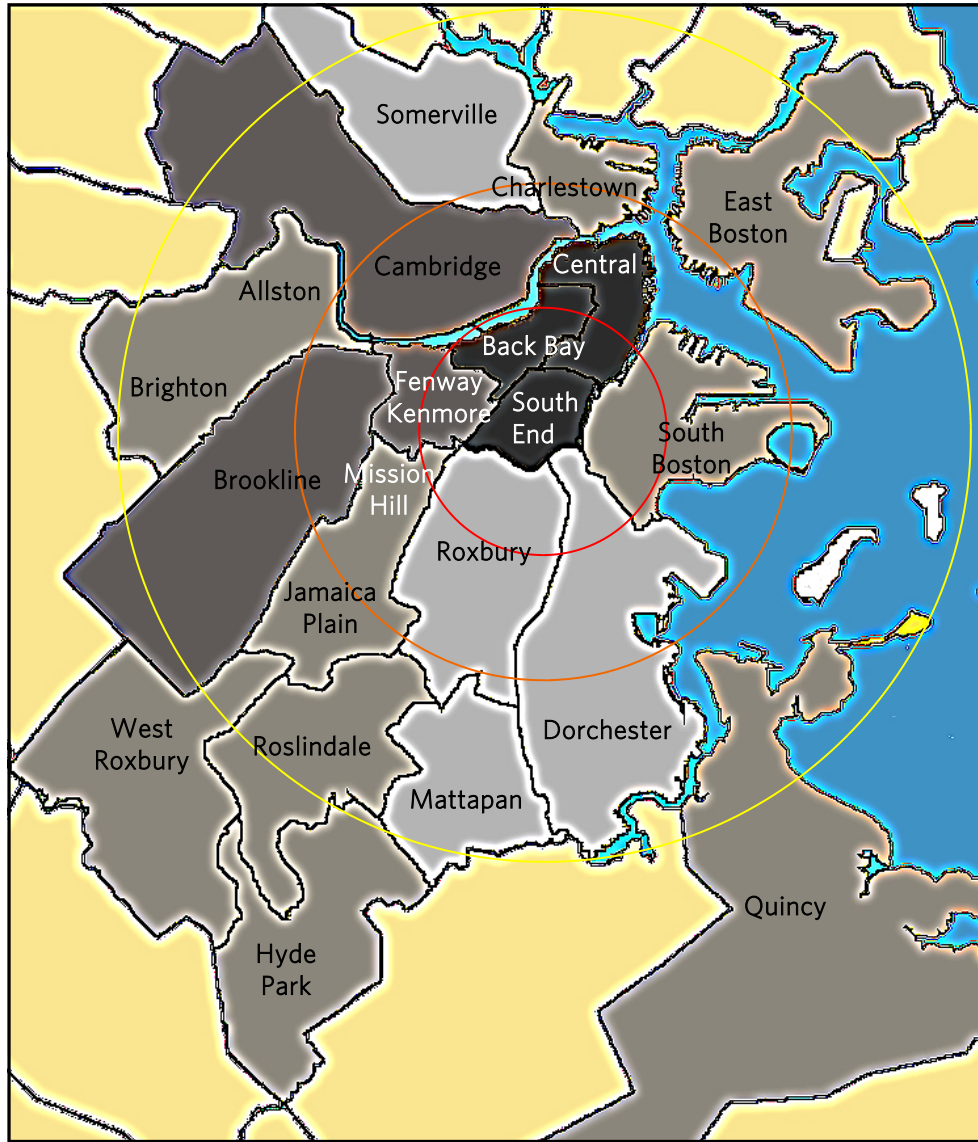


BU Medical Campus  
 Office of Housing Resources  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr)  
 72 East Concord Street, 406A  
 Boston, MA 02118  
 617-638-5125  
[ohr@bu.edu](mailto:ohr@bu.edu)  
 IM screenname: OHRatBU



# Boston Housing Reference Sheet

Map of Boston and neighborhoods



## Basic Boston Housing

### Traits:

- Boston is an old city*, and our housing is old too. Many apartments do not have elevators, central air conditioning, or laundry in-building.
- Boston is an expensive city*, and many of the apartments students look at will be too pricey to afford alone. Finding roommates is key.
- Boston is full of college students*, which means that most apartments open up during the summer and most leases start on September 1 to match the academic year.

Students are *strongly* encouraged to come to Boston to view apartments before renting them. Some landlords will not rent to tenants who have not seen the apartment.

