OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING STATS
HOW AND WHEN TO FIND HOUSING

There is an overwhelming number of students on campus who believe, that upon return to campus during their sophomore year, that they must be looking for and preparing to sign an off-campus lease to be able to secure a housing option for the following academic year.

In September 2018, the Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORLL) conducted a survey and reached out to students living on and off campus to determine when leases were signed, and what were some typical issues that students encountered so that our office could help in the education process of students entering the apartment search process.

According to the information received from students who participated in the survey, more students signed their leases between January and June for the following Fall semester. Many leases in the area have been noted to start between June 1st and August 1st for students. Of these students surveyed, most students lived in neighboring areas of Medford and Somerville.

In September 2018, the ORLL surveyed current Tufts Students living on-campus and off-campus. The charts in this booklet are a summary of those results along with other useful information. Please be advised that the information in this report is the summarization of survey results from approximately 100 students currently living off-campus.
As students are looking to live closer to campus, many of them opt to live in the surrounding neighborhoods of Somerville and Medford. There are few others who live a bit further away such as Cambridge, Arlington and Boston.

The differences in neighborhoods will also determine your general housing costs. Somerville tends to be slightly more expensive than Medford, while Cambridge is more expensive than both being slightly closer to the city of Boston. Further away areas are less expensive, however, will cost more in travel.
Rental rates are rising nationwide, especially in areas where there is a large economic boom, such as that of Boston and the Greater Boston Area. Currently, the average rental rates of students living off-campus have been approximately $700 - $900 per month, not including general utilities such as gas, electric, or internet. These rates are at the discretion of landlords.

Financial Aid Recipients should be sure to schedule appointment with their FA representatives to determine what package they are looking at for the following year. Keep in mind that FA packages are normally determined based on a standard double rate* for a room, and are determined by a 9-month breakdown rather than a traditional 12-month lease.
Our office is working towards curating a variety of resources to help students locate off-campus housing, while also ensuring they are educated in the particular areas specific to successfully securing and maintaining an off-campus living situation.

Based on our recent survey results, while many people stated that they were able to find housing through a friend, many of the same people stated that that process was extremely difficult noting several concerns such as:

- Feeling pressured to sign a lease (fear of not finding something, fear of the location being too far, friends ready before you are, etc.)
- Losing a potential roommate, which threw off their initial option
- Stresses regarding the Housing Waitlist and available spaces on campus
- Going abroad and unsure what would be the best option

Our educational series sessions are specifically designed to address some of these topics as well as introduce students to our [Off Campus Housing Website](#) which provides resources for students looking for options off-campus.
The Office of Residential Life and Learning values your feedback and wants to ensure that we are providing useful information for you and your peers.

Please let us know how we are doing by participating in our session survey.

https://tufts.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cJaAeZq86gAnINv

For more information on Off-Campus Housing Information, please contact the Office of Residential Life and Learning at reslife@tufts.edu