABLE	MORE PRIVA	CY
W	'HY YOU MAY WAN	IT TO AVO	DID A BROWNS	TONE
	NO DOORMAN	LESS CON	IVENIENT LOCATI	ONS
	OLDER CONSTRUCTI	ON	LIMITED AMENIT	IES

MORE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Finding a brownstone

Brownstones can be challenging to find because they tend to be individually owned and do not have full time leasing managers. Brownstone listings are typically available ~60 days in advance. You can find a brownstone by searching online listings, contacting a landlord directly, or by working with VeryApt's Concierge Team who can help identify some options.

Preparing for a brownstone search

Most BUMC students opt for larger properties in order to live closer to other students and simplify the housing search. That said, there are plenty of wonderful brownstones - be prepared to visit more properties to find that perfect home, carefully examine the pros/cons, and move quickly if you find a unit you love.



Reliable Landlords

Check online reviews and talk to previous tenants to find out about your landlord. Look for one that responds quickly to maintenance requests and has a history of returning deposits.

TIPS AND ADVICE



Noise and Neighbors

Sounds often travel well through brownstones and you can easily be disturbed by barking dogs, music, or construction. Check out the surrounding area to get a sense for what it may be like.

= 4.
=

Lease Terms

Leases with independent landlords are negotiable. Check your lease for restrictions on sub-letters and visitor policies. You may be able to avoid a rent increase by locking in a longer lease. **VeryApt**

LANDLORD GRADES and the Renting Process

GRADE	LANDLORD
B+	Corcoran Jennison Management Company
A-	Corcoran Management Company
A	Equity Residential
A+	First Realty Management
A-	Fulton Properties
A+	Gables Residential
A-	National Development
A+	Northland Investment Corporation
A-	Shoreline Corporation
A-	The Dolben Company
В	Winn Companies

Landlord Grades

Grades were assigned to landlords by using a combination of management ratings and overall ratings for the properties they manage.

Understanding THE RENTING PROCESS

If this is your first time renting, here is a heads up on what the process is like:

Application process

You will be asked to **fill out an application** for an apartment. Likely this will include an **application fee (\$30-50)** and potentially a deposit (up to one month's rent). If you're an international student, you **may have to provide alternate information** - in the absence of a social security number, bank accounts, etc., often landlords will accept your visa documents and acceptance letter. Landlords will use your information to approve you based only on your credit history and income. In the event where there are issues, a landlord may grant the application on the condition that a guarantor cosigns the lease.

After you're approved

A landlord will often ask for a **security deposit** and **prepaid rent**. A landlord typically charges up to two months' rent as a security deposit and will ask for up to two months in prepaid rent. Anything beyond this is more than normal. At the end of your lease and after you **give proper notification that you are moving out** (typically 60-90 days), the **landlord has 30 days to return the security deposit at the end of the lease**. The landlord may not return the deposit in full if there are claimed damages to the property or other charges outstanding.

What to look out for

Check for additional charges or obligations that could cost you more than the listed price of a property. This could include move-in/move-out fees, renters insurance requirements, condo fees, common electrical fees, etc. Definitely ask about what previous electrical/utility bills have been to get a feel for any additional monthly costs there may be. Be sure to research the landlord and management company before placing any sort of deposit. If you have any specific questions, feel free to reach out to us at contact@veryapt.com.

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