We know how difficult looking for housing in a new city can be — there are so many questions to ask, and not a lot of places to find answers. That’s why we put together this guide to living in Providence. This document is largely based on the survey responses of 150 students from all four medical school classes, and it is intended to be a resource to help you start your search. It won’t be exhaustive, but we do think it will help get you off on the right foot. Before we get started on the various neighborhoods, here are some general tips for you:

- Most first-year students tend to find other first-year med students to live with, either via the Facebook group or through mutual friends. That’ll save you a lot of money.
- We’ve broken down most of the statistics for all med students and for first-year students, since that’ll give you the most relevant picture as incoming students.
- June 1 tends to be the beginning of many, if not most, leases in Providence. It’s certainly possible to find a lease that starts another time, but it’s a little trickier.
- The borders of each neighborhood are somewhat fuzzy, but Googling a map can help. (The medical school is in Downtown’s Jewelry District.) Also, Providence is a very small city. Don’t be intimidated by the map — the blocks are usually only 3-4 houses long!
- Make sure you consider parking when you’re looking for a place to live. If you need a car but don’t get a place with parking, you can pay for an on-street parking pass (on certain streets only, $100 for RI plates, $200 for others), but you will then have to move it off-street during snow emergencies. Brown provides places to park your car during snow emergencies, but they’re not entirely convenient. You can also buy parking in an off-street lot in your neighborhood, which tends to run between $75-$100/month.
- Obviously you’ll want to consider utilities as you plan ahead. It’s worth noting that paying for heating oil is much more expensive than paying for gas or electric heat.
- A site like PadMapper is probably your best bet to look for places, but the Admissions office keeps some listings available as well.
- 96% of students live in Providence, but some will choose to live outside the city.
- If you’re interested in more-specific questions, let us know!

**Overall Statistics**

- Average rent per bedroom: $625/month
- Average number of bedrooms: 2.5
- Average number of parking spaces per unit: 2.0
- Average number of bathrooms: 1.4
- Average commute to school (all modes of transport): 11 minutes
- Average satisfaction out of 5.0: 4.3
- 60% of students live in an apartment that’s in a house; 27% in an apartment that’s part of a complex; and 13% in a standalone home.
- 48% of students report using a car as a regular mode of transportation; 28% report walking; 16% report biking; and 6% report using the bus. (Students could choose multiple responses.)
Oh, and one last note — most of the statistics that follow are presented for all students, with the value for first-year students noted in parentheses following the value. (All averages per unit unless otherwise noted.)

**The East Side: Fox Point, College Hill, Wayland, and Hope/Blackstone.**
By far, the most students live in one of these few neighborhoods. 85% of students live on the East Side, as well as 88% of first-year students. For the most part, places on the East Side are pretty comparable, though Wayland and Hope/Blackstone are swankier than College Hill or Fox Point. Note: The East Side is not the same as East Providence — that’s a separate city.

**Fox Point**
This neighborhood is easily walkable from the medical school building and has Wickenden Street as its heart. Wickenden is a street of restaurants and shops (and a few bars), but it’s not your typical heart-of-it-all street in a college town — that’s Thayer Street, up on College Hill. Fox Point is a mixed neighborhood overall. There are a lot of graduate/medical students in the neighborhood alongside young professionals and families, as well as a few undergraduates.

- **27%** of all class years (**38%** of first-years) live in Fox Point
- Bedrooms: **2.8** (2.7)
- Bathrooms: **1.2** (1.2)
- Parking spaces: **2.1** (2.1)
- Rent per bedroom: **$551** ($514)
- Commute: **11 minutes** (12 minutes)
- Satisfaction (out of 5): **4.1** (4.0)

**College Hill**
This is the neighborhood that contains Brown’s undergraduate campus, as well as the businesses that serve it and the undergraduates who live off campus. This is probably the best place for students who want a vibrant experience near a college campus, including easy access to Thayer Street. Of course, that can also mean living around undergraduates, which is a pro for some and a con for others.

- **23%** of all class years (**18%** of first-years) live in College Hill
- Bedrooms: **2.7** (3.1)
- Bathrooms: **1.5** (1.6)
- Parking spaces: **2.2** (1.9)
- Rent per bedroom: **$592** ($493)
- Commute: **11 minutes** (11 minutes)
- Satisfaction (out of 5): **4.1** (3.8)

**Wayland**
This is a wealthier neighborhood that’s still very friendly to graduate and medical students. It’s centered around Wayland Square, a relatively upscale area of restaurants, shops, and boutiques. It’s a little quieter and nicer than living in Fox Point or College Hill, and it’s not too much farther away from the medical school. If you don’t have a car, though, it would be a long walk to the medical school from Wayland.
23% of all class years (25% of first-years) live in Wayland
Bedrooms: 2.5 (2.9)
Bathrooms: 1.5 (1.6)
Parking spaces: 1.8 (2.0)
Rent per bedroom: $640 ($580)
Commute: 11 minutes (11 minutes)
Satisfaction (out of 5): 4.5 (4.5)

Hope/Blackstone
Hope, Mount Hope, and Blackstone are some of the wealthiest areas in Providence, especially Blackstone. You’ll mostly find families in these areas, though there are certainly graduate students who live out this way. It’s also definitely too far from the medical school to walk on a regular basis — you’ll need to have a car, be willing to walk to the Brown Shuttle, or get a ride from a roommate every time you need to get to the medical school.

12% of all class years (7% of first-years) live in Hope/Blackstone
Bedrooms: 2.8 (3.0)
Bathrooms: 1.2 (1.3)
Rent per bedroom: $509 ($497)
Commute: 11 minutes (13 minutes)
Satisfaction (out of 5): 4.6 (4.8)

Other neighborhoods: Downtown, Federal Hill/West End, and others.
While most students tend to live on the East Side, these neighborhoods can be home to some medical students as well — so don’t overlook them entirely.

Note: Very few students live in these parts of town, so we didn’t break it out by class year.

Downtown
Downtown Providence tends to be slightly more expensive and aimed at young professionals, especially those who work in government. However, it’s also pretty close to the medical school and close to some of the more trendy restaurants and bars in town. For those who want the closest to a “big city” experience Providence has to offer, downtown might be the best place to live. (Oh, and Providence often calls it Downcity. Same thing.)

6% of all class years live downtown
Bedrooms: 1.6
Bathrooms: 1.3
Rent per bedroom: $1,159
Commute: 8.5 minutes
Satisfaction (out of 5): 4.5

Federal Hill/West End
Federal Hill and the West End are very much “up and coming” neighborhoods, but they’ve historically been best known for their great food scenes. There are very much still rough spots in these neighborhoods, but it’s definitely possible to find a great spot too.

- 2% of all class years live on Federal Hill or in the West End
- Bedrooms: 2
- Bathrooms: 2
- Rent per bedroom: $747
- Commute: 9 minutes
- Satisfaction (out of 5): 4.7

Others
It’s possible to live in other areas of Providence, but it’s pretty rare. As such, we don’t have useful data to give you about living in other areas (or places outside of Providence), but if you’re interested in living in a specific area not listed above, please let us know and we’ll try to get you in touch with a student who lives in the area.

Good luck apartment searching — let us know if you have questions!

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_for questions, please contact Assistant Director Marcy_Hall@brown.edu_