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.