

UMass Boston Community Guide

OFFICE OF STUDENT HOUSING

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BOSTON AREA COMMUNITIES

Not sure what neighborhood to live in? This guide will introduce you to neighborhoods along the red line (the 'T' line that serves UMass Boston), as well as affordable neighborhoods where students tend to live. Visit these resources for more information on neighborhoods and rental costs in Boston:

- [Jumpshell Neighborhoods](#)
- [City of Boston Neighborhood Guide](#)
- [Rental Cost Map](#)
- [Average Rent in Boston Infographic](#)

Dorchester: Andrew – JFK/UMass – Savin Hill – Fields Corner – Shawmut, Ashmont, Ashmont-Mattapan High Speed Line

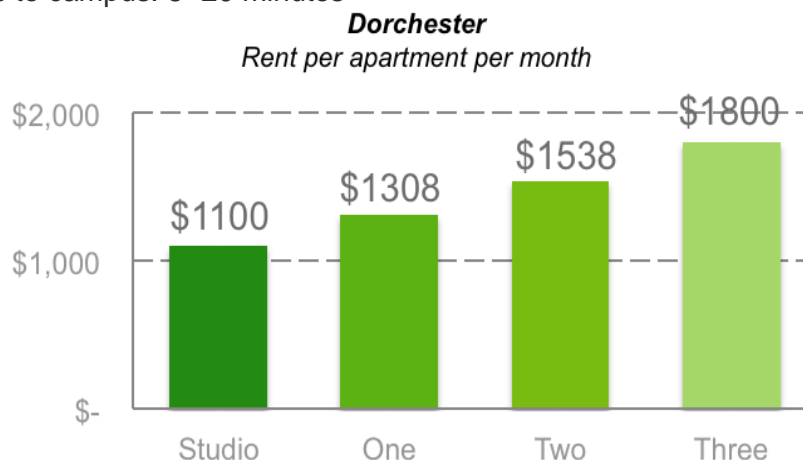


Dorchester is Boston's largest and oldest neighborhood, and is home to UMass Boston. Dorchester's demographic diversity has been a well-sustained tradition of the neighborhood, and long-time residents blend with more recent immigrants. A number of smaller communities compose the greater neighborhood, including Codman Square, Jones Hill, Meeting House Hill, Pope's Hill, Savin Hill, Harbor Point, and Lower Mills. The Andrew, JFK/UMass, Savin Hill, Fields Corner, Shawmut, and Ashmont stops, and the Ashmont-Mattapan High Speed Line on the red line serve Dorchester. Malibu and Tenean Beaches offer summertime recreation and numerous parks are scattered through the area.

A Day In the Life

Start your day off at neighborhood favorite, McKenna's Café. Take a study break with a walk up Savin Hill, and after a long day of classes, head over to Van Shabu to share hot pot with friends. And when you're still not ready for the night to end, check out spoken word at the Dot to Dot café.

