

Housing FAQ for Students Returned from Leaves of Absence

Broad FAQs:

- Before you take leave: please make sure not to sign a lease to live off campus! Students **studying abroad or taking any type of leave forfeit their off-campus permission**. Any student who has fulfilled the three-year residency requirement (regardless of semester level) are all eligible to register for off-campus housing. Seniors who have not completed their three-year residency requirement will need to APPLY for off-campus housing.
- **As a senior, am I guaranteed off-campus permission?**
 - You are guaranteed off-campus permission IF you have fulfilled the three-year residency requirement. To fulfill the three-year residency requirement, students must have resided in on-campus housing for a minimum of six semesters. Semesters spent studying abroad through a Brown-recognized or affiliated program count towards fulfillment of this requirement.
 - If you have not fulfilled the three-year residency requirement you are NOT guaranteed and must appeal for off-campus permission (see details below about this process). **Please note that the housing appeals process is not part of the [off-campus housing application](#)**. The appeals process is subject to availability of on-campus rooms. Seniors do receive priority for off-campus appeals.
- **If I have lived off-campus before while actively enrolled, can I live off-campus again when I return from leave?**
 - Yes! **Res-Life honors students history of leavetaking and living off-campus**. If you have already been approved for off-campus and have lived off-campus while actively enrolled, you are guaranteed off-campus living again upon return (although you always have the option to live on-campus).
- **I have questions about housing! Who can I talk to?**
 - For housing questions, please contact ResLife directly at Res_Life@brown.edu or (401) 863-3500.
- **The housing process is taking so long! Can this be expedited?**
 - Unfortunately, the timeline is difficult to expedite because ResLife doesn't know where students will be (abroad, leave, etc) until students finalize their decisions (throughout Oct - December for students studying abroad). For information regarding anticipated response time or decision dates, please contact ResLife directly at Res_Life@brown.edu or (401) 863-3500.

- **I have SEAS accommodations. Am I guaranteed off-campus permission?**
 - With few exceptions, SEAS accommodations qualify students for specific on-campus housing, NOT for off-campus housing. If you feel that you still require off-campus permission based on your needs, please contact ResLife and SEAS, but there are no guarantees for off-campus.

FAQs organized by Semester-Level and Return Semester (FALL or SPRING)

I'm returning in the FALL SEMESTER (AUGUST/SEPTEMBER)

- **...and I want to live *on-campus*:** You can enter the [April Housing Lottery](#). Students will enter summer assignment if they don't go through Housing Lottery. ResLife tries to get summer assignment students housed by July or August. Please note, that summer assignment can actually lead to desirable housing outcomes, as spots can open up in all dorms during the summer.
 - **...and I'm returning as a 2nd-semester first-year:** ResLife will give you the option of staying in first-year housing or you have the choice of entering the second-year housing lottery.
 - **...and I'm returning as a 4th semester student:** 4th semester students enter the housing lottery as a 5th semester junior. Thus, these students can enter the housing lottery with juniors and seniors; this way, students can stay with their friends and original "class." Sophomores who join a housing group with Juniors and Seniors will be bumped up (instead of the other way around).
 - **...and I want to live with a group of friends:** If you have a group of friends with a vacancy in their housing group (for example, someone last minute decides to go abroad or take a leave), you can choose to live with them and be "pulled in" to their housing group. ResLife actually prefers this situation; it's easier for them! Contact ResLife to fill out the standard form for this situation.

- **...and I want to live *off-campus*:** If possible, returning students should enter the off-campus application that occurs in the Fall a year BEFORE the student returns and hopes to live off-campus. The application is open mid-October to mid-December, for the following Fall. We understand this may be exceedingly early for students on leave who don't confirm their plans to return until much later. However, it will be difficult and there is no guarantee of receiving off-campus permission if you do not enter the official off-campus lottery. If in doubt of your return to Brown, it is better to apply for off-campus permission and choose to forfeit it later.
 - **...and I've fulfilled the three-year residency requirement:** If you enter the off-campus application process in Oct-Dec, you will be guaranteed off-campus permission. If you miss the Fall application, there is a second off-campus registration period at the beginning of the Spring semester (in Spring 2019, [this period was Jan 29-Feb 7th](#)). If you miss both these applications, you are no longer guaranteed but must appeal for off-campus permission. Seniors do receive priority in the appeals process.
 - **...and I'm a 6th semester student:** As a 6th semester student, you are bumped up to a 7th semester status in the off-campus permission process. That means, if you apply through the formal off-campus application process in Oct-Dec, you are guaranteed off-campus permission for both the Fall and Spring! If you miss the application, you can appeal.

- **...and I'm a 5th semester student:** You may enter the off-campus lottery but are not guaranteed off-campus permission. If you have missed the application deadlines, you can appeal. Please note that seniors receive priority in the appeals process.
- **...and I'm a 4th semester student:** Unfortunately, you cannot apply for off-campus permission, as you are considered a sophomore level student.
- **...and I've lived off-campus before:** You are guaranteed off-campus permission upon your return! That being said, you can always choose to return to live on-campus if you so choose.

I'm returning in the **SPRING SEMESTER (JANUARY)**

- **...and I want to live on-campus:** You will be placed in an on-campus room, or you have the option of being “pulled into” a housing group. If you have a group of friends with a vacancy in the Spring (for example, someone decides to go abroad or take a leave), you can choose to live with them. ResLife actually prefers this situation; it's easier for them! Contact ResLife to fill out the standard form for this situation.
- **...and I want to live off-campus:** Unfortunately, there is no guarantee for anyone to receive off-campus permission mid-year, even a student who has fulfilled the three-year residency requirement (EXCEPT if you have lived off-campus before; then you can always retain your off-campus status). There is no formal application process for spring semester permission; students should appeal in the Fall if possible (Oct-Dec) and will be notified by the end of December. ResLife grants appeals based on spaces available, with priority for seniors.