### Good Links to have:

Office of Housing Resources  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr)

TranSComm  
[www.transcomm.org](http://www.transcomm.org)

City of Boston webpage  
[www.cityofboston.gov](http://www.cityofboston.gov)

Student Financial Services  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/osfs](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/osfs)

### Popular Neighborhoods

- The South End**  
*Home of the BUMC, closest to campus. About 25% of BUMC student population lives here.*
- Fenway/Kenmore**  
*Location of the Charles-River Campus, easy to access from BU Shuttle. About 15% of BUMC students live there.*
- Allston/Brighton**  
*Not very convenient, but cheap and easy to find housing. About 5-7% of students live here.*
- Back Bay**  
*Fairly convenient, beautiful. Near 5% of students live here.*

### Price Ranges

- Very Expensive:**  
 Studios: \$1000-\$1500  
 1 Bed: \$1400-\$2000  
 2 Bed: \$1700-\$2500  
 3 Bed: \$2200-\$3200
- Expensive**  
 Studios: \$900-\$1300  
 1 Bed: \$1200-\$1600  
 2 Bed: \$1600-\$1900  
 3 Bed: \$1800-\$2600
- Moderate**  
 Studios: \$800-\$1200  
 1 Bed: \$1000-\$1500  
 2 Bed: \$1400-\$1800  
 3 Bed: \$1800-\$2400

- Inexpensive (for Boston!)**  
 Studios: \$700-\$1000  
 1 Bed: \$900-\$1200  
 2 Bed: \$1300-\$1600  
 3 Bed: \$1600-\$2200

### 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.

BU Medical Campus  
Office of Housing Resources  
[www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr)  
72 East Concord Street, 406A  
Boston, MA 02118  
617-638-5125  
[ohr@bu.edu](mailto:ohr@bu.edu)  
IM screenname: OHRatBU

## Search Timeline

**3-6 months before move-in:** Decide what your housing budget will be, and where in Boston you want to live. Decide what furniture you need and start getting it.

**2 months before move-in:** Put together list of potential apartments from listing resources and contact all of them.

**1-2 months before move-in:** Evaluate the apartments on your list and decide which one is the best fit for you. Reserve a truck for moving day.

**3 weeks before move-in:** Put in an application for the apartment you want. Apply for a parking permit from the city.

**2 weeks before move-in:** Sign a lease for your new apartment, notify the post-office about your change of address.

**1 week before move-in:** Double-check your 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.

**After moving in:** Get an apartment condition form from your landlord. Contact local city hall to get information on voting, trash days, and recycling.



# Boston Housing Reference Sheet

## Getting Around Boston

**Public Transportation Close to the BUMC**  
Most students get around Boston using public transportation. The MBTA is Boston's public transit agency.

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

*Buses:* #1, #8, #10, #47, CT1, CT3 (Newton and Concord Streets, Mass. Ave).  
Silver Line (on Washington Street)

## Other Transportation Sources

*The BU Shuttle:* ([www.bu.edu/thebus](http://www.bu.edu/thebus)) is a free BU bus that travels between the BUMC and the Charles-River campus. It stops at Albany Street on the hour and half-hour.

*Bicycle Cages:* there are 3 bicycle cages on campus for cyclists and several racks, too.

*Taxis:* are plentiful on Washington and Tremont, especially in the evening.

## 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

BU Roommate-Matching Database

[www.bu.edu/offcampus](http://www.bu.edu/offcampus)\*

\*requires as password, contact the OHR.

Craig's List

[www.boston.craigslist.org/roo/](http://www.boston.craigslist.org/roo/)

Boston Roommates

[www.bostonroommates.com](http://www.bostonroommates.com)

Student Doctor

[www.studentdoctor.net](http://www.studentdoctor.net)

## How to Find Housing

### BU Resources

1. OHR's weekly housing listings:  
*Each week, the OHR sends out a newsletter of housing options across the city. Students can contact the OHR to get our newsletter any time. ([www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr](http://www.bumc.bu.edu/ohr)).*

2. Off-Campus Services  
*Located on the Charles River Campus, Off-Campus Services ([www.bu.edu/offcampus](http://www.bu.edu/offcampus)) hosts the BU apartment database and a number of listings in the Kenmore/Fenway area.*

3. Office of Rental Property Management  
*Rental Property Management (ORPM) is BU's in-house property management office. Students who want to live in housing that is owned by BU should contact ORPM at 617-353-4101. Space is limited.*

### Online Resources

1. Craig's List ([www.boston.craigslist.org](http://www.boston.craigslist.org))  
*Craig's List is the largest online apartment-hunting tool in Boston. Students can search it to find open apartments, roommate-situations, short-term housing, even furniture. The OHR has a quick tutorial on its website that students can use to learn more about Craig's List.*

2. BostonApartments.com  
*Another great online search tool, although most of the apartments are listed by realtors, who usually charge a fee. The 'no fee' section of the listings are very useful.*

3. OnMarketBoston.com  
*A newer website with a very clean, easy-to-use layout. Offers the opportunity to search for no-fee listings by neighborhood.*

### Realtors

For students who are short on time, or who have very specific criteria for their housing, using a realtor is a good option. Realtors can show a student a couple of different apartments in one appointment, and may know a lot about the neighborhood where they work. Most realtors in Boston charge a **realtor fee** or commission, which can be up to one month's rent, for finding their clients an apartment.

Atlantic Properties—South End  
[www.atlanticpropertiesonline.com](http://www.atlanticpropertiesonline.com)  
Gibson Sotheby's—South End, Back Bay  
[www.gibsondomaindomain.com](http://www.gibsondomaindomain.com)  
Chestnut Hill Realty—Allston/Brighton  
[www.chestnuthillrealty.com](http://www.chestnuthillrealty.com)  
Kunevich and Lau Realty—Fenway area  
[www.knrealty.com](http://www.knrealty.com)