- Commute to campus: 5- 20 minutes



Quincy: North Quincy – Wollaston – Quincy Center – Quincy Adams

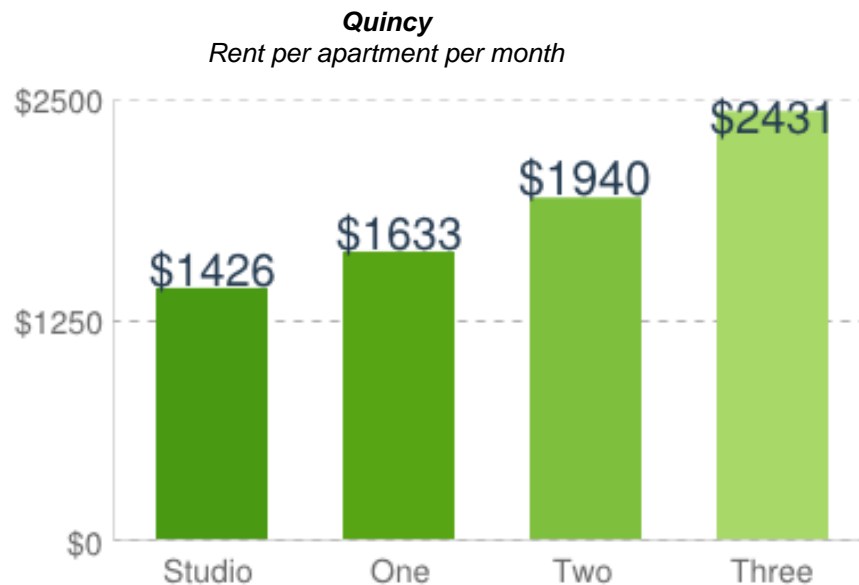


Just across the bay from campus, Quincy's impressive past remains vibrant today as the city lays claim to an exciting future. Fascinating historic sites abound, while miles of coastline capture the imagination. Culture and commerce blend to create an impressive array of things to see and do year round. Stroll the boardwalk at picturesque Marina Bay, the largest marina in the Northeast, and enjoy the incredible view of the Boston skyline. The North Quincy, Wollaston, Quincy Center, and Quincy Adams stops on the red line serve Quincy.

A Day in the Life

Take in views of the city and the ocean from the Marina Bay boardwalk. Dip into one of the many restaurants and shops or head into Quincy Center to grub at the Fat Cat. Just south, in Braintree, you can let loose at Dave and Busters.

- Commute to campus: 15-20 minutes



Mattapan: Ashmont-Mattapan High Speed Line

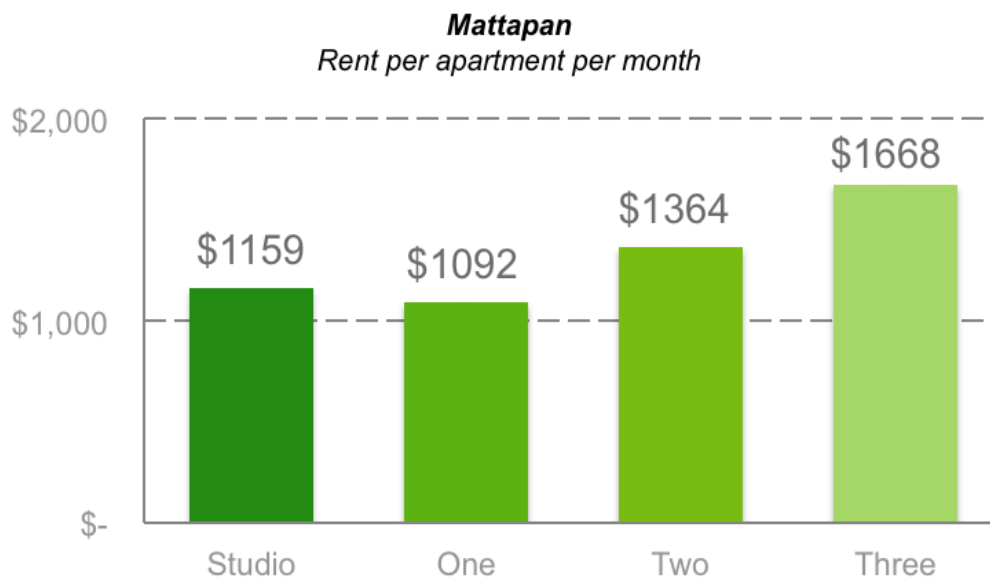


The neighborhood of Mattapan is a southern neighborhood of Boston. Today, Mattapan is a residential area with growing commercial centers. Mattapan is accessible by the seven stops on the Ashmont-Mattapan High Speed Line. Mattapan is home to a diverse population—primarily made up of Haitians, other Caribbean immigrants, and African Americans. The housing mix includes small apartment buildings, single-family homes, public housing, and Boston's traditional "triple-deckers". Mattapan residents enjoy a significant amount of green space, including Harambee Park, the Franklin Park Zoo, the Boston Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, and the historic Forest Hills Cemetery. Blue Hill Avenue and Mattapan Square are the neighborhood's main commercial districts, home to banks, law offices, restaurants, retail shops, health centers, and places of worship.

