

Housing Surveys:

From the director:

It's important that you seek out a place that is safe and provides you with the amenities that you want in a residence. Taking your time to view as many places as possible and using the help of a locator seems to be recommended by many of the students. Generally, the students are telling you that if you can afford to live inside the loop between downtown and the Galleria, it is the best experience. These areas included: The Heights, Midtown, Museum/Rice Area, Montrose, Neartown, Upper Kirby and close in Galleria area.

Keep in mind that we intend to relocate our program to the eastern side of downtown in EaDo or Greater East End. This is where our workshop area is located and where a great deal of redevelopment is taking place. I wish I could tell you when this will take place, but it depends on the financial support of the university and we are awaiting a response on our request for budget on this. I will keep you all posted. But, based on this, I will say the following:

Consider that in the first year, you are in classes only. This means that we will be somewhere in the central area. We are currently in the Galleria area. This is just west of the 610 Loop at Westheimer and Post Oak. When we move, we will be just east of downtown. The commute from that area to east downtown is not bad. There are easy ways to get there without getting on the freeway. My biggest recommendation is to live in the Montrose/Neartown area. This puts you in the middle of lots of things and with easy access to everything. This area has a lot of small apartment complexes. If you are looking for a roommate, you might check with the University of St. Thomas because they are in this area (Montrose and West Alabama). You might check with their housing department and see if there are students seeking roommates. If you are in Houston, go to their campus and look on their student boards in the community center for a posting or check Craigslist for a posting from a student. ALWAYS use care when using Craigslist or any other online source for roommates.

This survey is provided to you to assist you in finding places to view so that you can make a housing selection. I cannot recommend one over the other, but if you need to reach a student to ask more questions, just let me know and I'll put you in contact with them.

Greg Roffino – now working for Curtis & Windham, Greg is looking in for a place currently.

CURRENT: 1. 2125 Yale St.

2. \$2,120 – being raised to \$2300 - 2 beds/2baths – 1300 SF

4. Houston Heights

5. Great complex but a little far north and getting expensive

6. If its affordable, Montrose, Museum district, and heights are my favorite neighborhoods

My Current Search:

I am looking to move closer to my office so I am looking for a one bedroom in Montrose or the Museum District. I have capped my search at \$1000, and it's a little depressing to say but there isn't much. There are going to be compromises, but you can live in these neighborhoods for as low as \$700-\$800 a month.

Chances are in that price range it's going to be a little dated, have window units, and will probably be a studio space instead of an actual 1 bedroom. It helps greatly to have at least one roommate. A 2 bed/1bath in a four-plex or duplex seem to be going for anywhere from \$1200 - \$2000. Again its going to be older, but you can get a nicer unit with each person paying \$700-\$800. I know Matt Vaclavik just found and moved into a garage apartment in Montrose for around \$500 a month but from what he tells me its tiny – like 300sf. Also, you can find good deals on nicer units, but you have to be vigilant – because they go off the market in literally 1-2 days.

1. Location of your residence
2. What is your rent?
3. How many bedrooms and baths?
4. What area of the city are you located?
5. Would you recommend your housing to other students?
6. If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of there areas that you think are best places to live?
7. Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

2013-14

Eric Solorzano

1. Location: 3300 Sage Rd. Houston, TX. 77056. This is directly on the West end of the 610 loop. I am about 2 blocks away from the Galleria Mall.
2. Rent: \$1,485. Keep in mind of the location, meaning the district I live in and all the surrounding amenities that are provided in such a close proximity.
3. How many bedrooms and baths: 2 bedroom/2 bath. Both rooms are almost the exact same square footage. Just the master bedroom has its own bathroom and a larger closet. But the other bathroom can be used for more storage, so is pretty even.
4. I am located in the Greater Uptown District. Great district, Clean, All the necessary shops needed in a very close radius. And 2 minutes away from the 610 loop and US-59 highway which both are main highways used in Houston.
5. I would recommend because of the location. I love food so I like to find the good spots that are local especially. I enjoy going to Bellaire since that is where the Chinatown is located, I have a favorite place in East Downtown, and these two places are in opposite directions. But since I live close to highways I live in the middle of the two and I am able to reach both in about the same time. Also the location is very safe, well lite, nice staff, and close to the Galleria, which is where the classes are held.
6. I still would recommend where I would live but if needing more options: Montrose- but more pricey, Briargrove area, just a little more west than where I live.
7. You can get a temp agent that will ask you specific questions for example, price range, location, how many bed rooms and restrooms. and they will find all of the places that meet the requirements and then they will drive you to these places to show you and compare. And this is free. It is very helpful. This should be a no brainer, and should be taken advantage to make a smart,economic, and pragmatic decision.

