

MIMS Graduate Student Housing Survey Report - 2022



Created by IMSA

MIMS Graduate Housing Survey - 2022

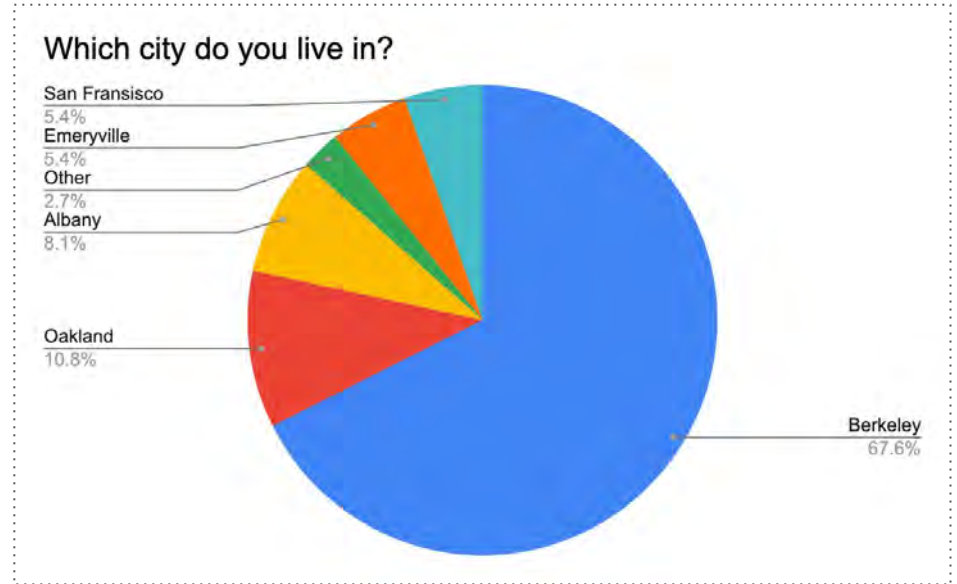
This deck was created for newly admitted MIMS students to help them with information about housing options. This survey was conducted among current MIMS students. Please use this with discretion and do not distribute. We hope this helps with your decision making process!

MIMS Graduate Housing Survey - 2022

- This deck contains info on some of the FAQs regarding housing among grad students currently in the MIMS program
- Responses from over 40% of current MIMS students collected anonymously have been summarized in this deck
- General trends, choices, likes, dislikes, and some useful tips for housing are available here
- This also contains links to most commonly used sites/platforms for housing searches and arrangements
- We hope this helps your decision making process a tad bit easier; if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your MIMS buddy.

Most students live in Berkeley

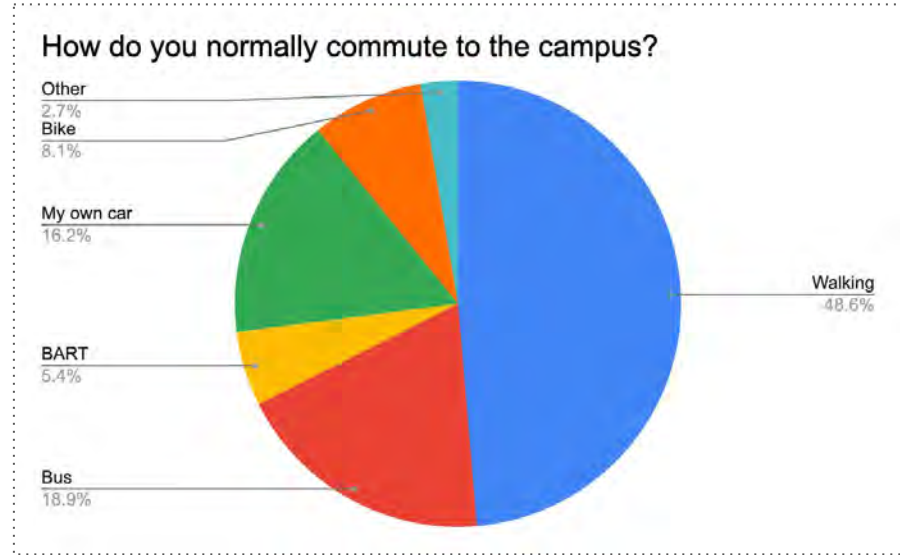
Most students live in **Berkeley** city, followed by **Oakland**, **Albany**, **San Francisco**, **Emeryville**, and the others