A Day in the Life

Spend an afternoon studying in the award winning, state-of-the-art Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library. Then, head over to Ali's Roti for savory West Indian roti and curry. For time outdoors, visit the expansive Boston Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary where you can walk along the boardwalks and trails that traverse wetlands and meadows.

- Commute to campus: 15-20 minutes



Braintree: Braintree

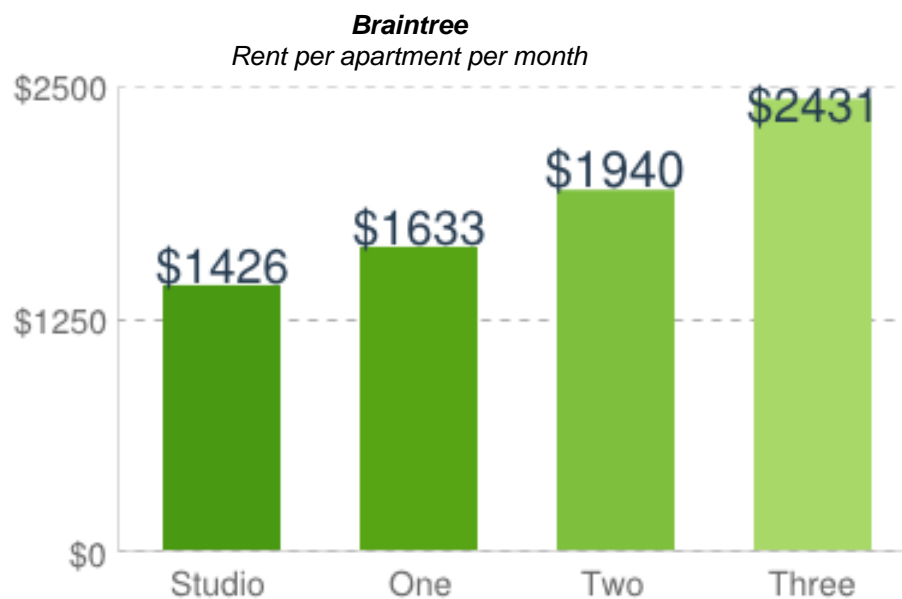


Braintree is a suburb of Boston located just next to Quincy. With easy access to the MBTA (the Braintree stop on the red line and commuter rail) and highways, Braintree is host to many students and young professionals seeking more affordable housing options. Braintree is home to a strong business base which includes one of the largest regional shopping centers in the northeast - The South Shore Plaza.

A Day in the Life

For a thrilling weekend adventure, go to F1 Boston where you can race karts like a professional Formula One driver. For those with a sweet tooth, visit the famous European pastry and dessert shop, Konditor Meister. Check out the authentic Mexican enchiladas at El Sarape, or for a 'greasy spoon' breakfast, visit Ashley's Restaurant.

