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A guide to on- and off-campus housing for the class of 2022

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HELLO CLASS OF 2022!

On behalf of the entire community here, we would like to be two of the first to say welcome to Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (CDM – the first of many abbreviations you will learn). For those of you not from New York City or the surrounding area, finding housing and moving here can be seen as being fast-paced and overwhelming, but we are here to help! Throughout this booklet, there will be information and resources discussing the different types of housing that you can obtain both on- and off-campus; we consolidated some of the information from the Housing Office at CUMC’s website and some information from our classmates.

Generally speaking, on-campus housing is a rather straightforward option. There is a wide array of choices available and the only party that you need to go through is the Columbia Housing office. Like in undergrad, you would pay your housing fees (rent) to the Office of Housing. You only have to fill out a form (available on April 15th) indicating which style of housing you want and you can choose from many options which are detailed in this document. There is a limited number of housing options available on-campus that fluctuates every year so housing on-campus is not guaranteed. There is no charge for filling out this application and you can always choose to cancel your housing if you do get it, so unless you are 100% set on living somewhere else, you should fill out the form!

For those looking “off” campus, we see there to be three ways to go about finding off-campus living options. The first, and most common, is to live in an apartment building not owned by Columbia but still is in Washington Heights and within walking distance to any of the buildings where classes are held. A second option would be to live further downtown. This requires a relatively quick commute in the morning (especially if you live on a subway route that stops at CUMC – the A, C, and 1 trains). Both of these first two options often require a broker to help you find an apartment, which can be an additional fee. You can avoid a broker fee if you are able to find vacancies among the CUMC community – often listed on your facebook page. A final option would be to commute from outside of New York City, which is not as common, but still an option to consider. More information regarding all of these options and further instruction is provided within the pages to come.

This booklet also includes monetary figures, such as monthly rent and amenities, as well as pictures of actual apartments being lived in right now by members of CDM. Please note that the featured apartments are not necessarily comprehensive of all of your options here and are only examples of what you can find. The advantage to living with on-campus housing is that the buildings are very close to all of your classes, to the clinics, and the buildings have 24-hour security; off-campus housing is up to the discretion of the landlord and may or may not contain these features. If you find yourself unsure of what to do and given how easy the process is, we encourage you to apply for on-campus housing when the application is released.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions along the way and we look forward to meeting you all soon!

Your Move-In Chairs,

Jack Hagedorn and Marlena Adamczyk
The map to the left shows the CUMC campus. Most of the relevant buildings to you as first years (D1's) will be along 168th St and Haven Ave.
WHAT TO DO IF YOU WANT TO LIVE ON-CAMPUS

OPTION 1: APPLY THROUGH CUMC HOUSING WEBSITE

https://www.cumc.columbia.edu/facilities-management/campus-services/housing

- Apply on-line from April 15th to June 1st
- APPLY EARLY
- Priority is given to international students first and then students coming from longer distances across the country
- SINGLE STUDENTS - rank Bard, Georgian, Towers, and 154 Haven, all apartments are male or female only
- COUPLES - rank Jr. 1-bedroom in Tower 1, 1-bedroom in Tower 1, 1-bedroom in Tower 2 or 3, and 1-bedroom in 154 Haven. **Must show proof of marriage/partnership**

OPTION 2: CONTACT A CURRENT RESIDENT

- Housing office has an updated list of current students looking for roommates
- Email cumc.housing@columbia.edu to get contact information of these students
- If current resident agrees, the room will be held until August when you could move in
- In this situation, these apartments could be co-ed
- There is no guarantee that you will find a room using this option
- You SHOULD also submit an application for on-campus housing through the CUMC housing website in addition to option 2

OTHER NOTES:

- Number and type of available units varies at any point throughout the year
- Can't guarantee your first choice or housing at all - YOU MAY NOT GET ON-CAMPUS HOUSING EVEN IF YOU APPLY
- On-campus housing is split between all CUMC programs (medicine, public health, etc.)
- You can always decline housing if you do end up getting offered an apartment so it never hurts to just apply
**Tower 1: Jr 1-bedroom apartment**

- 3 rooms: bedroom, kitchen, living room
- Kitchen: stove and refrigerator included
- Full Bathroom
- Unit is not furnished
- Rent = $1,964*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, A/C, heat, wi-fi
- NOT included in rent: gas, electricity, cable, phone
- Blinds over the windows
- Wood/Tile floors
- Central A/C
- Door attendant in lobby
- Elevator access