Allie Stobart

Gables Metropolitan Uptown

3300 Sage Road Houston, TX 77056

It is immediately adjacent to the Galleria; in walking distance.

8. What is your rent?

I live with my roommate, Eric Solorzano, so we each pay about \$750/month, or a total of about \$1500/month.

1. How many bedrooms and baths?

2 bedroom/2 bathrooms. It is very spacious for its location. We have our own laundry room (the apartment comes with a washer and dryer which is really nice), a living room, dining room, kitchen, patio, and walk-in closets.

1. What area of the city are you located?

Uptown/Galleria area

1. Would you recommend your housing to other students?

Yes if you can find a roommate! You never have to deal with traffic to get to class because you are as close as you can get to the Galleria. The apartment complex is a gated community and you park in a garage on your floor so you

never have to deal stairs. The complex is also dog friendly which is a plus since it allowed me to get a dog.

1. If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of there areas that you think are best places to live?

You honestly can't get much closer to class than this location but if you want to live more where the night life is I would recommend living in Midtown or along Washington Avenue.

1. Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

Try to find a roommate to save money because for a decent 1 bedroom it can get very pricey. Also, try to live as close to the inside of Loop 610 as you can so you can have easy access to the fun parts of the city.

Katerina Paletykina

1. Winrock Boulevard and San Felipe at Birarwest Apartments. 2 Blocks from Westheimer.

2. Rent for me is around 500-520. I am with a roommate.

3. 2 Bedrooms 1 Bath

4. Between Greater Uptown and Midwest.

5. I would recommend it to other students this area is a good location and it is in close proximity to many restaurants and grocery stores. Westheimer is very close and has everything that anyone would need. The drive to the Galleria is not that far and it would take between 10-15 minutes. Only issue that I have with the complex is that some units do not have their own laundry units like mine though public ones are easily accessible.

6. In terms of other apartments there are many affordable apartments around the Westheimer area. I have heard from other students and colleagues that price ranges are around the same to what I am currently paying.

7. I would recommend living with a roommate preferable one that is going to the Houston program if not try looking for apartments that have good price ranges for single apartment living. I did look around different apartments in the area, but the one I am at had a good location and the apartment layout was manageable. Future students need to know that the closer you are to the Galleria the higher the cost so there needs to be a balance between cost and commute. Also since students will be getting positions through the practicum program, there might be a chance that their choice of living might only be for a year because moving closer to your firm might be a better option than staying near the Galleria downtown area.

Jerel Gue:

Location: 4045 Linkwood Drive, the Stratford House

Rent: \$885/month for a two bedroom one bath, electricity paid

I am located just inside the 610 loop, south of downtown. Close to Montrose, the Med district and the Rice area

The complex is open and nice. Has a good mix of people. Located near very upper class neighborhoods, which makes the area very safe. It is not gated, but has a 24 hour security guard. Laundry is small. Location is decent. Within walking distance of a grocery store, liquor store and a Shipley's as well as the Braes Bayou hike and bike trail which is sweet. About a 20 minute drive to the galleria. 30 with traffic.

When looking for a place, be sure that it meets your parking needs. Many of my friends have trouble carpooling or taking a taxi when they go out because they do not have adequate visitor parking. Try to stay inside the loop. It makes s difference in your commute.

Would be about a 15 – 20 minute drive to East Downtown as well.

Aaron Campbell

1_ Location of your residence:

- Mirage Apartments: 2100 Bering Drive
- <http://www.mirageliving.com/>

2_ What is your rent?

- \$1215 / Month

3_ How many bedrooms and baths?

- 1Br 1Ba

4_ What area of the city are you located?

- Galleria area ; Greater Uptown Super Neighborhood

5_ Would you recommend your housing to other students?

- Yes, most definitely, it was a diamond in the rough finding this place.
- Really close to school, upgraded kitchen, paint, appliances, bathroom etc. Open floor plan, Resort

style pool/ hot tub, Enough green space to walk around with pets (PET FRIENDLY), Great Maintenance speed /service, Gated community.

6_If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of there areas that you think are best places to live?

- I do recommend my place, but you should find somewhere around the Galleria area or as close as you can get. Why ... next question ...

