

Living in Boston Neighborhoods

Allston (Boston)

[Allston](#) stands out for those that want access to good nightlife while also being close to public transit and campus. The neighborhood offers most of what you need near school, including grocery stores and restaurants. Its busy commercial area at the western edge of BU's campus offers diverse dining options, stores, and nightclubs. Housing options range from brick apartment buildings along Commonwealth Avenue to triple-deckers closer to Brighton. Many undergraduates, as well as graduate students, live in Allston.

Brookline

[Brookline](#) is a family environment. Most BU community members live in the northernmost part of the town, where walking to campus is a solid option. You also value the proximity to the B, C, and D subway lines for commuting to campus and downtown Boston. Coolidge Corner is a popular area that features coffee shops, boutique stores, ethnic restaurants, and an art deco movie theatre. It also has many apartment rentals ranging from studios to six-bedroom units.

Fenway/Kenmore (Boston)

Fenway Park, where the Boston Red Sox play, is the defining landmark of this neighborhood that runs along the eastern side of BU's campus. Well-connected by the B, C, and D subway lines, it is easily accessible via public transportation. There are plenty of nearby stores, clubs, restaurants, and pharmacies, and housing options include brownstone townhouses, brick walk-ups, and multi-story apartment buildings. The [Fenway/Kenmore](#) neighborhood is comprised predominantly of students attending BU and other Boston colleges and universities.

Brighton (Boston)

[Brighton](#) offers affordable options for those looking for a quiet and green neighborhood who are also okay with being a bit farther away from the downtown scene. Located in the northwest section of Boston and about 20

minutes by bus or bike to the law school, Brighton features a number of parks and easy access to stores and restaurants. Housing options include numerous apartment units and individual houses for rent.

Harvard Square/Central Square (Cambridge)

This stretch of Cambridge extends from Harvard Yard to the Charles River with convenient access to the red line subway. Numerous nightclubs, restaurants, and stores line both sides of Massachusetts Avenue, the main thoroughfare through the city, and encompass [Harvard Square](#) and [Central Square](#). Apartments are available in high- and low-rise buildings, ranging from studios to three-bedroom units.

Porter Square (Cambridge/Somerville)

[Porter Square](#) encompasses sections of both Cambridge and neighboring Somerville. There is a Red Line subway stop in Porter Square, which is flanked by shopping centers, Asian bistros, and Lesley University's campus. Housing options range from apartment buildings to multi-family houses, and the neighborhood varies from tree-lined streets in Cambridge to more urban options in Somerville.

Beacon Hill (Boston)

The Massachusetts State House, Boston Common, and America's first African Meeting House are among the most famous landmarks in this historic downtown neighborhood. Charles Street, which is the neighborhood's main thoroughfare, features antique shops, eclectic boutiques, and restaurants. BU is only eight subway stops away from [Beacon Hill](#). Apartments and condos for rent in the neighborhood range from studios to three-bedroom units.

South End (Boston)

The [South End](#) is largely populated by a diverse blend of young professionals, families, and a vibrant gay and lesbian community. The neighborhood is characterized by Victorian brownstones, small businesses, nearly 30 parks, an array of restaurants, and a thriving arts community. The MBTA Silver line

runs through the South End. A number of the brownstones have been converted into apartments, ranging in size from one- to three-bedrooms.

Back Bay (Boston)

The [Back Bay](#) is most notable for its Victorian brownstone homes, but it also houses some of the city's tallest buildings. Its business district includes the Copley Square areas (with cultural landmarks such as the Boston Public Library and Trinity Church), and there are numerous restaurants and stores along Newbury Street. Housing rentals range from brownstones that have been converted into apartments to rental units in high-rise apartment buildings.

Davis Square (Somerville)

Located in the northwestern section of Somerville, [Davis Square](#) features a vibrant collection of retail, nightlife, and dining options, and hosts several arts-related festivals throughout the year. It's accessible by the MBTA Red Line and buses, but is still a considerable distance from BU's campus. The most common rental housing are multi-bedroom apartments in two- and three-family houses.