Commute to campus

Most students **walk** to campus. Some take public transport like **bus***, **BART****. Others also use personal transport like **bike**, and **car**

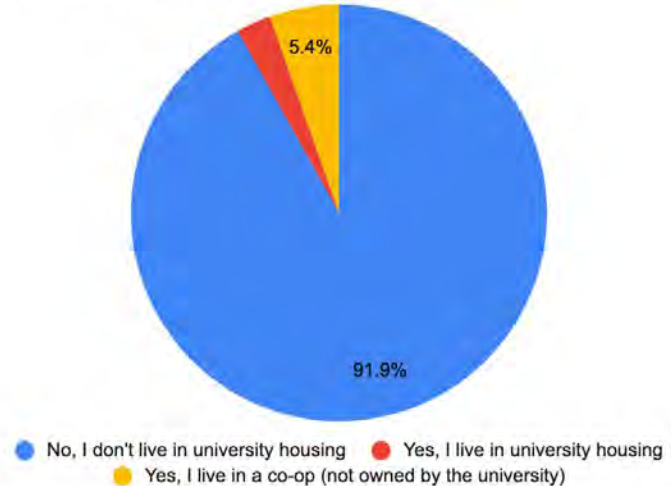
* *Buses like AC Transit and Campus Shuttle are free for UC Berkeley students*
** *Bay Area Rapid Transit - Transit Line*



Most students live “off campus”

- Most students live “**off-campus**” (not in university housing)
- For university housing options that are available for graduate students, please refer to the info [here](#)
- The International House (famously known as the I-House) is also a hit among students. More info can be found [here](#)

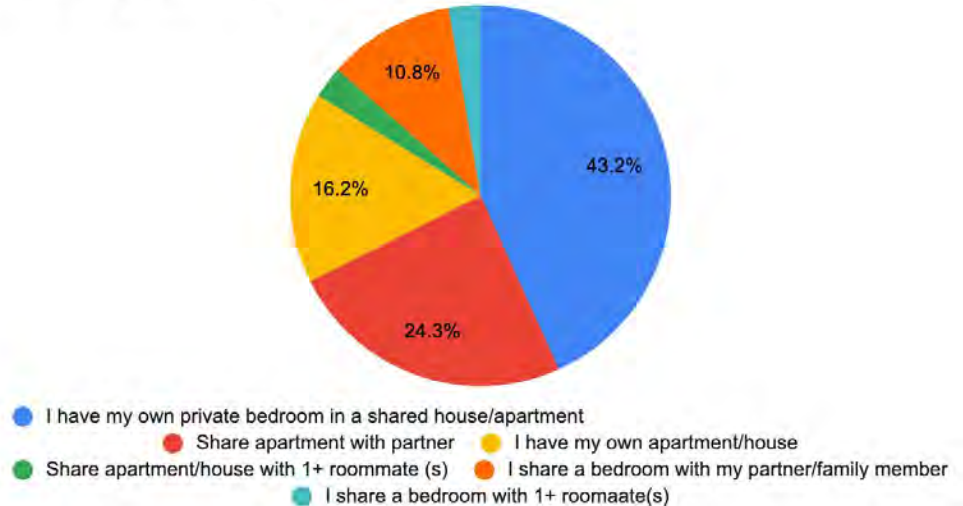
Do you live in student housing?