7_Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

Because anywhere within the area of beltway 8 and 610 are great. Really close to the Galleria area which is great for getting to school. This area is a node where you can get to any other streets relatively fast to travel to other destinations within the Houston area.

Julen Arruti

1. Victoria Place Apartments - 8740 Westheimer Rd. Houston 77063

2. \$815+/mo

3. 1 bedroom 1 bath and washer and dryer connection

4. West of The Galleria Mall about 3 miles

5. Yes I will recommend it

6. I do recommend my apartments. It is an old complex, but very well taken care of. Very friendly staff and a very peaceful environment. Very large apartment with many nice amenities, and walking distance from many stores and restaurants.

7. Additional recomendations is to find housing near Galleria Mall since traffic is very bad especially in this area of the city.

HOUSING SURVEY RESPONSES_ 2013

Chelsea Serrano-Piche

Recent Graduate

chelseas21@gmail.com

Would you recommend your current housing? Yes!

When I first moved to Houston, I moved into a giant 8 bedroom house near UH which was occupied by UH students and young professionals so the crowd was a little older. This enabled me to get to know Houston from a perspective potentially similar to my own and meet people outside of the 9 other students I would see every weekday in class. Plus, it was located near Brays Bayou which is becoming a better and better place to ride your bike and/or go for a run. Additionally, the rent was cheaper this

way at \$420/mo. before utilities.

I am now living in Montrose by myself and conveniently located to every major highway in the city and within walking distance to tons of bars, restaurants, corner stores, grocery stores, Buffalo Bayou, and only a short car ride from downtown. This location is pretty much awesome. Rent is \$550/mo. (including utilities) for a garage efficiency. I got lucky.

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

Before living in Montrose, I would have said midtown/montrose regardless of the rent.

Do you know of any other housing that would be a recommended fit for incoming students?

Many students feel more comfortable living in the Galleria area because it is nearer to the classroom and tends to be a bit less expensive because it is outside loop 610. Montrose/midtown/heights enables students to be/feel more independent and experience the city differently.

Do you have any recommendations in addition to this?

Finding housing in places like Craigslist can be beneficial since Realtors as well as apartment leasers post on this forum, but be careful about everything you hear on Craigslist and if you are female, use common sense about safety...never go look at a place alone (no matter where you live). Some people have gotten lucky and rented houses instead of apartments through this channel as well! It doesn't hurt to contact some apartment hunters for you like **apartmentwiz** and so on. They'll send you scores of apartments for areas and prices you're interested in.

Greg Roffino: 2011

Recent Graduate

Would you recommend your current housing?

Yes

(1206 Aurora St, Houston, Tx 77009) Single-Family Rental House in Heights

If so, why and what is the rate?

Ali and I live in a small bungalow in the Houston Heights area. The house is older but has a lot of charm. While it is very small (around 900sf) it is good for roommates in that it has 2 bed and 2 baths. And 2 baths in the Heights for the price we get (\$1100) is almost impossible to come by. The neighborhood is in a bit of a shift. The street the house is on is beautiful but there are still some lower income homes. But I have never felt unsafe.

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

I love the heights and we actually just signed a new lease for an apartment down the street. Only reason we're leaving the house is to get a little more space. But my other two favorite areas have become

Montrose and Museum District. And in my research there are actually some very reasonable apartments in both those areas if you are willing to go with something a little older and that maybe hasn't been updated.

Do you know of any other housing that would be a recommended fit for incoming students?

There are a lot of older apartment complexes in the heights that are really reasonable and still close to all the fun restaurants, bars, and shops. Along Heights boulevard there are several complexes. I've never seen them on any online search, just know of them because I drive by them all the time. As they are small and older complexes, it seems their only form of advertisement is a "for rent" sign out front. So I think despite everything that can be found online, there is something to be said about driving around a little in the area you want and seeing who has signs out.

We are moving out of our house Aug. 1. The landlord is great and I have mentioned to her I might have a referral or two for incoming students. So if anyone is interested in our house, feel free to give them my contact info!

Gibran Villalobos:

Would you recommend your current housing?

I live at Alanza Brooks apts (<http://www.alanzabrookapts.com/>), 3030 Dunvale Rd. I do recommend living here.

If so, why and what is the rate?

