

## 2015 International Student Housing Survey Summary

### Demographics

Number of Respondents: 236 (As of March 24, 2015)

Level of Study

Master's 28.94%

PdD 23.83%

Undergraduate (including transfer students) 31.49%

Top Countries of Origin

China 22.55% (Hong Kong 3.40%, Taiwan 3.4%)

India 7%

South Korea 6%

Place of Residence

On-Campus (University Housing and International House):34.89%

Off-Campus: 65.11%

Time Students' Arrival to Campus

August 17-23: 34:68%

### On-Campus Housing

The main reason international students choose to live on campus is:

- 68% Easier to secure housing on campus

International students living on-campus describe their roommates as:

- 46% live with a domestic student
- 32% live with an international student from a different country

Student housing issues over breaks:

- 44% moved out of their dorm during school breaks
- In open responses students stated that they visited home and need to store their luggage at a friend's house

Student satisfaction with on-campus housing:

- Over 50% are satisfied or very satisfied with: location, amount of space,length of commute, number of roommate, relationship with roommate, residence hall staff, maintenance issues, food in dining hall, personal safety and safety of belongings
- 41.33% are very unsatisfied with the price

### Temporary Housing

- 49.01% stayed in temporary housing

Students who stayed in temporary housing:

- 29.73% stayed with a friend
- 27% stayed in a hotel
- 13.51% stayed with a host family
- Only 6.76% stayed in Berkeley temporary housing

Students stayed in temporary housing for the length of:

- 41.89% more than 2 weeks
- 22.97% more than 1 week

### Off-Campus Housing

- 27.33% paid less than \$1,000 for housing deposit; 28% pay less than \$1,000/month for rent
- 38% live in South Berkeley; 26% live in North Berkeley; 13.33% live in West Berkeley
- 42.67% found housing before arriving in the US
- 20% founding housing within 2 weeks of arriving in the US
- 66% get to campus on foot
- 71.34% have roommates
- 79% are still living in the first residence they moved into at Berkeley
- 60% thought living off-campus would be cheaper

Students living off campus found their roommates by:

- 43% found their roommate through friends
- 21% found their roommate through a Berkeley Facebook page
- 19% found roommates by renting a room in a house
- 0% found roommates through BIO roommate matching resource

Students used the following mode of transportation to find off-campus housing:

- 54% Walking
- 46.67% AC Transit and BART
- 12.67% Friends car

The most difficult aspects of finding housing were:

- 48.67% Finding housing listings
- 42% Communication with landlord
- 36.67% Amount of money to secure housing
- 25.33% Understanding the rental process

Before moving into an apartment/house, students were:

- 40.67% NOT aware of the overall knowledge of the neighborhood
- 28.99% NOT aware of the noise level

- 38.67% aware of the distance to campus

Students found the most helpful resources in the housing process to be:

- 34.67% Friends
- 34.67% Online search tools
- 8% Cal Rentals
- 6% Rental Company
- 2% Cal Housing
- 2% Information from BIO

Students were satisfied with the following with their current residence:

- Over 50% were satisfied or very satisfied with the location, space, price, length of commute, number of roommates, relationship with roommates, communication with landlord, quality and cleanliness

During the housing search process, students reported that

- 43.75% understood their legal obligations
- 52.08% understood that housing was very expensive in the Berkeley area
- 52.08% understood that housing was very limited

Students identified the following resources that would be the most helpful

- 58.33% Connecting with current students
- 56.25% Provide additional on campus temporary housing
- 54.17% More pre-arrival information
- 45.83% Connect with other incoming international students
- 34.72% Tips on how to talk to landlords
- 24.31% Provide transportation
- 22.92% Tips on how to pay rent
- Less than 20% In person workshops, additional webinars, access to a computer

Recommendations from students for incoming students:

- Start the housing search process early-give yourself at least a month to find housing
- Connect with current international students
- Connect with current domestic students
- Use Airbnb as a temporary housing option
- Have realistic expectations about the cost of rent
- Wait until you see the place in person to sign a lease
- Consider the MBA method of using a Googledoc as a “Roommate Finder”