Most students have their own private bedroom

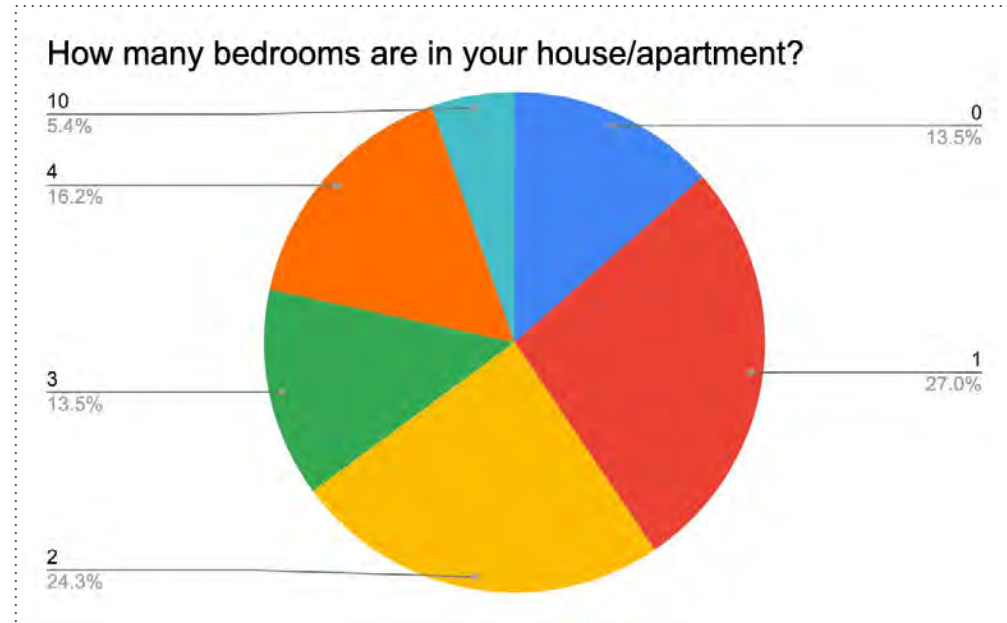
Most students have their **own private bedroom** in a shared house/apartment. Followed by folks who **share** the house/apartment **with a partner**

What's your living situation?



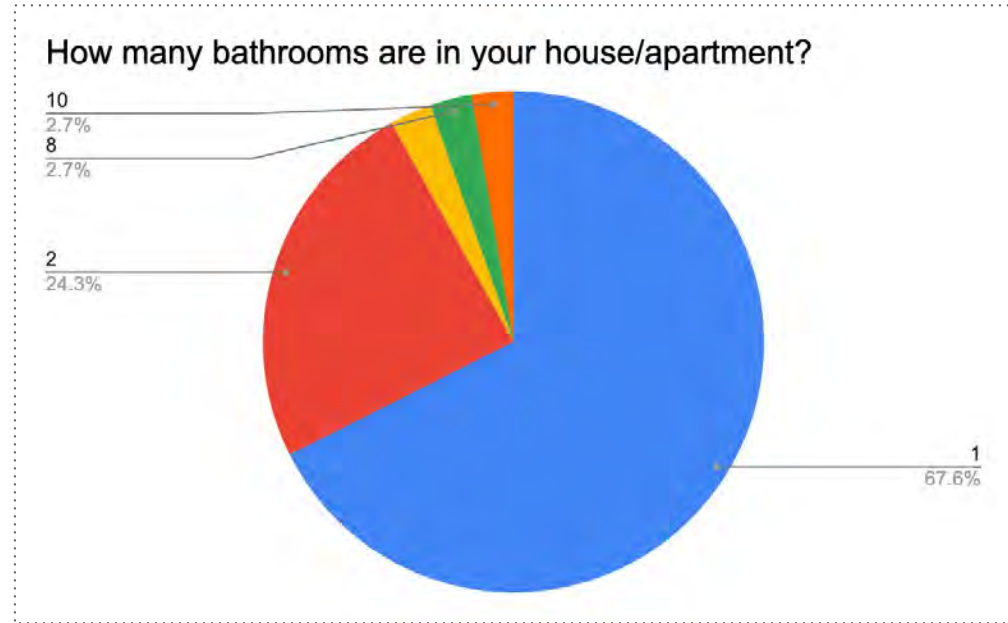
Most housing has 1-4 bedrooms

Most students live in housing that has **1-4 bedrooms**, and also **Studio** apartments