The apartment complex is new, and they do a GREAT job keeping it clean and fixed. It's about 7-15 min from the galleria (studio) depending on the traffic. There is just about anything you can think of at a very short distance, including a movie theater across the street. Wal-Mart, Garden Ridge, Target, Home Depot, Chipotles, which wich, potbelly, cicis pizza, and much much more, at a short distance (a couple hundred feet). *However, the intersection of Dunvale and Richmond is a little sketchy and I wouldn't feel very safe walking around this area.* However, the apt complex is gated and has a cop living and patrolling the apartments 24/7.

The rate for my one bedroom is about \$870, and only includes the rent, water and trash pick-up. The internet, electricity and cable/dvr adds about 100-200 more to the bill. Unlike some of my classmates I haven't had any bugs, or rodent problems at all. The apt also includes a fitness room, a pool, an indoor basketball court, computer room, media room, etc.

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

I wish I would have found housing inside the loop, mainly because my practicum is located in the downtown area, and it takes me about 35-40min to get there. However, I doubt it is possible to find the same quality and price inside the loop. FYI, I was extremely picky regarding the quality of the apts. You can definitely find something less pristine for less money around this area.

Do you have any recommendations in addition to this?

I do recommend living with a roommate to lower housing costs and also start by looking for apts inside 610. I also recommend coming during the summer and visiting as many apts as possible. I visited about 20 different ones.

If you have any questions about alanzabrooks around this area, this is my email:
gvillalobos@pspaec.com

**Housing Complex for the following students has been demolished and new housing is replacing it:
John Griffith, Aidee Guevara, Jordan Gomez (4444 Westheimer)**

John Griffith

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

No, I think 610/Westheimer area is a perfect location for students in the program; great area w/ lots of restaurants, shops, etc. including many architecture firms office nearby

Aidee Guevara:

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

I have been looking for other places recently and comparing where I live to other places, I can tell you this apt complex offers a good deal.

Jordan Gomez:

Do you have any recommendations in addition to this?

Living near the Galleria and off of Westheimer is best because the street can get bogged down during rush hour, but so can a lot of other places.

Peter Longoria:

Name of apartments:

Camden Stonebridge

9850 Richmond Ave

Houston, tx 77042

Would you recommend your current housing?

Yes, but it is near the Beltway 8, so it isn't in a 'fun' area. It's a commuter area.

If so, why and what is the rate?

I would recommend the apartments, they are well kept and have a good staff and are in a good area. They are located about 15-20 mins west of the Galleria so they are a little far from the restaurants and activities that are inside 610. The apartments are conveniently close to Sam Houston Tollway and Westpark Tollway.

A two bed/two bath is \$1031/ mo.(cable is included) + utilities

If not, why and what is the rate?

Is there an area that you now wish you had found housing?

I looked at The Alexan at Old Farm apartments when shopping around and they looked like nice apartments that were about 10 mins west of the Galleria.

I wish I had looked inside 610 for something. There are more restaurants and things to do inside the loop.

Do you know of any other housing that would be a recommended fit for incoming students?

There are several apartments that are managed by Camden in the Houston area. They all seem pretty nice, but can get a little pricey depending on where they are located.

Austin Wilson: 2010

I will recommend living either in the Montrose area or Heights. You can find places near where I work for \$500-\$700 dollars pending on the quality. Montrose has Quadruplexes and Triplexes that are rentable and are generally nice. The Heights, or even the Galleria, have nicer apartments, but you could end up spending in the realm of \$800-\$900.

My best recommendation is if any of them can get their hands on a realtor, they can gain access to privately owned condos which are MUCH CHEAPER. I lived in a place down the street from class for only \$675. They use a website, www.har.com, and it will show all the rentable places, which I still use this tool today.

The name of that apartment complex is Galleria Oaks (<http://www.galleriaoaksapartments.com/>) located at 5151 Richmond Ave. 77056. It has mostly one bedrooms and a few two bedrooms; I live in a one bedroom. You can see some floorplans on their website. Rent is \$725 with a washer & dryer (w/o is \$700 I think, & they have an on-site laundry facility) + \$22 set rate for water + \$22 set rate for cable (add \$10/mo.paid to the cable co. for a DVR) + electricity, which has run between \$ 30 - \$75, so I pay the apts. \$769/mo. + electricity on a seven month lease, then pay wavevision \$10 for dvr. The deposit was \$300 I think, and they allow pets for an additional deposit. They have longer leases available with a little bit cheaper rent...Electricity is billed through the apts., which is convenient, and wireless is also available through the apartments for about \$35/mo. As far as the cable goes they have a deal with Wavevision, so that's pretty much your only option.