**Tower 1,2,3: 1-bedroom apartment**

- Exact same as the Jr apartment above but it is larger
- Rent: $2,047-2,293*

**154 Haven Residence: 1-bedroom apartment**

- 2 room apartment: living room and bedroom
- Kitchenette: cooktop (no oven), mini-fridge, microwave
- Apartment IS furnished
- Full Bathroom
- Rent: $1,547*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, A/C, heat, wi-fi
- NOT included in rent: gas, electricity, cable, phone
- Wood floors
- Central A/C
- No door attendant, but have security personnel
- Elevator Access

* Rent is subject to change on June 1st. These numbers are estimates.

** IN ORDER TO LIVE IN COUPLES HOUSING YOU MUST HAVE PROOF OF MARRIAGE/PARTNERSHIP **

6 CUMC Housing Info
Example of couples housing (tower 1, 1 bedroom)
Contact Roger Chu: rc3117@cumc.columbia.edu
Rent: $2292
What we like:
- Lots of closets/storage space
- Great views (can see: downtown, Hudson River, and GW Bridge
- The apartment was remodeled into a 2-bedroom
- Close to school
What we don’t like or what we wish we would have known:
- Price. Because of the great view and size, our apartment is the most expensive one you can get in Tower I
- The toilet clogs sometimes
- No direct sunlight in the kitchen and living room area
- No ceiling lights in bedrooms and living room. You have to buy lamps
Georgian Residence
- Rent = $1,419*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, wi-fi, electricity
- NOT included in rent: cable, phone
- Kitchen: Kitchenette with sink, cook-top, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom
- Furniture: twin XL bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, dresser, lamp

154 Haven Residence:
- Rent = $1,232-1,294*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, A/C, wi-fi
- NOT included in rent: electricity, cable, phone
- Kitchen: Kitchenette with sink, cook-top, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom
- Furniture: Full sized bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, dresser, lamp

Tower 3:
- Rent = $1,862*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, wi-fi, electricity
- NOT included in rent: gas, electricity, cable, phone
- Kitchen: Full kitchen with sink, stove, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom
- Furniture: either furnished or unfurnished (can select preference on application)

* Rent is subject to change on June 1st. These numbers are estimates.
Contact: Charlie Long, cal2236@cumc.columbia.edu
154 Haven Studio
Rent: $1250, $1350 with view of Hudson
What I like:
  • very easy to move into (fully furnished)
  • park is right across the street (has basketball)
What I don’t like:
  • Only one light on wall, must bring lamps
What I wish I would have known:
  • 175th street stop on the A train is a 30 second walk
  • Packages don’t get delivered to 154 haven, have to walk 3 blocks to pick them up
Bard Hall

- Rent = $896-1,391
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, wi-fi, electricity
- NOT included in rent: cable, phone
- Kitchen: Communal with sink, stove, and refrigerator
- Shared bathroom on the floor
- Furniture: twin XL bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, dresser
- Gender separated by floor
- Door attendant

Contact: Andy Yoo, ay2406@cumc.columbia.edu

- 32 dollars a day (includes everything)
- Likes: location is good. convenient for classes, bard hall gym, meal plans, etc. relatively affordable compared to a lot of off campus housing
- Dislikes: shared showers/bathroom, one kitchen for entire building
- Wish he knew: you can’t sublet your space so if you wanna move in the middle of semester, you would have to pay double rent. There’s an option for breaking lease early in semester, but the penalty fee is expensive
2-PERSON SUITE

Georgian Residence

- Rent = $991*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, wi-fi, electricity
- NOT included in rent: cable, phone
- No A/C unit in apartment - can pay to have one installed
- Kitchen: Kitchenette with sink, cook-top, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom
- Furniture: twin XL bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, dresser, lamp
- Gender separate by suite
- Door attendant

Tower 1,2,3:

- Rent = $1,862*
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, A/C, wi-fi
- NOT included in rent: gas, electricity, cable, phone
- Kitchen: Full kitchen with sink, stove, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom
- Furniture: either furnished or unfurnished (can select preference on application)
- Door attendant
- Gender separate by suite

*Rent is subject to change on June 1st. These numbers are estimates.