Shared bathrooms

Most housing has **1-3 bathrooms**,
most likely to be shared

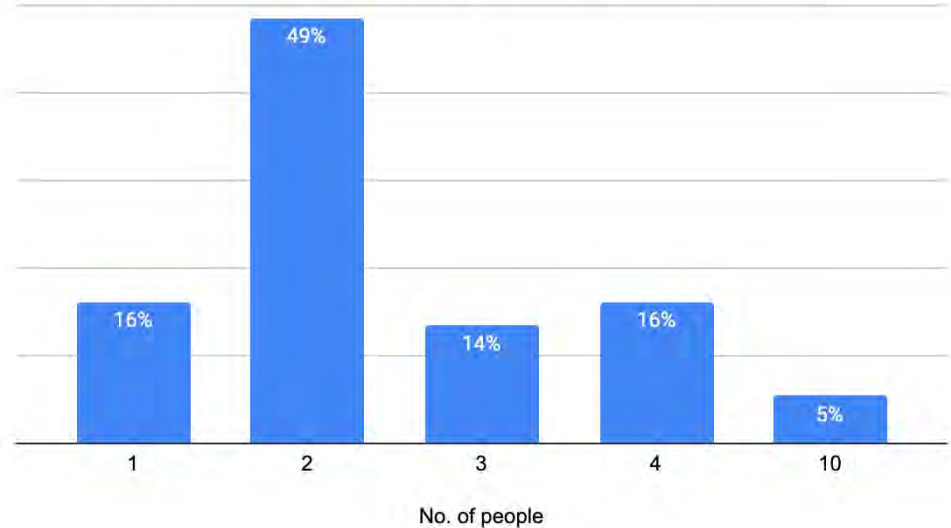


Shared housing

It's common for students to share housing with others

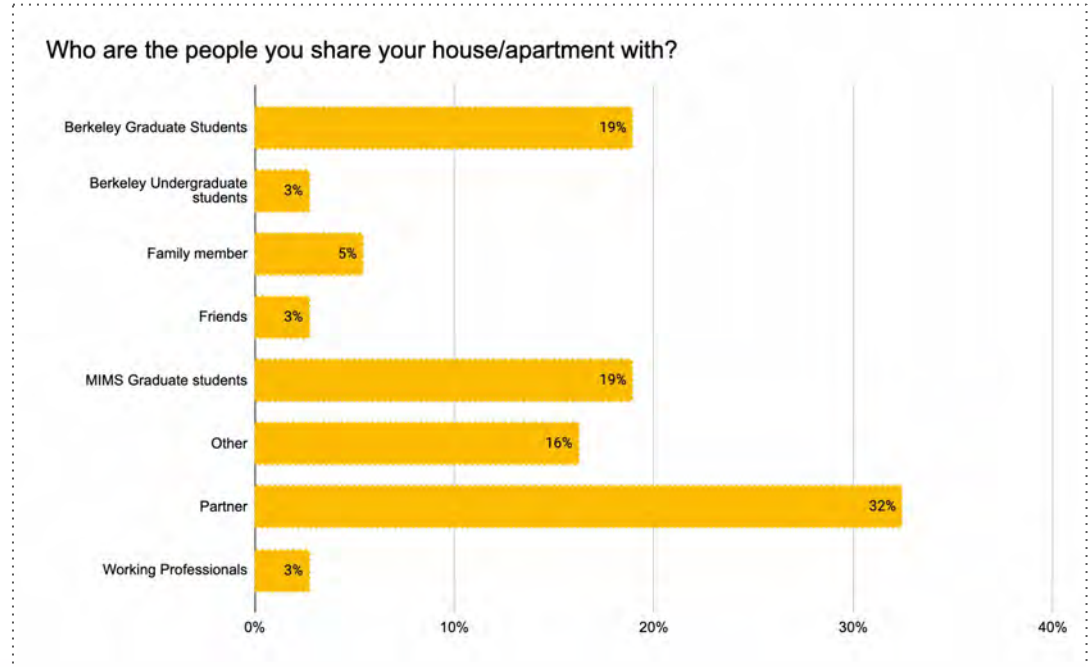
Most students **share** the housing with **1-3 people**

How many people (including you) live in your house/apartment?



