



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 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

Off-Campus Services
offcampus.bu.edu

City of Boston
cityofboston.gov

Commuter Services
bumc.bu.edu/parking/

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: \$3000-\$4000
1 Bed: \$3300-\$4500
2 Bed: \$3600-\$5500
3 Bed: \$4000-\$6200
- Expensive
Studios: \$2400-\$3400
1 Bed: \$2600-\$3800
2 Bed: \$3200-\$5000
3 Bed: \$3800-\$5500
- Moderate
Studios: \$2000-\$2900
1 Bed: \$2200-\$3200
2 Bed: \$2800-\$3600
3 Bed: \$3200-\$3800

- Inexpensive (for Boston)
Studios: \$1400-\$2400
1 Bed: \$1700-\$2200
2 Bed: \$1800-\$2700
3 Bed: \$2500-\$3100

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. Begin contacting potential roommates. Schedule a visit to Boston.

2-3 months before move-

in: Visit Boston (if possible). Meet your potential roommate. Using the Housing Resources available to you, search for an apartment. View apartments. Put in 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 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



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Getting Around Boston

Public Transportation Close to BUMC

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

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

Buses: #1, #8, #10, #47, 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: bu.edu/thebus a free shuttle that travels between the BUMC and Charles River campus. **Free Evening Shuttle:** Monday through Friday 5pm-midnight

Bicycle Cages/Racks on campus and a bike sharing system, Blue Bikes bluebikes.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 Roommate Finder offcampus.bu.edu BU login and password required to access roommate listings.

Your BUMC Class Accepted Students **Facebook** page.

Finding Housing

BU Resources

- 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 617-358-6550 or ohr@bu.edu.
- BU Off-Campus Services offcampus.bu.edu, is the apartment and roommate database with listings throughout the Greater Boston area.
- BU Housing bu.edu/housing/graduate-housing
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 617-353-3511.
- 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

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.