Overall, I think the place is a pretty good deal considering its location. It's a squatty little two story complex in the shadow of the Williams Tower organized around four courtyards; one w/pool, one w/ hot tub, one w/ landscaping, and one w/ grass, and gated covered parking. It's hard to beat a 5 min.

commute with traffic in Houston. It's also about a 5 min bike ride, and probably a 15 min walk to the studio. It's located just west of 610 and just north of 59, which makes getting around the city pretty convenient, too. Gym, Chinese food, Office Depot, CVS, and Best Buy are all within walking distance. Other than the occasional cockroach there's not really anything to could complain about the apartment.

Jackie Posenecker: 2012/13

1. Location of your residence?

The Inverness

3133 Buffalo Speedway Houston, TX 77098

2. What is your rent?

\$1,300

3. How many bedrooms and baths? 2 Bedroom/1 Bath

4. What area of the city are you located?

Greenway Plaza/Upper Kirby

Just north of US-59 at the intersection of Richmond and Buffalo Speedway

5. Would you recommend your housing to other students?

Yes. Great location for public transportation, walking distance to HEB and a lot of different places to eat. The management is very nice and quick to respond to any issues. Mostly young professionals so it is always quiet. It is gated so security is not an issue. The apartment has nice features and is updated. For the location the rent is on the lower end.

6. If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of there areas that you think are best places to live?

7. Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

When I first moved to Houston for the program I lived out west just inside Sam Houston Tollway at Camden Stonebridge. The rent was \$1,060 for a 2 Bd/1Bath. For a starter apartment it was very nice. The only problem was it was so far from all the things we would do outside of school. If you can afford living inside the 610 loop than you will have a better chance getting to know Houston.

Also, When we moved the second time we used an apt locator and he was able to find us a lot of good places that met our criteria. He doesn't cost anything, he works through e-mails, and you receive 20% of his commission. You can e-mail me at jackieposenecker@gmail.com if you want his information.

Matt Vaclavik:

1. 2250 Bering Dr. Woodgrove apts
2. ~750 includes water and cable
3. 1 bed, 1 bath
4. west of 610 about 5-10 minutes from the Galleria ('outside the loop')
5. I would recommend it if your primary concern is being close to the galleria for class.
6. I personally would prefer to live inside loop 610.
7. after being in Houston for a while I wish I lived in an area that was adjacent to a bayou or had close bayou biking access. the are west of 610 that I live in has routes that one can bike but they are not the best bikeways that are conducive for safe biking.

Ali Mace: 2013 (roommate is Greg Roffino) / recent grad)

1. 2125 Yale St.
2. \$2040
3. 2/2 (I have a roommate)
4. The Heights. It's a great area. There are tons of cute little restaurants and shops and its fairly walkable/bike-able.
5. My apartment is a little pricey, but I absolutely love it. And there are units in the complex that are cheaper.
6. There are places to live in every price range but living inside the loop will bump the price up.
7. The main thing to remember is a balance between commute and cost of rent... if you live in a place that has really reasonable rent but you spend all of your time and money commuting, it's probably not worth it.

Greg Roffino: 2013 (roommate is Ali Mace) / recent grad)

1. Heights (20th and Yale) – Complex is called 2125 Yale
2. \$2040/mo. (Split two ways)
3. 2 bed/2bath
4. Houston Heights
5. Absolutely, great complex that is small compared to a lot of the other new complexes going in. Very personable. But is a bit pricey.

6. The Heights and Montrose have become my two favorite neighborhoods. Downtown is also great around the theatre district and market square. But from what I have found housing is limited and quickly becoming more and more expensive downtown as it becomes more attractive with a lot of new bars and restaurants

7. Live in the city, it's fun and you learn a lot by being immersed. It's gotten more expensive as Houston grows, but my recommendation would be to find roommates to split rent and if you have to live somewhere older, it's well worth having a less nice place in town than having a newer place further out. Another tip is to check the street view or go drive by a place you are interested in as Houston neighborhoods can change on a dime from street to street.