Roommates

It's typical for students to live with their **partner** or with other Berkeley **graduate students** (from **MIMS** and **other programs**)

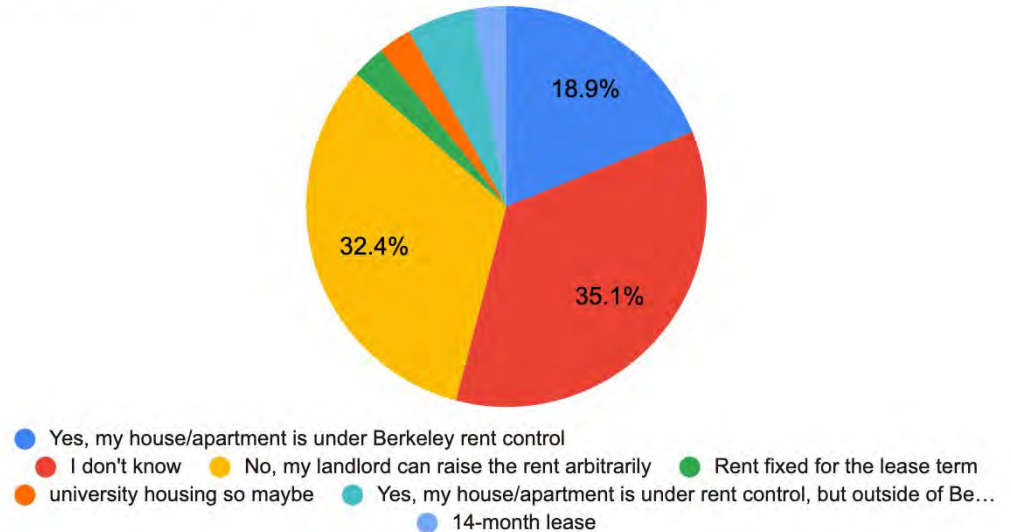


Rent

All students **rent** the housing they currently live in, and around 20% of them benefit from Berkeley rent control. Most of them either don't know if their housing comes under rent control, or their housing is **not on rent control***.

*[Rent control](#) is a broad term for legislation that limits rental rates in a city or state. Rent control laws vary by municipality, but they generally put a limit on annual rent increases and protect tenants from eviction without cause.

Is your house/apartment under rent control?



Rent

A student's typical share of rent in the house/apartment per month is in the **\$1000-\$2000** range

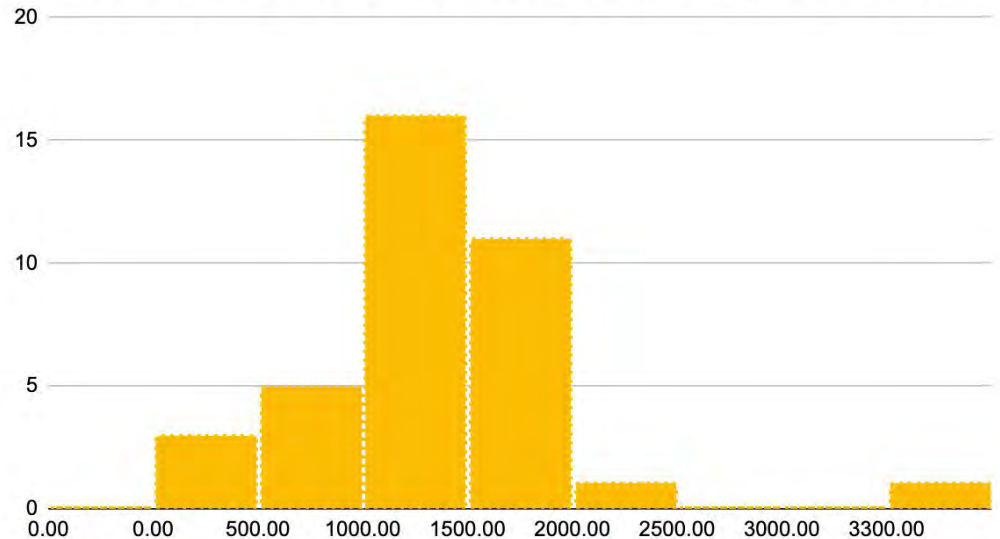
Trends for high share of rent:

- Lives in studio apartment or alone in 1bed/1ba
- Has largest private bedroom in a shared house/apartment

Trends for low share of rent:

- Lives farther away from campus, in smaller spaces
- Has shared bedroom/space
- Lives with partner and doesn't have to pay equal share (sometimes, \$0)
- Lives in old and/or rent-controlled buildings
- Utilities are taken care of by the owner

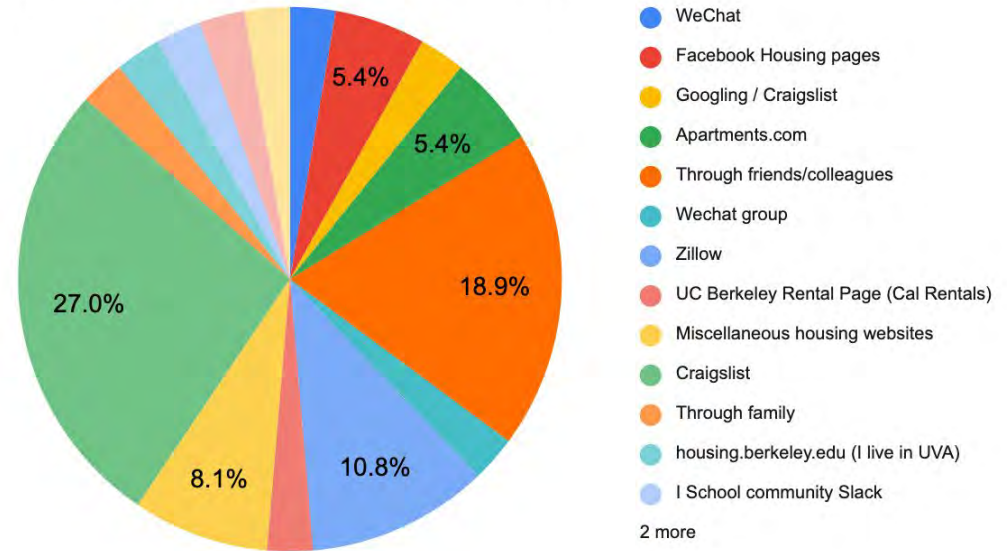
What is your share of rent of your house/apartment? (USD per mo)



Resources/where/how did you find your apartment?

Most students found their current housing through **Craigslist**, **Friends/Colleagues**, **Zillow**, **Facebook** and **other housing pages**. These are just a few common ways, there are many more.

How did you find your living situation?



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LIKES 

“Close to campus”

“It's near to the bus station but can also walk to campus (10 min).”

“Super close to campus - <10 minutes to South Hall”

“Proximity to campus”

“Nice apartment building amenities”

“Rent is comparatively lower”

“My bedroom is big and include a private bathroom.”

“It's close to campus”

“So close to campus - I can walk in 10 mins”

“Close to campus, safe area”

“Pleased with it”

“Proximity to campus, grocery stores, and parks”

“safety”

“quiet, meet other students”

“It is close to campus - I can walk to class within 10m and I am in a safe neighborhood”

“It's a real house with a backyard, and we are renting from a family (not a big property management company).”

“Very cheap, great community, close to campus, communal dinners”

“Location is close to campus, within walking distance, in a safe neighborhood (N. Berkeley)”

“It's in a nice neighborhood”

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LIKES 

“I don’t have other people around to distract me when I’m studying. Also, I can stay up / wake up as late / early as I want without feeling bad about disrupting roommates.”

“living with my partner, garden outside”

“living with my partner”

“Close to campus, safe neighborhood, responsive landlord”

“I enjoy being in the city!”

“quiet and safe”

“Close to transit, downtown SF, stadia”

“Having my own space convenient to campus, restaurants, and shops.”

“Backyard, common and private spaces are good”

“close to campus, nice apartment”

“Privacy, quiet, my own space, close to campus

“I like that I live in a quiet area with great amenities for my dog.”

“Good light, close to campus, within budget, spacious”

“Quiet, safe neighborhood, pet friendly”

“Community, facilities, food”

“Close to campus and my roommate is in MIMS”

“It's in a nice neighbourhood, it has a front yard and a backyard, and there is peace of mind. I kind of am happy that I am living with my partner.”

“Low Rent, Decent sized rooms”

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DISLIKES

“So expensive”

“Old building”

“Can be lonely if you don’t make an effort to socialize, especially if you don’t know people in the area.”