- Commute to campus: 30-45 minutes



South Boston: Broadway

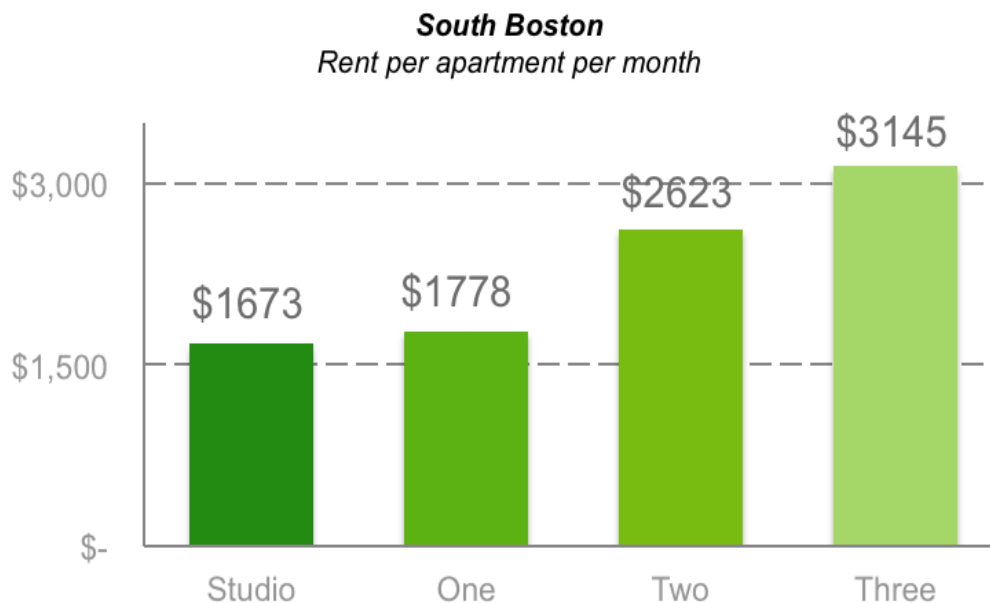


Once a predominantly Irish Catholic community, in recent years South Boston has become increasingly desirable among young professionals and families who are attracted to the neighborhood's strong sense of community and quick access to downtown and public transportation. Today the breathtaking South Boston Waterfront is emerging as Boston's newest neighborhood. The Broadway stop on the red line serves South Boston.

A Day in the Life

Sunbathe, swim, walk, or explore at Castle Island. Located on the Harbor Walk, this is the must-go destination of South Boston, and while you're there, grab a bite to eat at Sullivan's. Check out Barlow's on Monday when you can get \$1 oysters.

- Commute to campus: 10-20 minutes



Cambridge: Kendall/MIT – Central Square – Harvard Square – Porter Square – Alewife - Lechemere



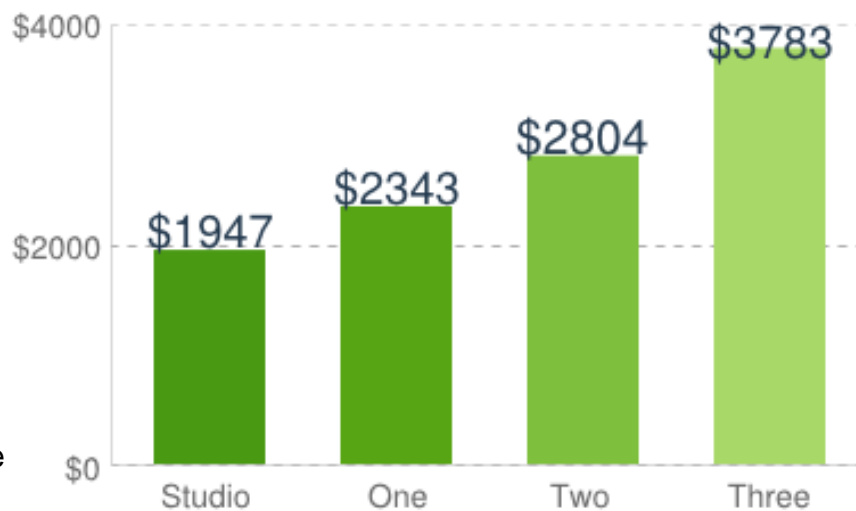
Cambridge is a unique community with a strong mix of cultural and social diversity, intellectual vitality, and technological innovation. College students from around the world study at Harvard, Radcliffe, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Lesley University. The charming neighborhoods ("Squares") of Cambridge are rich in options for shopping, dining, and sightseeing, offering plenty of theatres, museums, and historic sites. Central Square, the seat of city government, contains a variety of international restaurants and music clubs. Kendall Square, home to MIT, is the focal point of the Massachusetts high tech and biotechnology industries. Harvard Square, surrounding the historic brick walls of the nation's oldest university, offers a plethora of cafes, bookstores, boutiques, and entertainment choices. Likewise, Porter and Inman Squares offer a diverse selection of dining options, and many artistic and cultural attractions as well. Cambridge is accessible on the red (Kendall/MIT, Central Square, Harvard Square, Porter Square, Alewife) and green (Lechemere) lines.