Contact: Arushi Atluri, aa4039@cumc.columbia.edu

Example of 2-Person Suite in Tower 2

Rent: $1146

What I like:
- proximity to classes and gym and library
- HUGE room with lots of natural lighting
- sick views of the Hudson and GW bridge
- lots of closet space and kitchen space
- packages get delivered to the front so nothing gets lost

What I don't like:
- tiny living room
- windows leak (like snow and wind was coming in before I duct taped them shut)
- freeway noise

What I wish I knew:
- knowing the floor plan would've been nice just to see much furniture to order/if there was a living room
- the floor plans on-line aren't accurate since every floor and every tower has different set-ups
2-PERSON SUITE

Contact: Arushi Atluri, aa4039@cumc.columbia.edu

Example of 2-Person Suite in Tower 2
2-PERSON SUITE

Example of a 2 Person Suite in Georgian
Contact Claudia Perez: cp3011@cumc.columbia.edu
Rent: $950

What I like:
- I have my own bathroom
- The room comes furnished (furniture is a little depressing but you can ask them to remove it if you want to bring your own stuff)

What I don’t like:
- I had to give this place the most intense cleaning of my life when I moved in so be prepared
- The building is older
- Have to pick up packages in Bard (3 minute walk)

What I wish I would have known:
- laundry room downstairs and works with a laundry card
3-PERSON SUITE

Tower 1, 2, 3:

- **Rent = $1,093-$1,153***
- Included in rent: hot/cold water, heat, A/C, wi-fi
- NOT included in rent: gas, electricity, cable, phone
- Kitchen: Full kitchen with sink, stove, and refrigerator
- Full bathroom (we have 2 full bathrooms, most of the 3-person suites only have 1)
- Furniture: either furnished or unfurnished (can select preference on application)
- Door attendant
- Gender separate by suite

* Rent is subject to change on June 1st. These numbers are estimates.

Contact: Jack Hagedorn, jph2178@cumc.columbia.edu

Rent: $1093

What I like:

- my room is HUGE
- the view is great
- friendly door staff
- So CONVENIENT - right next to the VEC

What I don’t like:

- my apartment was a mess when I moved in
- lots of noise from the street (even on the 25th floor)
- windows aren't stable - will stop liquid but will let wind in

What I wish I would have known:

- my room was furnished - you can ask the housing office to remove anything you don’t want - I brought my own bed
- each apartment in the towers is different, each bedroom is different, it is almost impossible to know what you are getting until you get here
- you are assigned a room in an apartment, you don't get to pick your bedroom - I got lucky with a big bedroom
- washer/dryer are on every other floor - the dryers are currently being fixed (have been all year) so you have to take your laundry to the main floor to dry
3-PERSON SUITE
Example of a 4 Person Suite

Contact Mike Schiappa: ms5446@cum.columbia.edu

Rent: $1050

What I like:
  • location
  • security of the front desk

What I don't like:
  • crapshoot with the random roommates, mine are particularly dirty PhD students
  • living with 3 random guys isn't the best situation

What I wish I would have known:
  • If I would've know this was the best I could do, I probably would have weighed my off campus options more
  • It's not bad for New York living overall
What to do if you want to live Off-Campus

Make an account on the Off Campus Housing Assistance Site
OCHA is a database of apartment vacancies through Columbia-affiliated individuals, these include sublets, by month, or by year rentals of entire apartments or just a room within an apartment. You can access the site at:
http://www.facilities.columbia.edu/housing/overview-2

Attend the Off Campus Housing Fair
There will be an Off-Campus Housing Fair in the summer (likely July 2017). Brokers that attend this fair have had experience working with students in the past and often offer their services at a discounted rate to Columbia students. This is a good opportunity to meet a broker and try to apply for an apartment! Apartment contracts move fast in New York and applying for August move-in dates prior to July is not common (and difficult to find).

Explore Washington Heights and Call Management Companies
Many of the buildings in the area have the contact information for the management companies displayed outside. If you can come into the city and call the numbers posted on the buildings, or buzz the Superintendent to ask if they have any available apartments. Doing this, you might be able to find an apartment without paying a broker's fee.

Check out Apartment Listings Online
Many brokers and management companies lister their available apartments on sites like www.Streeteasy.com, www.trulia.com, and www.apartments.com. These can be very helpful to get an idea of the market and typical prices. However, apartments tend to go very fast, so you will need to act quickly on these listings. Be wary of apartments that seem "too good to be true", as this is often an attempt by brokers to get your business.

Hire a Broker
Some companies that students have used in the past include: Citit Habitats, Cooper and Copper, Corcoran, Douglas Ellimen, and others.
Where do most students live?