Bradley Bosworth: 2013

1. Location of your residence?

CamdenGreenway <http://apartments.camdenliving.com/houston-tx-apartments/camden-greenway/default.aspx>

2. What is your rent? **\$1,400**

3. How many bedrooms and baths? **2/2**

4. What area of the city are you located? **Upper Kirby, corner of Richmond & Kirby.**

5. Would you recommend your housing to other students? **YES!!! It is in an excellent location. In walking distance of lots of great restaurants and bars in the Upper Kirby area. Very close to I-59 which allows ease of commuting to downtown, midtown and galleria area. The complex is very clean and the management is very nice and attentive. It is located across the street from Levy Park, which has a nice dog park, running trail and baseball field that has local kickball and softball leagues year-round. It is a little expensive, but you're paying for the location.**

6. If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of there areas that you think are best places to live? Brad discovered Upper Kirby when he began studio work that required him to explore more areas of the city. He did his independent practicum studio work focusing on this area. It was pretty natural for him to want to live in the area after he graduated because it fit all of the criteria he and his fiancé had.

7. Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

Cynthia Helms: 2013

1. Location: 4045 Linkwood Drive, the Stratford House

2. Rent: \$885/month for a two bedroom one bath, electricity paid

4. I am located just inside the 610 loop, south of downtown. Close to Montrose, the Med district and the Rice area

5. The complex is open and nice. Has a good mix of people. Located near very upper class neighborhoods, which makes the area very safe. It is not gated, but has a 24 hour security guard. Laundry is small. Location is decent. Within walking distance of a grocery store, liquor store and a

Shipleys as well as the Braes Bayou hike and bike trail which is sweet. About a 20 minute drive to the galleria. 30 with traffic.

6. N/A

7. When looking for a place, be sure that it meets your parking needs. Many of my friends have trouble carpooling or taking a taxi when they go out because they do not have adequate visitor parking. Try to stay inside the loop. It makes a difference in your commute.

Bradley Arnold: 2013

Montrose / Hyde Park. (small apartment) Very nice walkable neighborhood, I really enjoy the location. It is close to everything, downtown, midtown, the heights, the museum district and the galleria

What is your rent?

\$875.00 includes: rent, water, gas and basic cable I pay 36.00 \$ a month for high speed internet and about 60-70 \$ a month for electricity through green mountain energy. That includes a five-dollar a month donation for their solar panel program where they donate solar panels to schools and civic buildings.

How many bedrooms and baths?

One bedroom, one bath, living, dining and kitchen, with a nice outdoor area for my dog. It is about 850 sq. ft. that seems to be fairly consistent to the area, at about a dollar a square foot for rental properties.

What area of the city are you located?

I am located in an up and coming cultural neighborhood that has a lot of parks and great access to all the amenities of the city.

Would you recommend your housing to other students?

Check out Brightside Properties they were awesome to work with, very easy and helpful. Stay inside the loop, north - down to the rice areas are all ideal. Midtown is great, Washington is great, EaDo is great and the museum district & rice village areas, are all great. I would recommend getting a broker they work for free, exploring a lot of options is beneficial. Although the rental market is more expensive than you might be used to, you can find a gem for a moderate price - if you set your mind to it. Live inside the loop. Make a trip to Houston in person to get oriented and do not let the size of the city overwhelm you. Stick to the main streets: Shepard, Kirby, Washington, Memorial, Westheimer, Richmond, Alabama, Yale, Heights, They are all inside the loop. Find a place that is going to make you happy because it will make your educational experience that much more exciting not to mention less stressful.

If you wouldn't recommend your place of residence, do you know of these areas that you think are best places to live?

I do not recommend going for a \$500.00-\$600.00 a month shanty - far away or living with your

parents. Learning how to make it work is part of the fun. Save up some money in the summer and find a way to get into a place that will benefit you in the long run.

Do you have any additional recommendations for students coming into the program as it relates to housing?

I would suggest exploring all options, even Craig's list if you are on a limited budget. There are great roommate situations if you are willing to take a chance. This might allow you to live in a more ideal area of town for less money. Houston is a large city and people often get transferred for work. There are a lot of professionals that will sublet a room or give you a discounted rate if you are a nice outgoing professional graduate student. It is hard to find a decent place unless you are willing to spend some time looking, the rental market is cutthroat inside the loop and prices are going up all the time. We are all here to help but don't wait until the last minute, because you might be in for a rude awakening. Network, have your friends and family help. Everybody will have a different opinion, so just take it with a grain of salt, have fun with it, use it as a chance to explore the city and be sure to give yourself enough time to get settled in.

Disclaimer:

The University of Texas Tech and the College of Architecture in no way are associated with the recommendations on this list. It is imperative that students take the search for safe and reliable housing seriously. This list is provided as a starting point and is based on student and recent graduate recommendations only. The director of this program is not associated with the recommendations on this list given by other students.