A Day in the Life

For a night out, head over to Kendall Square and catch an independent film at Kendall Square Cinema, followed by a game of pool across the street at Flat Top Johnny's. Alternatively, for a slow weekend morning, grab a pastry at Petsi Pies and then pursue the used book collection in the basement at Harvard Square Book Store.

- Commute to campus: 30-45 minutes

Cambridge
Rent per apartment per month



Somerville: Porter Square- Davis Square – Sullivan Station – Assembly Square

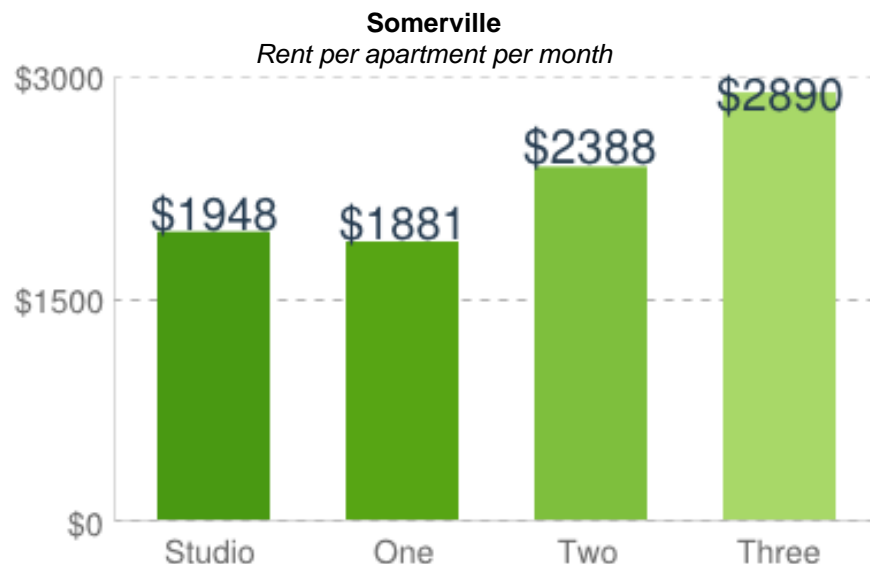


Somerville is an eclectic mix of blue-collar families, young professionals, college students and recent immigrants from countries as diverse as El Salvador, Haiti, and Brazil. With a large immigrant population, Somerville celebrates its diversity through numerous ceremonies celebrating cultural traditions and holidays. Somerville is defined by its city squares, which help mark neighborhood boundaries while also featuring bustling businesses and entertainment centers. Among the most active today are Davis Square, Union Square, Ball Square, Teele Square, Magoun Square, and Assembly Square. Each offers a mix of ethnic restaurants, bars and shops and small businesses to fit every taste and occasion. Somerville is accessible by T on both the red (Porter Square and Davis Square) and orange (Sullivan Square and Assembly Square) lines.

A Day in the Life

Check out Sacco's Flatbread for bowling and pizza with friends or see the latest blockbusters and live acts at Somerville Theater. Whichever activity you choose, is sure to go well with the Flavor of the Month from JP Licks. For weekend brunch, check out the delicious plates at Sound Bites Café in Ball Square, or Neighborhood Restaurant in Union Square.