Most first-year students live in the Washington Heights neighborhood right around the school. A majority of the people choose to live West of Broadway between 168th St. and 179th St. The consensus among most of our classmates and previous classes is that this is the safest area. However, the neighborhood is generally safe even outside of this area and there are members of our class that live East of Broadway or below the CUMC campus between 160th and 165th.

Note: Many students do choose to live outside of Washington Heights, either in other neighborhoods within Manhattan, in other boroughs of New York City, or even New Jersey!

When should I start looking?

Housing in Manhattan is notorious for going quickly, so start looking no more than 2 months in advance. Most brokers will not even want to meet with you if you are not able to move in by the following month. Once you sign your lease, you will probably be expected to move in a few weeks after that. Leases are usually signed for 1 year but can be signed for more.

What areas are recommended in Washington Heights?

As mentioned above, anything west of Broadway (especially for females). Some students prefer staying between 165th and 173rd St., but the availability may be somewhat limited/the rent may be higher.

How much is the Broker’s fee?

If you find a place through a broker s/he will collect a fee for finding and showing you the apartment and mediating the paperwork. The standard Broker's fee is 15% in Manhattan, but don't hesitate to negotiate (ask for a "student rate"). 13% is reasonable; many new graduates and incoming students search for housing in the summer, so brokers may not be willing to budge on the fee if they can find someone else who is willing to pay it. In some cases, landlords pay for the broker fee. Several buildings may also offer one free month of rent.

What price range should I keep in mind?

Students have paid anywhere from $600 (not so common) to $2,500 (per person) per month. It depends on finding the balance between location, safety, and personal preferences (living alone will be much more expensive).
OFF-CAMPUS: UPPER WEST SIDE

- West 103rd Street
- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Located b/w Central Park and Manhattan
- $2,995 per month
- Washer/Dryer in unit

Contact: Joey Lazaroff
jl4906@cumc.columbia.edu
OFF-CAMPUS: UPPER WEST SIDE

- West 68th St. and Riverside Blvd
- Studio Apartment
- $2,650 per month

Contact: Sanam Desai
smd2206@cumc.columbia.edu
OFF-CAMPUS: Washington Heights

- 3 Bedroom/1 Bath Apartment
- 171st Street right by the VEC
- $2,535 a month
- No living room
- No washer/dryer in unit
- Very convenient location

Contact: Marlena Adamczyk
ma3657@cumc.columbia.edu
OFF-CAMPUS: Washington Heights

- 3.5 Bedroom/2 Bath Apartment
- 164th Street and St. Nicholas
- $3,500 a month
- Washer/dryer in unit

Contact: Kayla Moller
klm2227@cumc.columbia.edu
If you are looking to live in Downtown Manhattan and commute to class in Washington Heights (or even anything in between like Harlem or the Upper West Side), you would probably want to make sure that you are on the West Side along the A, C, or 1 trains, as they run directly up to the 168th St. stop here by CUMC. The A train is an express train and is the fastest option to 34th St./Penn station and 42nd St./Times Square, but does not make as many local stops as the C or 1 train.

Another thing to keep in mind is that the rent in other areas of Manhattan generally tends to be more expensive than the Washington Heights area.

Contact Joey Lazaroff jl4906@cumc.columbia.edu or Sanam Desai smd2206@cumc.columbia.edu to learn more about living in Morningside Heights/Upper West Side.

If you are living in New Jersey and looking to commute to the city everyday, you will likely travel across the George Washington Bridge via car or bus. Most students who opt to commute travel 45 minutes or less, so living in New Jersey further away from the GW Bridge may add to this time and will be up to personal preference for a commute. However, living outside of Manhattan can save you a substantial amount of money.
Feel free to contact either of us at any time if you have questions! We have listed our emails below, as well as some of the contact information for the Office of Housing Services.

**Move-In Chairs**
Jack Hagedorn - jph2178@cumc.columbia.edu
Marlena Adamczyk - ma3657@cumc.columbia.edu

**Department of Housing Services**
Bard Hall/50 Haven Avenue
New York, NY 10032
Phone: 212-304-7000
or 212-305-4357 (select Option 2)
Fax: 212-544-1900
Email: cumc.housing@columbia.edu

**Hours of Operation**
Mon. through Fri. 8am-5pm
Closed Sat. and Sun.

GOOD LUCK!