Housing at BC LAW

As an admitted student finding housing in Boston may seem like a daunting task. Below you’ll find some advice and guidance from current BC Law students. We’ve all been there, and can tell you that it’s actually not that hard to sort out your housing situation.

**Neighborhoods:** There are plenty of options for places to live near to school. Here are some of the main places where BC Law Students choose to live.

• **Cleveland Circle:** This neighborhood in Brighton is by far the most popular of neighborhoods for BC Law students. With easy access to the B, C, and D lines of the T, as well as the BC Law shuttle, you’ll have no problem living here without a car. In addition, you’ll be close to many of the popular bars and restaurants that BC Law students patronize, such as Cityside bar, Eagle’s deli/diner and Pino’s Pizza. Living on the Commonwealth avenue side you’ll be in Brighton, and living on the Beacon street side you’ll be in the separate town of Brookline. This area boasts a free public pool in the summer and an ice skating rink in the winter. If you like to run, you’ll also be close to the reservoir, which is a nice 1.5 mile loop.

• **Allston:** Down Commonwealth Ave, and a little closer to downtown, you’ll find a mixed group of hipsters, Boston University students, and observant Jews. Amazing bagels can be had at Kugel’s, and you’ll find interesting delis and Kosher markets to explore. A highlight of the area are the array of plentiful and cheap ethnic restaurants, including Greek, middle eastern, Chinese and Japanese. Allston offers many more businesses to explore than Brighton, but some people can also find it a tiny bit more rough around the edges. Living here will put you on the B line if you need to get closer to school or downtown.

• **Coolidge Corner:** Popular with young professionals, Coolidge Corner offers an independent movie theater, Trader Joes, Brookline Booksmith, and a wide variety of restaurants and nicer bars. You can spend hours in Coolidge Corner browsing the wide variety of independent stores, including a board game shop, a party store, and plenty of boutiques. Keep in mind that all of these benefits can come with a price- Coolidge Corner can be a little bit more expensive than other areas students tend to live. Living here will put you on the C line and within walking distance of the D line.

• **Lake Street/ Main Campus area:** The area near BC’s main campus houses some law students, often in the Towne Estates, which are off of Lake Street. Living here, you’ll enjoy easy access to the Law school and the main campus, as well as a private pool in the summer. Many people living in this area like to have a car- the parking will probably be less expensive, and it is a little bit less convenient to take the T. You can walk about 5 minutes to get to the B line. There are a couple of restaurants in this area, but mostly you’ll be going into Cleveland Circle to get food or drinks.

• **Newton:** Some BC Law students like to be close to the law campus in Newton. This definitely has its benefits- Newton Center has a wide range of restaurants and shops, you’ll be close to school, and you’re much more likely to find cheap parking in Newton. It can be tough though for meeting up with friends and going out on the weekend, as you have to walk to the D line and most people tend to congregate closer to Cleveland.
Circle. If you’re more of a bookworm, or need somewhere quiet to escape to this could be a good option for you. If not, keep in mind that you’ll be traveling farther than most of your friends when you all want to meet up.

Finding a roommate: If you’ll be new to Boston in the fall you’re probably wondering how to find a roommate. There are a lot of different options. First, many people will post on facebook to see if they have a friend or friend of a friend that is moving to Boston. You’d be surprised how often that works out. Second, many people post on the facebook group for admitted students to find other people who are looking for roommates. I know a lot of people who found each other on that group and wound up as close friends! Also, older students will sometimes post looking to fill an extra room in an apartment they already have. Third, keep in mind the accepted students days and the housing fairs. These are also good opportunities to find someone. Fourth, check out BC’s roommate matching website. Finally, if you’re hesitant to live with someone you don’t know well, plenty of people get one bedrooms or studios and then move into a shared apartment during their 2L year.

Finding an apartment: We highly recommend that anyone looking for an apartment contact the off-campus housing office (http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/offcampus.html). This office can advise you as to local realtors, and provide access to some apartment listing which they collect. After you enroll this office can also provide access to a roommate finder they organize. Another option, which is probably complementary, is to directly contact a realtor. You can look online for one in the neighborhood you’re interested in and call them to talk about options. If you’re coming out for a visit or the on campus housing fair, you can make an appointment to have a realtor show you some options then. Another option that current students have utilized is finding a 3L who has a nice apartment and will be moving after they graduate. It may be worth posting on the 3L facebook group to see if anyone can recommend their apartment!

Parking and transportation: BC Law students can rely on personal cars, BC shuttles, and the T to get to and from campus and around Boston.

- **With a car:** Parking tends to run about $150/ month in Brighton and Allston. It may be slightly more in Coolidge Corner, and may be less or included if you live in Newton or near BC’s main campus. If you live in the City of Boston (including Brighton and Allston) you can change your registration to your specific neighborhood and then get a resident sticker which allows you to park on the street. However, be aware that the on-street parking can fill up by 4pm. If you live in Brookline, including the Beacon street half of Cleveland Circle and Coolidge Corner, there is no overnight parking and you will have to purchase a monthly parking spot.

- **Without a car:** Plenty of people get by without cars. Probably the best area to live without a car is Cleveland Circle because you have access to BC’s law school and main campus shuttles. This makes it easier to get to school. You can walk to the B, C, and D lines if you need to get closer into downtown, and a lot of BC’s social life takes place in this area, so you’ll be close to the action on the weekends. Other areas are definitely
doable without a car, but make sure to check out the BC shuttle schedule, because you may end up needing to take both the T and a shuttle to get to school from another area.