- Commute to campus: 40-60 minutes



East Boston: Maverick – Airport – Wood Island - Orient Heights – Suffolk Downs

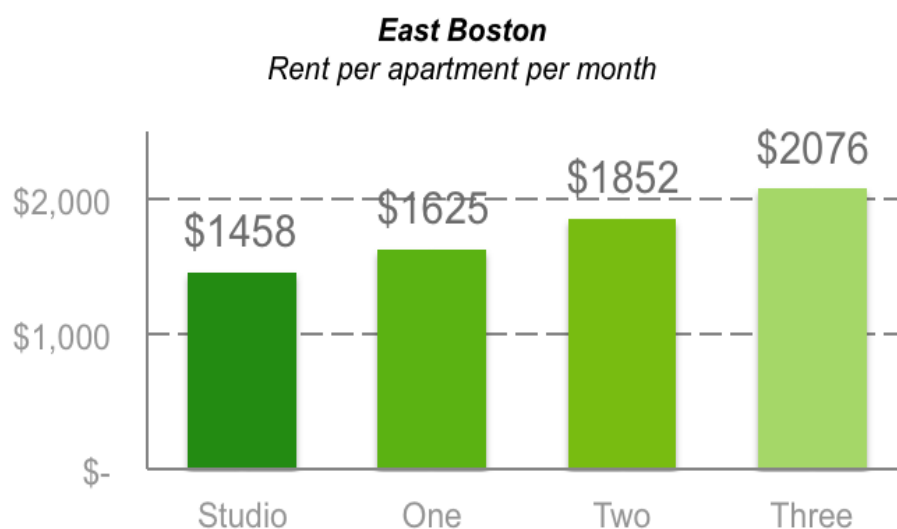


In 1940, East Boston was the arrival point for thousands of immigrants to Boston, infusing the neighborhood with an Old World charm and diversity that still characterizes East Boston today. A number of unique restaurants and retailers reflect the diversity of the neighborhood. Maverick Square and Central Square are the main commercial areas. Though East Boston is not contiguous to Boston, it is easily accessed via the Callahan, Ted Williams, and Sumner Tunnels; the Blue Line T (Maverick, Airport, Wood Island, Orient Heights and Suffolk Downs stops); MBTA ferries; and surface roads to the north. Belle Isle Marsh Reservation and Constitution Beach offer recreational opportunities to residents, and striking views of the Boston skyline can be had from Piers Park.

A Day in the Life

Wake up and go for a jog along the East Boston Greenway, and cool down while enjoying a gorgeous view of Boston in Piers Park. For a quick lunch, grab a fresh burrito or cheesy pupusas with loroco from Cactus Grill in Maverick Square. For dinner with friends, head to La Hacienda for churrasco and other Central American dishes.

- Commute to campus: 35-50 minutes



*Please note that average rent may fluctuate year to year. The numbers in this guide were updated July, 2014.

TRANSPORTATION

MBTA

The MBTA is the public transportation service in the Greater Boston area. This includes subway lines (the 'T'), bus lines, and commuter rail lines. The JFK/UMass Station on the T's red line, as well as the #8 and #16 bus routes are the public transportation options most convenient to UMass Boston.

The MBTA offers an 11% discount to all students if purchased through UMB Office of Student Activities. For more information on the MBTA map, schedules, and fares visit the links below.

- [MBTA Schedules and Maps](#)
- [Discounted Student Passes](#)



Driving

If you plan to park at UMass Boston, be sure to allow yourself time to find a space and walk to your destination on the campus. Remember that traffic may be very heavy, and space may be limited, especially at the beginning of the semester.

Parking costs \$6 per visit. No overnight parking is allowed. Several pass options are available, including:

- Semester passes (valid from the first day of classes through the last day of exams)
- Monthly passes
- Multi-park passes

You can buy all prepaid passes at the Office of Transportation Services (Quinn Administration Building, 2nd Floor) or the UMass Boston Bookstore (Campus Center, Upper Level). For more information on pass rates, terms of use, and parking lots on campus visit:

- [Parking on Campus](#)
- [Parking Costs](#)
- [Parking Map](#)

Biking

UMass Boston is located conveniently on the Harborwalk, a biking and walking trail that connects communities along the waterfront. Bike racks are available at many campus locations. A Hubway portal is located along the Harborwalk outside of the Campus Center. Check out the following resources for more information on how to bike around Boston:

- [The Hubway](#)
- [Bike Safety](#)
- [Bike Map](#)
- [Harborwalk Map](#)

TRASH COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Each neighborhood and municipality has its own schedule and rules on trash disposal and recycling. To find out what day your trash and recycling is picked up, you must visit your municipal website:

- [Boston](#)
- [Cambridge](#)
- [Somerville](#)
- [Quincy](#)

For information on curbside recycling and to request a recycling bin or barrel visit the links below:

- [Boston](#)
- [Cambridge](#)
- [Somerville](#)
- [Quincy](#)

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

When you live off campus as a UMass Boston student, you're actually part of two communities: UMass Boston, and the neighborhood in which you live. Being a good citizen of both is a major responsibility you undertake when you decide to live off campus.

