DATE: October 2015
TO: Entering Graduate Students
FROM: Karen Rodi, Master's Program Administrator
RE: Housing/Peer Information

As a service to the incoming class, and especially for our international students, the Department has in place a Housing/Peer Coordinator. The Housing/Peer Coordinator for this year is a fellow graduate student, Lee Tucker. Lee will maintain a listing of current students in our department who are seeking roommates. Please understand that this information is offered simply as a courtesy. Neither the departmental staff nor the Housing Coordinator assumes responsibility for any match ups. Nonetheless, we still recommend this service as a housing option.

An additional resource for learning about housing in Boston is your **peer advisor**. A peer advisor is available to all international students. It is not the responsibility of your peer advisor to find your housing. Rather, your peer advisor may be used as a resource in your search. This includes becoming acquainted with the "rules" of landlords, using effective search techniques, learning about local neighborhoods (especially for those of you coming to Boston with your families), learning housing abbreviations, etc. Should you like to request a peer advisor, please notify Lee. You may visit his website at: http://leetucker.net/peeradvising.php

University resources for your housing include:

1. Office of Rental Property Management: Located at 19 Deerfield Street, 1st floor. http://www.bu.edu/orpm/   617-353-4101. Contact this office if you wish to live in on-campus housing (very limited!).

2. Off-Campus Housing Office: Located in the 19 Deerfield Street, 3rd floor. Tel: 617-353-3523 or Fax #: 617-358-5365 or web site: http://www.bu.edu/offcampus/   Listings are taken for apartment, houses, or roommates. This information is available to any BU student. You must present your BU ID to gain access of the information. This office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Incoming students will receive an "early bird" access code after you have accepted the offer of admission. This code will permit you to view sites for which an ID number is required.

3. The ISSO has additional housing information at: http://www.bu.edu/isso/getting-started/living-in-boston/housing/

Boston is home to many universities, so housing competition is intense. Most schools open in September, and new and returning students flood the market. The biggest competition for housing starts in early May. There are several issues to consider before you arrive.

4. Most landlords require some assurance that students will not be forced to default on their leases. The most common requirement is that students have someone co-sign their lease. The co-signer, usually a parent or guardian, essentially agrees to assume responsibility for making the rent payment in the event the student is unable to make the payments. For most international students, obtaining a co-signer is extremely difficult. The alternative for many is to bring copies of sponsorship papers which indicate the amount of financial support to be received, or a bank statement which shows sufficient funds to cover expenses for the year. Without documentation of your ability to pay or a co-signer, you may experience some difficulty in obtaining a lease. Learn more about your rights as a tenant at http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/consumer-rights-and-resources/housing/tenant-and-landlord/

5. Several graduate students have suggested that those new graduate students who are bringing their families, especially those with small children, may want to consider arriving in Boston one to two weeks ahead of their families in order to make arrangement for housing before their families arrive. This is often a very hectic time and the additional expense for temporary housing for an entire family is often high.

Finally, good luck in securing your housing.