

Housing In and Around USC

USC Housing

USC offers a range of services to meet the housing needs of graduate students. There are several housing facilities at the University Park Campus and one graduate student housing on the Health Sciences Campus. Housing assignments fill quickly and it is imperative to contact the [USC Housing](#) department early to inquire about availability and eligibility requirements.

Tel: (800) 872-4632, (213) 740-2546 Email: housing@usc.edu

Seaver Residence Hall (Health Sciences Campus)

[Seaver Residence Hall](#) is the only graduate housing at Health Science Campus and is conveniently situated in the middle of campus to allow for great student interactions. Average rental price: \$935 per month for a single.

Housing: Dormitories with kitchenettes

Distance from HSC: flight of stairs

Resident population: students

OIS Housing Information

The [OIS website](#) provides helpful information and tips for international students who are interested in finding non-university owned apartment. The site includes information about temporary housing as well as details to consider when renting off-campus (non-USC).

COMMUNITIES AROUND USC

Choosing a location to live can be very stressful and there are many factors that one must consider to find the right fit. Here is a list of areas where many students live and some brief information to assist in your search. (The information was obtained from NeighborhoodScout.com)

Alhambra

Located within close proximity to the Health Science Campus, Alhambra is a great place for families and students. There is a strong sense of community and offers a quiet environment.

Average rental price: \$1,200 per month

Housing Type: Mostly single-family homes and few apartments

Resident population: Mixed population including families with children and students

Downtown Los Angeles/Chinatown

Situated between the Health Science Campus and University Park Campus, Downtown Los Angeles is a booming city that offers many benefits and services that cannot be found anywhere else in the nation.

Average rental price: \$1500 per month

Housing Type: Mostly skyscrapers and lofts

Traffic/Noise Density: High

Resident population: Mixed with many young professionals, smaller families, and students

City type: Densely Urban

Echo Park

Located off the 2 freeway, Echo Park is a smaller community within the city of Los Angeles. It is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Los Angeles and is home to the LA Dodgers.

Average rental price: \$1,300 per month

Housing: Mostly single-family homes, some small apartments

Distance from HSC: 3.5 miles

Resident population: Mixed population including singles, families with children, and college students

City type: Urban

Characteristics: Mostly walk able, hip and trendy, artistic community

Highland Park

Located off the 110 freeway near Pasadena, Highland Park is a small community with a lot of rich history.

Average rental price: \$1100 per month

Housing: Mostly single-family homes (small to medium sized), some apartment units

Distance from HSC: 6-7 miles

Traffic density/noise: Low - Medium

Resident population: Mostly families with children, some young professionals

City Type: Urban

Los Feliz

Located near Hollywood hills, this affluent community is located near the Griffith Observatory, Griffith Park and is home to many celebrities of Los Angeles.

Average rental price: \$1,500 per month

Housing: Mostly single-family homes

Distance: 8 miles

Traffic density/noise: Low – Medium

Resident population: Mixed with students, artists, movie industry employees, and young professionals

City type: Urban

Characteristics: Mostly walk able, hip and trendy

Monterey Park

Located in the San Gabriel Valley, just east of Los Angeles, Monterey Park is conveniently located near the Health Science Campus.

Average rental price: \$1,500 per month

Housing: Mostly single-family homes

Distance from HSC: 3 miles

Traffic density/noise: Low

Resident population: Young professionals

City type: Quiet neighbourhood

Pasadena

Home to the Rose Bowl and many art-based institutions, Pasadena is located off the 134 freeway.

Average rental price: \$1,600 per month

Housing: Mostly single-family homes, some townhouses, and apartment units

Distance from HSC: 10 miles

Traffic density/noise: Mild

Resident population: Professionals, families with children, artists, and college students

City type: suburban

Silverlake

Located at the border of Atwater Village, Silverlake is a diverse community with a strong sense of unity. The Silverlake Reservoir is a great place to take a little jog with others in the neighbourhood.

Average rental price: \$1,200 per month

Housing: Houses and duplexes

Distance from HSC: 10 miles

Resident population: Edgy young people, students, artists, and families with children

City type: suburban

Non-USC Housing Websites

If you have access to the Internet there are several websites that you might find helpful in your search. Some of these sites charge a usage fee.

[Apartment For Rent](#)

[Apartment List](#)

[For Rent](#)

[Housing For Students](#)

[Move.com](#)

[Rent Match](#)

[Spring Street](#)

[Craigslist](#)

Considerations during Apartment Hunting

- Accessibility to campus, stores, etc.
- Facilities provided (laundry, gym, common area)
- Safety and security features (security entry, smoke alarms)
- Amenities (washer/dryer, appliances, recycling, heating, a/c)
- Proximity to public transportation (bus, train stop, freeway)
- Availability of parking for you and/or guest(s).

Questions to ask

- What utilities are included in the rent? (water, gas, electricity, cable, internet)
- Do you have 24/7 maintenance for emergencies? Who is the contact?
- Is this a lease or a rental? How long is the lease? Can I get a copy of the lease before I decide? What is the penalty for breaking a lease? Is this the best rate you can offer? When is the rent payment due and to whom?
- Are there any other arrangements that need to be made prior to moving in?
- Is there a security deposit? How much is refundable?
- Is a credit check required? Is there an application fee? Other fees on top of the rent?
- Is the apartment furnished or not? Is it cable/internet ready?
- Can you personalize/decorate the apartment?

Always be sure that all agreements with your landlord are in writing. Don't forget to ask for receipts for deposits and monthly installments.