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Welcome

The Office of Residential Life is a great place to start when you are looking for housing options in the Cambridge-Boston area. Whether you are interested in living in one of the four GSAS residence halls, looking for an on- or off-campus apartment, or hoping to find a roommate, the Office of Residential Life can direct you to the best resources.

While the main Harvard campus is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, GSAS students live and study throughout the Cambridge-Boston area. In this brochure, you will find information to help identify your best housing option. As you make your decision, visit our website at gsas.harvard.edu/housing or reach out to the staff at the Office of Residential Life.

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*Director of Residential Life*

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GSAS Residence Halls

The convenient and affordable GSAS residence halls offer an exciting opportunity to live and interact with other graduate students from across disciplines, backgrounds, and cultures in a comfortable, homelike setting. Perkins and Conant Halls, built in the late 1890s, are traditional Harvard-style buildings, while Richards and Child Halls, designed by the well-known architect Walter Gropius, were built in the 1950s. Located on Oxford and Everett Streets just north of Harvard Yard, the halls are a brief walk to Cambridge-based laboratories, libraries, and museums, and to Harvard Square. Free shuttles provide transportation to Harvard’s Longwood and Allston campuses.

First-year GSAS students are guaranteed a room if they submit a complete application by the deadline. Continuing, full-time registered GSAS students may also apply and are given priority in the housing lottery. A limited number of rooms are prioritized for GSAS special students and visiting fellows. While the housing lottery is open to full-time registered graduate students at other Harvard Schools, only a very limited number of rooms are available. (Harvard Extension School and Harvard Summer School students are not eligible.)
Life in the Residence Halls

The residence halls provide a community-based environment where residents are encouraged to meet one another, enjoy a variety of events, and dine together in the GSAS Student Center dining hall. Each floor has resident advisors (RAs), graduate students who live in the halls to help students adjust to residence hall living, aid in emergency situations, and serve as liaisons with the GSAS administration. RAs also host floor and community events throughout the year. Sample events include residence hall–wide Halloween and Thanksgiving parties, talent show competitions, wine and cheese nights, weekend breakfast and brunches, potlucks, and final exam study breaks. The GSAS residence halls not only offer comfort and safety, but also fun throughout the year!

The GSAS Graduate Residence Hall Council (GRHC) is a voluntary, student-run organization that fosters a sense of community among residents by organizing various social activities throughout the year. The GRHC also oversees recreational equipment and maintains a DVD and game library.
Hall Overview

Rooms are single occupancy only, except for six two-room suites available in Child Hall. Couples may apply for housing in a two-room suite; however, both individuals must be full-time registered Harvard graduate students. Each room contains a bed, desk and chair, desk lamp, bookcase, bureau, and closet or wardrobe (these items cannot be removed from the rooms); pillows, linens, towels, and blankets are not provided. Rooms also include Ethernet jacks for wired access, and Wi-Fi is available throughout the halls.

All floors in the residence halls house male- and female-identified individuals, except for the basement of Child Hall, which houses male-identified individuals, and the third floor of Richards Hall, which houses female-identified individuals. Child, Perkins, and Richards Halls have two bathrooms per floor, while Conant Hall has one bathroom per floor.

Common Areas

Residents have access to a number of communal areas:

- All floors have at least one kitchen that contains a microwave, stove, oven, kettle, and refrigerator.
- Each hall has at least one lounge with cable television and a DVD player (individual rooms do not have cable access).
- Washers and dryers are located in the basements of each of the halls, operated by coins or Crimson Cash funds (a declining balance account accessed through your Harvard ID).
- A computer lab is available in Child Hall.
Meal Plan

All GSAS residents are required to enroll in the GSAS Commons meal plan, which provides an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with fellow students. All meals are taken in the GSAS Commons. The meal plan follows the academic calendar and provides for two dinners per week plus a declining balance allotment for use at GSAS Commons at lunch, additional dinner meals, or to host a guest for any meal. The declining dollar balance can also be used at Allston HUDS operations for Allston-based students, and the cafe in Kresge for Longwood-based students. Those who wish not to be enrolled in a meal plan are advised to seek alternative housing accommodations.

GSAS Student Center

The GSAS Student Center, located at Lehman Hall in Harvard Yard, welcomes all students living in the GSAS residence halls. For over 25 years, the GSAS Student Center has offered social, intellectual, and recreational activities designed to help students make connections outside of the classroom, lab, or library. The GSAS Student Center activities are planned by and for students, and they include dinners with faculty, film series, trips to beaches and ski areas, community service opportunities, musical performances, and sports. Residents can drop by the GSAS Student Center any time for a meal, a cup of coffee, or a quiet place to read.
Apply

The application for the 2020–2021 academic year can be found at gsas.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/campus-housing and the priority deadline is Friday, May 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. EST. (The application remains open year-round, and students admitted to a degree program after the deadline are still encouraged to apply.) The first round of housing assignments and waiting list numbers are emailed by Wednesday, June 2, 2020. Assignments continue through the summer until all rooms are filled.