As a UMass Boston student living in the community, you are a representative of UMass Boston, and, as such, your conduct reflects directly upon the University. Living off campus does not circumvent your responsibility as a member of the UMass Boston community to abide by the Code of Student Conduct:

➤ **Student Code of Conduct**

Tips on Being a Good Neighbor

Make an effort to get to know your neighbors and get involved in your community. This can help to avoid potential conflicts and help you to feel a part of the community.

1. **Introduce yourself.** Whether you're new in the neighborhood or new residents have just moved in on your block, introduce yourself. Say hello, offer a welcoming gift and share or ask about the local area: "Where's the nearest pizzeria?" or "When does the garbage truck come by?"
2. **Consider your neighbors' lifestyle.** Get to know your neighbors--what they do for a living, what their schedules might be like, and so on. Sometimes, you can remedy problems before they even start. For example, if they work nights, quiet mornings will be important for them. If they have young children, quiet evenings will be very important to them. Similarly, give them information that'll help *them* be more considerate of your lifestyle. If you have exams coming up and need quiet time, or if you plan to have a large group of friends over let them know in advance.
3. **Be aware of shared walls.** If you're in a building with multiple units where you and your neighbors share adjacent living spaces, position noisy electronics or appliances, such as TVs and speakers, away from partition walls. If you live above someone, consider putting linoleum or rubber matting underneath your appliances to deaden or muffle the noise. Remember that someone downstairs can hear you walking around (so minimize how often you wear high heels indoors, for example).
4. **Alert your neighbors to parties.** If you're planning a party, be sure to give your neighbors plenty of warning, letting them know when it's going to start and how long you expect it to go on. Leave them a telephone number to contact if they need to ask you to turn it down. This can also help avoid run-ins with the police. If you get along well with your neighbors, why not invite them, too? When it comes to the party itself, stick to your agreed arrangements and ask your guests to be considerate when leaving.

5. **Put garbage out on the right day.** Only put your garbage out on the day it's due for collection. If you accidentally miss the collection, bring it back onto your property immediately and try to contain it well. Garbage can attract vermin, insects, and other pests, and is also unsightly. Also, keep in mind that you will likely receive a ticket from the city you live in if you leave your garbage out on the wrong day.
6. **Communicate with your neighbors.** Above all, touch base with your neighbors regularly and keep them in the loop. Remember the golden rule and if anything you are planning to do may affect them, minimize it and let them know in advance. Keep the channels of communication open by reminding them that if you're doing anything that disturbs them, they should feel comfortable approaching you about it.

For more tips and information, check out this great resource published by the city of Boston:

- [Boston Rental Housing Center](#)

ENGAGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Volunteer

No matter where you live, it is both your right and responsibility to take part in governing your community. Students are encouraged to participate in all local, state, and federal elections, and get involved in their communities through volunteering. Check out the following links to find volunteer opportunities in your area.

- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [Boston Cares](#)
- [Idealist](#)

You can also get involved in your community through volunteer and leadership opportunities with the UMass Boston Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement and other volunteer programs on campus:

- [Office of Student Leadership and Community Engagement](#)
- [UMass Boston Service Days](#)
- [Jumpstart](#)
- [Campus Kitchens](#)

Voter Registration

It is your civic responsibility to register to vote. To register to vote in Massachusetts, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- a Massachusetts resident
- at least 18 years of age by the next election

If you meet these requirements, you are eligible to register to vote in Massachusetts. To register to vote and learn who your local and state representatives are, check out the following links:

- [Student Voter Registration Information](#)
- [Register to Vote](#)
- [Municipal Government](#)
- [Senate and House Representatives](#)