“high rent, berkeley locality”

“long commute”

“Nothing as such”

“Rent too high”

“I live on a very crowded / busy street - difficult to get some quiet time for sleep, studying, and zoom calls!”

“Not walkable from the campus”

“downtown berkeley is not that nice”

“Cost, older building, coin laundry”

“I dislike that it is so expensive and not many students live here.”

“poor energy efficiency, thin windows, furnace issues”

“far from campus”

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DISLIKES

“I have to share the laundry with other 8 households”

“The internet is super slow”

“It's a bit expensive but we were able to get 1 month free as graduate students”

“It's pretty far from campus, about 2.5 miles, which is fine because I can bike or take the bus and be there in about 20 minutes, but it would be too far to walk.”

“5 hours of required work shift per week, house can be messy/require maintenance (This is a co-op)”

“It's a bit expensive”

“high-ish rent”

“It's in South Berkeley, so a bit far from the college. But, bus and car are good to commute with.”

“small and far away”

“Commute far”

“not much to do in the area”

“Commute is just under hour”

“No Living room, old apartment”

“My place is reasonable for a studio because it doesn't get direct sunlight.”

“If you can visit your place beforehand, do so.”

“It's good to start searching early, but sometimes it's just luck... :P Just to say, don't panic!”

“Start reaching out to places early (~May) rather than later on. You'll have more choices for leases that start in August. Also, try to plan a visit to see campus + see apartments - pictures don't always tell the full story!”

“please see the apartment physically before renting. there's so much which you can understand from photos or even a video call. there are units always available, so come to berkeley, find a temporary stay for 2 weeks and look for a house.”

“look early”

“Do an in-person tour first if possible, Start looking early”

“You'll never find the perfect place and will definitely have to make trade-offs. Make sure you know the things you can't give up on and give them priority.

Albany is a quiet and safe place to live. The rent is much lower than housing near the campus.”

“Put in applications ASAP”

“Start search early. Always prefer a place near campus - it has so many advantages. Keep searching - sometime the search can be very long.”

“Start early!”

“If it's in person being close to campus is helpful for socializing!”

“Start early and reach out for help; don't restrict yourself to housing close to campus (Alameda County buses are frequent and free)”

“Be patient - there isn't a scarcity on housing so you don't need to sign the first place you find! And be communicative - I had a lot of help from Tina and alumni on where to look!”

“I wish I had checked the crime rates of my area - I originally lived in an unsafe neighborhood and had to move again shortly after arriving at Berkeley”

“Don't freak out too much if you can't find many listings for August move-in dates until June or July -- that's just how the timeline works for a lot of housing in the Berkeley area.”

“It's hard to feel out the neighborhood when looking for housing virtually. Research the neighborhood before committing.”

“Don't fret if you don't find something early. Only start about a month out, takes a lot of time to find an apartment so plan for that”

“There are lots of housing options but they go fast. There isn't a point to starting early, just know that when you do start it'll be intense. Also, if you can move a month early or so you will beat the rush of students all looking for housing.”

“If they don't have to live with a partner or family member, they should strongly consider living with other I School or Cal Grad Students.”

“UVA is a great place to live if you qualify”

“I’d ask them to check out housing options such as the IHouse, or co-ops (Cloyne, African Co-op, Clark Kerr etc). Sure the price can be higher than renting your own place, but food will be taken care of, you’ll have a great community to share the journey with, and there’s always the convenience factor of being close to the campus.”

“To be competitive, my roommate had to look for housing early and agree to move in early”

“Look at Craigslist, go see the apartment for yourself, that’s what my partner did.”

“Emeryville is a great place to live! It’s quite and very safe.”

“BART right now doesn’t do student discounts”

“Ask outgoing students/current students for leads.”

“A lot of apartments/landlords expect immediate move-in or maximum a few weeks from signing to start date. I had to negotiate with my landlord to sign my lease almost a month before the start date. You might not have luck shopping until close to your move-in.”

“try to work w your landlord about move in and don’t be afraid to use facebook to find furniture”

“start early”

THANK YOU! HOPE THIS HELPS!

IMSA AT I SCHOOL WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!

Please contact your buddy if you have any questions or need further information. They are always happy to help!