• The non-refundable application fee is $75 and will be applied to each applicant’s student account later in the summer.

• Assignments are based on lottery number, room availability, and student preferences. The Office of Residential Life makes every effort to accommodate student preferences but cannot guarantee that students will receive their top choice in the assignment process.

• We only accept fully completed online applications. Incomplete or late applications will not be included in the lottery, and late applicants will be placed on the waiting list.

• Any student who knowingly falsifies an application will automatically lose their room assignment and may not be considered for a future assignment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who anticipate the need for residential accommodations related to a medical condition or disability must register with the Accessible Education Office by Friday, May 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. (EST). Visit aeo.fas.harvard.edu/students for instructions on completing the registration form and providing supporting documentation. Requests for housing accommodations received after this deadline will be considered but may be subject to delays in review and implementation.

Students in other Schools who anticipate the need for residential accommodations related to a medical condition or disability should contact their respective School’s disability coordinator.

The Waiting List

Applicants who do not receive an assignment in the first round or whose applications were late or incomplete are placed on a waiting list and receive
notification of their waiting list number. Wait-listed applicants receive updates periodically throughout the summer, and housing assignments as rooms become available.

**The Fine Print**

- Applicants are required to provide an actively monitored email address for correspondence with the Office of Residential Life. The office is not responsible for deadlines missed due to inattention to email.

- Room contracts extend from Monday, August 21, 2020, at 12:00 p.m., to Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. Residents who are receiving a degree at Commencement may stay in the residence halls until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2021.

- Students who cancel room assignments after the response deadline or vacate rooms mid-year are charged a $150 room cancellation fee and continue to pay room and meal plan fees until the room is reassigned.

- Residence halls remain open during recess periods.

- All residents are required to enroll in the meal plan, which is $2,487 for the 2020–2021 academic year. (See Floor Plans and Room Charts on page 8 for room prices.)

- Guests are welcome for occasional, brief visits; frequent or long-term guests are not permitted.

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**Important Dates**

**May 1, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.:** Deadline for complete applications to be included in the first-round housing lottery for the 2020–2021 academic year.

**By June 3, 2020:** Housing assignments emailed to students assigned rooms in the first round of the housing lottery, and waiting list notifications emailed to applicants who did not receive housing in the first round of assignments.

**Ongoing:** Rooms assigned on a rolling basis as cancellations are received. Waiting list updates emailed at least monthly.

**August 21, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.:** Residence halls open for 2020–2021 occupancy.
### Floor Plans and Room Charts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th># Rooms</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed gender floors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Hall, floors 1–4</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>$7,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>two-room suite</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$11,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conant Hall, floors 1–4</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$8,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>large</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>$10,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkins Hall, floors 1–4</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>$8,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>large</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>$10,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richards Hall, floors 1–2</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$7,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female-identified floor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richards Hall, floor 3</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male-identified floor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Hall, basement</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$7,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Room sizes are approximate and may vary.
Harvard-Owned Apartments

Harvard University Housing (HUH) offers a wide variety of properties with heat, hot water, electricity, and gas included in the rent. At some locations, air conditioning and/or Internet service are also included. No security deposit, application fee, or finder’s fee are required, and rents are conveniently paid by student account. The Graduate Commons Program operates in all HUH properties, providing a vibrant social and learning community. (Learn more at huhousing.harvard.edu/residents/graduate-commons-program.)

Other Harvard properties include:

• The Center for the Study of World Religions, affiliated with Harvard Divinity School (cswr.hds.harvard.edu/residence)

• Shattuck International House, affiliated with the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health (hsph.harvard.edu/housing/shattuck)

• Vanderbilt Hall, affiliated with Harvard Medical School (hms.harvard.edu/departments/vanderbilt-hall)
Off-Campus Housing

At www.harvardhousingoffcampus.com, you can access a private market rental site that includes a roommate search option, HUH sublet listings for eligible Harvard affiliates, and other resources. Other online sites can help you find accommodation. Before signing a lease, consider rent amount and fees, apartment condition, utilities (including heat), furnishings and appliances, landlords/management companies, and pets.

We encourage you to understand your rights when exploring the off-campus market. For more information, visit:

Boston Rental Housing Center
boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/
know-your-rights-when-you-rent-boston

Tenant Rights, Laws and Protections
hud.gov/states/massachusetts/renting/tenantrights
Questions?

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