**A note on price:** Prices in these areas will range. For example, places in Newton or near main campus may be less expensive, and places around Coolidge Corner may be more expensive. However, a general range to consider, including heat and hot water, is around $900-1000 per person for a two bedroom apartment, and around $1100-1600 for a one bedroom. If you find a place which houses three or more people the price per person will probably be lower. You can get a more accurate idea of current prices by checking out local realtors’ listings.

**Interview with Reservoir Towers Apartments Resident (Near Cleveland Circle)**
2) Who/ what type of people live in that area? In my building it's mostly old people. Some younger people sprinkled throughout but mostly old Russian people. Outside of the building it's mostly BC graduate, undergraduate students.
3) Do you have a roommate? If so how did you find them? Yes, the first roommate I had I knew from college. The roommate I have now is a friend of mine I knew before law school through field hockey.
4) What are the best parts/ benefits of living where you live? It's centrally located to all of the T's which is my most favorite thing. I can hop on the B, the C, or the D and be at most a 7 min walk from my apartment. My building is very quiet and not full of undergrads like some of the surrounding area.
5) What are the drawbacks or annoying parts of living where you live? I fortunately have parking at my building but I feel like that's a major issue to have a car if you don't have parking and aren't a resident. Other than that I have no complaints.
6) How is the parking/ transportation where you live? See above.

**Interview with Coolidge Corner Resident**
2) Who/ what type of people live in that area? Young professionals and families.
3) Do you have a roommate? If so how did you find them? Yes; friend from home.
4) What are the best parts/ benefits of living where you live? Oh gosh, Coolidge Corner is super nice and has cute shops; can walk wherever, including the grocery store and it's a good distance from downtown. Sometimes I even walk downtown.
5) What are the drawbacks or annoying parts of living where you live? It's expensive and not easy to get to BC - sometimes takes two buses and a T, or two Ts and a bus.
6) How is the parking/ transportation where you live? No parking - it's horrible - need to get parking through your building; you can't even park in Brookline over-night.

**Interview with Towne Estates Resident (Near BC's Main Campus)**
1) Where do you live? I live in Town Estates Condominiums, which is an apartment complex on the Brighton/Newton line located off of Lake St. between Main Campus and the Law School Campus.

2) Who/ what type of people live in that area? Its a wide range of tenants, ranging from grad students to young families to older couples. My building has two grad students, a high school teacher and an assistant professor at BC in it.

3) Do you have a roommate? If so how did you find them? I do have a roommate, who I met on the admitted students Facebook page.

4) What are the best parts/ benefits of living where you live? My location is great for access to the law school. It takes me 4 minutes to drive to law school from my apartment, on all residential roads, so there is never any traffic. Also the apartment has individual parking spots for each apartment. If you don't have a care it is a relatively close walk, about 10 minutes, to the BC stop on the B Line of the T.

5) What are the drawbacks or annoying parts of living where you live? The drawbacks of our location would be the walk to the T (it is a little farther than many of the apartment buildings that sit right on Comm Ave. or Beacon). Also, it is a little bit of a trek to bars in Cleveland Circle or downtown. I work in Gov't Center and its about a 50 minute trip on the T each morning.

6) How is the parking/ transportation where you live? I guess I answered this question in 4 and 5.

**Interview with Cleveland Circle Resident on Commonwealth Ave**

1) Where do you live? In Cleveland Circle.

2) Who/ what type of people live in that area? It is a lot of graduate students, I feel like almost everyone is in their 20s and early 30s.

3) Do you have a roommate? If so how did you find them? Yes, I was lucky that a girl I knew from before was going to BU, so we found a place together.

4) What are the best parts/ benefits of living where you live? I feel like Cleveland Circle is one of the most convenient places to live while going to BC Law. A lot of people live near me so it is easy to meet up for dinner or drinks in Cleveland Circle. I am right on the B line, and can walk to the C and D lines, so it is pretty easy to commute downtown. I can also catch the BC Law and regular main campus shuttle buses easily when I need to. I’m close to the public fields and reservoir, which is nice if I want to go running or watch some IM softball.

5) What are the drawbacks or annoying parts of living where you live? A lot of the apartments in this area are on the older side, so while they are cute on the outside the heating can be a little off and on. Also, it’s a little bit of a walk to get to either of the grocery stores, but sometimes it can actually be nice to get the exercise.

6) How is the parking/ transportation where you live? If you have a car you either need a parking spot (about $150/ month) or a resident sticker, which means you have to switch your registration to Brighton. Brighton and Boston can be nice because there is overnight parking, which Brookline doesn’t have. Other than that the T and shuttle are very accessible.

**Interview with Allston Resident**

2) Lots of BU undergrads live in the area. It is also different from most other parts of Boston in that it is full of hipsters.

3) I lived with one of my friends from undergrad who is not in law school.

4) The food in the area is awesome. There are a ton of great Asian restaurants, bagel shops, falafel, and pretty much anything you can think of. It’s also got a lot of good bars, including Tavern in the Square.

5) It can get pretty loud at night, because it’s possible you will be living around a ton of undergrads.

6) The public transportation in the area isn’t great. Allston is right on the B line, but the B line can take quite a while to get downtown. I wouldn't recommend living in Allston if you don’t have a car, since it’s a pretty long trip out to Newton (having to take a long T ride and then the shuttle).