



November 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this finds you well as we enter our third month of the academic year. Here in the [Office of Residential Life and Learning \(ORLL\)](#), we are working diligently to provide educational programming that engages and supports our students living on and off campus. In recent years, we have seen increased demand for on-campus housing, and students continue to request additional assistance navigating the rental market in our neighboring communities of Somerville, Medford, and Boston. ORLL is committed to meeting these challenges, and we're working hard to provide options and resources to your student.

Recent Construction Projects

After months of construction, the first phase of our newest on-campus housing development, [Community Housing \(CoHo\)](#), has added an additional 45 single rooms for juniors and seniors, with a goal of adding 92 more single beds by the start of Fall 2019. Students living in these new spaces have provided us with positive feedback so far, and we're excited to continue our growth in this area.

For first-year students who will be moving mid-year from Houston to the newly renovated Miller Hall, we are working with movers to ensure that there is a seamless transition to their spring housing assignment. Our department has set up a plan for students to pick up boxes and prepare their rooms prior to leaving for Winter Break, when our movers will ensure that all items are delivered to their new rooms. For more information on the construction timeline and moving process, please refer to the [Residential Life website](#).

Off-Campus Housing Resources and Initiatives

This past June, our office formally launched the [Off-Campus Housing website](#), dedicated to providing off-campus housing search options, as well as space for students to locate resources for off-campus living. Since joining the ORLL team, my focus as the Assistant Director for Housing Operations has been our off-campus student population and students

preparing for this venture. A major objective of mine is to ensure that our students are educated before making choices related to housing, whether during or after their college careers.

To begin, we surveyed students currently living off campus to determine their experiences with the search process and gather important statistical information: prominent neighborhoods, average rent costs, and types of issues encountered during the search process. This information greatly aided in the formation of ORLL's Off-Campus Housing Series, the first session of which took place in September and focused on helping students understand 1) where to begin their search and 2) how to formulate their budget (including Financial Aid information). All four sessions focus on the educational aspects of the off-campus living process, including tenants rights and leases, navigating the process after moving in, and what to do upon moving out. I hope you can join us on [Facebook Live](#) for our final two sessions on [November 15](#) and [November 29](#).

On-Campus Housing Lottery

The last session of our Off-Campus Housing Series for the Fall 2018 will take place on November 29 and focus on our Housing Lottery for students interested in remaining on campus. Applications for campus housing will be live the following day, November 30. Our department anticipates being able to house approximately 50% of rising juniors and 100% of rising seniors who apply for campus housing, which is more than ever. Our session on November 29 is designed to help all continuing students prepare for the Housing Lottery, as well as a potential move off campus. Please encourage your student to attend.

Spring 2019 Educational Opportunities

In addition to programs and educational initiatives for continuing students, we recognize that our first-year students may also be beginning to think about on-campus housing options after their sophomore year. In recent years, many sophomore students have returned to campus and immediately begun looking to sign a lease off-campus for the following academic year. Before they make a commitment off campus, however, we want to ensure students are educated about their options and the process of signing a lease, keeping the following questions in mind:

- What is the likelihood of finding on-campus housing?
- What goes into locating and securing off-campus housing?

- What preparations should they make before signing their lease?

We hope to answer these kinds of questions for your student *before* they make a commitment to housing off campus. In Spring 2019, we will provide additional educational opportunities for our first-year students designed to alleviate some of the stresses around the search process. Ultimately, we want all students – and their families – to be equipped with the information they need.

The Office of Residential Life and Learning is looking forward to our continued work over the course the 2018-19 academic year and beyond. If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. For more information, please contact us at reslife@tufts.edu or 617-627-3248.

Sincerely,

Angelic “Angy” Sosa
Assistant Director for Housing Operations,
Residential Life and Learning