HOUSING DECISION GUIDE

Trying to decide where to live next year? Here are a few simple steps and questions to follow to take charge of your decision:

MAKE A LIST OF YOUR NEEDS AND OPTIONS
- Deciding between residence halls, fraternity/sorority houses, apartments, houses, or at home, there are no shortage of choices for living arrangements. Make a list so you can review your options.
- Planning to study abroad? Check to see what your contract requirements are to know if you are responsible for finding someone to sublease or if you can do a short term contract.

SET A BUDGET & CONSIDER ALL OF THE COSTS
- Cost of Attendance allocates a certain amount when it comes to financial aid and it is important to review this to know how much money you can afford to spend on housing.
- When creating a budget, consider the costs of food, laundry, furniture and utilities as well as the cost of the housing itself.
- Determine if you need a cosigner for the lease and who can be that person for you.
- Keep in mind that the closer to the edge of campus you are, the more expensive the rent. If you want to save some money, consider living a few blocks away and walking, biking or busing to campus.

DECIDE ON ROOMMATES OR LIVING ALONE
- It is okay to be choosy when thinking of who you will live with next year, being mindful that friends take time to develop. You do not need to be best friends with your roommate(s) in order to have a successful relationship.
- Do you want a roommate or an apartment-mate? Sharing a room can be different from sharing an apartment.
- Deciding on roommates is a critical part of your decision making process because once you sign a lease with others it is challenging to get out of the contract.
- Some leases indicate that one person can be held responsible for the whole lease amount if others fail to pay. Choose your roommates wisely. Find out if potential roommates have the ability to pay rent each month, and if they are considering studying abroad for a semester or taking time off so you can plan ahead or choose a different roommate before signing a lease.

WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS & GET INTO THE DETAILS
- There are advantages and disadvantages to consider when deciding your home for the next year. Will you walk, bike, ride or drive to campus?
- Make a list of the pros and cons of each option, taking into account important factors like cost, convenience, commute, meal plans, safety and proximity to friends.

LISTEN TO WARNING SIGNS AND TRUST YOUR GUT
- You are choosing your home for the next year and you want it to be comfortable and safe. Even though it feels like you need to commit now, there is time in sign. There are plenty of spaces, some just may be a few blocks further from campus.
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Did you know?
- There are Living Learning Communities available for students in their second year on campus within Housing & Residential Life.
- Housing & Residential Life allows one semester contracts for students studying abroad.
- Consider the timing of the lease terms. Many off-campus leases begin September 1 are 11 ½ to 12 months, which may leave a gap in housing. Housing & Residential Life offers many locations with 9 months and 12 month contracts.

Adapted from: https://www.wikihow.com/Decide-Whether-to-Live-On-or-Off-Campus