

BOSTON COLLEGE

2020–2021 INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING OFF-CAMPUS

Living off campus impacts the awarding of financial aid in that the total cost of attendance is lower for a student living off-campus. As a result, many students and families experience a decrease in the amount of financial aid awarded in the year the student spends off-campus.

Based on extensive research done by Residential Life and Enrollment Management on local cost of living, it is considered less expensive to live off-campus than on-campus. The approximate total cost for a student living off campus in 2020–2021 is \$74,162. This figure consists of an average billed cost (without financial assistance) of \$59,662 for tuition and fees. The remaining \$14,500 is an allowance toward books, meals, transportation, and an estimated cost for room and board off-campus.

It is the student's responsibility to find off-campus housing. This process usually takes place starting in February of each year. For more information visit www.bc.edu/reslife. Students may apply for financial aid or alternative financing to help cover the costs of tuition, fees, and off-campus housing costs. When looking for off-campus housing, it is important to take into consideration the average amount allowed for room/board within the 9-month academic year (September to May) budget. For the 2020–2021 academic year, the amount allowed for off-campus room and board is \$11,550. This translates into approximately \$1,283 per month for rent, groceries, and utilities. Keep in mind that if you sign a full-year 12-month lease, you are responsible for the costs of the apartment over the summer (June to August).

All Boston College financial aid funds, as well as any federal or private loans are disbursed to your student account. When you live off-campus, your student account is billed for only tuition and fees. All other costs (rent and food) are the responsibility of the student and the family. If your determined financial aid funding exceeds tuition and fees, a credit balance is created. You may use this credit balance to cover rent and food.

If you borrow funds to cover the expected family contribution, funds will be disbursed to the student account to cover any outstanding balance. Any credit balance may be refunded to you in the form of a refund check that you may request through My Services at www.bc.edu/myservices. These funds may be used for all costs associated with living off-campus.

Funds will not be available until the start of classes each semester and after all financial aid funds have been disbursed to the student account. There are no advances given to cover these costs, so you must make arrangements ahead of time.