



The University Service
Center's

First Gen Connect Newsletter

March 2016

Room Selection Tips

Deciding where to live next year might seem like a difficult process, but by planning ahead and using the right tools, you can manage your stress and find the right fit. Start with these tips:

1. Plan Ahead: By this point, you have already submitted your Residence License Agreement and housing guarantee payment. Next, decide whether you want to live alone, with one person, or with multiple people. Consider who you would be successful living with and have a conversation with them early on. Planning ahead ensures that you are not caught off guard and that you have plenty of options.

2. Decide on Style and Location: BU offers [apartments, suites, and dorms](#). Consider what type of environment works for you. Think about location as well. Each location has different benefits and is better suited for different people. You may need to compromise on some aspect of the room, so it is necessary to decide what is most important to you.

3. Consider all Factors: In addition to style and location, there are other factors to consider. Make sure to [compare costs](#) as not all residences are the same price. If you are living in a dorm you will also need to purchase a dining plan. In an apartment, you will need to factor in a grocery budget. If you have your own bathroom, you will have increased privacy, but you will also be responsible for cleaning it. You may also want to think about what else you will need to buy to live in an apartment (dishes, pots, etc.)

If you are living in an apartment, whether on or off-campus, consider an [apartment meal plan](#) to reduce the stress of cooking and meal plan costs.

The Harriet E. Richards (HER) House provides reduced cost housing for full time undergraduate females who demonstrate financial need and are interested in cooperative living. Find out more at www.her-house.org

4. Research: Once you have decided what is ideal for you, research the specific residences and compile a “wish list”. The Housing Office provides the [floor plans](#) for every residence on campus listed.

5. Have Backups: Your first—and even second—choice may not be available. Make sure your wish list has plenty of options and that you order them according to your desires. You cannot pull up floor plans during your appointment, so write down notes that will help you remember what you like about each place on your list. Having a well-prepared and thorough list will ensure that your appointment is easy and efficient.

Off-Campus Housing

If you are moving off-campus, there are some additional details to consider, so make sure you shop around and do your research. Check out BU Off-Campus Services' [website](#) for off-campus listings, resources, and information to help you navigate the process.

1. Transportation and Location: When looking at apartments, think about how you are going to get to campus and how long it will take you to do so, as well as how much money you will be spending on transportation each month. Consider what amenities your building has such as laundry and security as well as what other things are nearby, such as grocery stores.

2. Extra Costs: Make sure you know whether the listed price includes utilities

(heat, water, electricity, internet, etc.) If it doesn't, find out how much these things may cost you monthly and add that price to the monthly rent. Most places require that you pay the first and last months' rent and a security deposit upon agreement. Consider all of these factors when shopping around and make sure that you know what you are paying for and how much it will cost in the end.

3. Year Round Living: Most apartments require 1-year leases. This means you must pay rent even if you aren't in Boston for the summer. Consider your future plans and how they will fit into your lease. Check to see if your landlord permits subletting over the summer.

Upcoming Dates

- March 5-13: Spring Recess
- March 15: Fall Semester [Study Abroad Application](#) Deadline
- March 23rd at 5:30: [Career Directions](#) Workshop
- March 24th at 5:30: [Job Search 101](#)
- April 1: Last Day to Drop Standard Course (with a “W” grade)



Spotlight

Check out our [March Spotlight](#) - Christopher Sanchez (CAS '17)



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Have a question or problem? Contact us!
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Visit our [website](#) for events and workshops happening this academic year!