

# finding a place



## Housing Options

**YOUR SEARCH FOR HOUSING NEAR UCSB** can be both exciting and stressful. Take the time to review the contents of this guide and don't feel pressured into committing to the first place you check out. Make sure that you are aware of your options and that all of your questions and concerns are addressed before making a commitment. Contrary to rumors, you do not need to find housing in January for the following school year!

### Where Are You Going To Live?

Housing is readily available, but the pleasant climate and the beautiful environment of our coastal mountain region have created a more expensive real estate market.

The majority of UCSB students live off-campus in local apartments, houses, rooms in private homes, co-ops, fraternities and sororities.

- Detailed information about housing options for students is provided on our website at [www.housing.ucsb.edu](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu)
- Rental listings available at [www.housing.ucsb.edu/hchoices/cho-rental-home.htm](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/hchoices/cho-rental-home.htm)

### Short Term Housing

When you initially arrive on campus, searching for housing can be overwhelming. If you intend to look between the end of August or the beginning of September, UCSB housing offers rooms in their residence halls for registered students. For more information search the housing website for "short stays." The Community Housing Office (CHO) may also have information on hotels in the area.

- Call **(805) 893-4371** or e-mail [ucscho@housing.ucsb.edu](mailto:ucscho@housing.ucsb.edu) for suggestions. Lastly, it's recommended that you consider renting a room in a private home where month-to-month leases are typically offered. This will be useful while you search for a more permanent locale.

### Shared Housing

Most UCSB students in Isla Vista have roommates; it's the most realistic way of dealing with high rents. On average, students should expect to spend between \$600-\$700 to share a room in Isla Vista. Prices may vary based on amenities, location, and included utilities. Both tenants who need roommates and roommates who need rooms advertise online with the CHO rental database.

### Apartments

Apartments located closest to campus and the beach tend to be the most expensive. The further from campus and the beach that students live, the lesser the rent. Most single students who live in private housing choose to live within a mile of campus, primarily in Isla Vista (I.V.), the community adjacent to campus. In I.V. the average cost for a one-bedroom is about \$1370/month and the average cost for a two-bedroom is about \$2660/month.

- Up-to-date statistics can be found on our website.

### Houses

There are some houses available, but be prepared to pay several thousand dollars in start-up costs. Rents can run \$2500/month to \$3967/month for two and three bedroom houses in the Isla Vista and Santa Barbara areas.

### Rooms in Private Homes

Many private homeowners in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area rent rooms to UCSB students, staff and faculty. Rents start at about \$650/month for a private (often furnished) room. Many are within biking distance or close to a bus stop. See page 8 for more information on renting a room in a private home.

### Greek Life

Joining a fraternity or sorority at UCSB offers you the opportunity to make connections and find support with a group of people that share your interests and goals. Many chapters offer housing and meals for members.

- If you are interested in finding out more about Greek life, keep your eyes and ears open for information on "Rush" (procedures for new member recruitment) or contact the Director of Greek Affairs in the Office of Student Life at **(805) 893-3966**.

## Co-op Housing

### Santa Barbara Student Housing

Co-op is a nonprofit organization made up of five buildings in I.V. which are owned and controlled by the residents that live there. Co-op members are expected to attend monthly house meetings, complete “service hours” each quarter and participate in the house chore system. Anyone is welcome as a member provided that he or she is a student, staff or faculty member at UCSB, with a good reference from a previous tenancy.

- Contact information: [www.sbcoop.org](http://www.sbcoop.org) or (805) 685-6964.

## University-Owned Housing

### Single Student Housing

Go to [www.housing.ucsb.edu](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu) and click on “Applications” page for eligibility, availability, and application dates.

### Residence Halls

UCSB owns eight residence halls. Freshmen are guaranteed housing if they return their residence hall contract by the specified deadline. There is plenty of space for all other undergraduate students.

- Information about the eight university-owned residence halls is available through Housing and Residential Services at [www.housing.ucsb.edu](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu) or by calling (805) 893-5513.

## Single Student Apartments

The Santa Ynez, Westgate and El Dorado university-owned apartment complexes offer units primarily for juniors and seniors. Furnished studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments are available. The San Clemente Apartments offer private bedrooms in a furnished two- or four-bedroom unit. This complex is geared for single graduate and upper-division students.

- More information is available on-line at [www.housing.ucsb.edu](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu) or by calling (805) 893-4021.

## University-Owned Housing

### Family Student Housing

There are two UCSB-owned apartment complexes offering unfurnished one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments for students and their families. Students with families can apply to the West Campus, Storke I and Storke II complexes any time on-line at [www.housing.ucsb.edu](http://www.housing.ucsb.edu). Families with children under 18 receive priority and may be housed generally within 6-9 months. Families without children can expect to wait between 18-24 months to receive housing.

- More information is available by calling (805) 893-4021.

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

As your typical panicky freshman, I rushed to find housing and roommates in December. I locked myself into an apartment I had not seen the interior to with girls I met only three months earlier and barely knew. While I was relieved throughout the year that I did not have the apartment hunting task looming over me, I worried about whether my housing experience the following year would be a positive one. But once I moved in, I knew that I had gotten lucky. While I would never, ever recommend rushing into an apartment the way I did- exploring your options and knowing what you’re getting yourself into is key. Living with your best friends is not always what it’s cracked up to be. The fact that my housemates are not my closest friends makes our apartment dynamic simpler. We respect each other’s space and privacy and confront each other about problems we have, rather than feeling paranoid that we may hurt each other’s feelings and ruin our friendship. Although I was fortunate with the outcome of my apartment search, I know for next year to know more about the place before signing the lease and to ask my potential roommates questions beforehand to get an idea of if we are capable of living together peacefully.

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