**Housing Information**

**For Incoming Global Health MPH Students**

We hope this brief outline of housing tips helps you in your search for affordable, convenient, and comfortable housing.

**Temporary Housing**

If you do not have a place to stay when you first arrive in Seattle (and searching for housing will undoubtedly take longer than a day!) you might consider these options:

**International Hostel** (downtown Seattle; 206-340-1222). <http://www.greentortoise.net>. Per night is under $60.

**College Inn Guest House** (a B&B) (4000 University Way NE; 206-633-4441). <http://www.collegeinnseattle.com>. Moderately priced, with breakfast. Many rooms do not have a private bathroom.

**University Travelodge** (4725 25th Avenue NE; 206-525-4612). <http://www.travelodgeseattleuniversity.com>. Moderately priced.

**On-Campus Housing**

The Housing and Food Services office is located in 210 Lander Hall (206-543-4059); email: [hfsinfo@uw.edu](mailto:hfsinfo@uw.edu); website: <http://hfs.washington.edu>. On-campus housing is not likely to be cheaper than living off campus but might be a good idea if you don't want to take the time to search for a place to live. Some grad students recommend living on campus for one or two quarters until you are familiar enough with Seattle to find a place where you want to live more permanently. If you want on-campus housing, you should apply immediately; space is limited and usually goes to undergraduates first.

**Seattle Neighborhoods**

**Some general remarks**

Avenues run north-south and streets run east-west. The main north-south arterials are Interstate-5 (I-5) and Highway 99 (also known as Aurora Avenue, north of the Ship Canal). Everything north of the Ship Canal (the Ship Canal runs east-west, south of the U-District, north of Montlake) is collectively known as North Seattle.

Below are brief (and necessarily incomplete) descriptions of a few of Seattle's neighborhoods where many UW grad students are living.

**Neighborhoods South of the Ship Canal**

**Montlake.** This neighborhood is very close to campus (easily walkable, but could be a 30- to 40-minute drive to campus during rush hour), and includes the beautiful and unique arboretum and several parks and playgrounds.

**Capitol Hill.** The north end of Capitol Hill tends to be quieter and more expensive, but is closer to campus. The south end and the west side are more urban in character. There are movie theaters, record shops, restaurants, and night clubs along Broadway. The area is easily accessible by Light Rail, bus, and bike (10-15 minutes). Parking is difficult.

**Neighborhoods North of the Ship Canal**

**U-District.** More UW students live here than in any other neighborhood, simply because of its proximity to campus. It is crowded, noisy, rather expensive (as far as rents are concerned), yet everything one needs is within walking distance. Most retail is along University Way NE, between NE 41st and 50th Streets, known as "The Ave." The U-District west of campus and south of 45th Street is primarily apartment buildings. Many single-family houses are found north of 45th. Immediately north of campus (between 45th and 50th) are fraternities and sororities ("Greek Row"). Parking is scarce to non-existent in the U-District.

**Ravenna.** Immediately north of the U-District is Ravenna, a neighborhood of primarily single-family houses. There are fewer apartments, but since most students share housing, it's a popular area for students to live. The area includes University Village (a large shopping mall northeast of campus). Easily walkable to campus.

**Wallingford.** A residential neighborhood just west of the U-District. It is predominantly single-family houses (many of which are rentals), though apartment buildings are scattered throughout, especially near Aurora Avenue. Most of Wallingford is within walking or biking distance to campus, and 10-30 minutes away by bus (depending on traffic). South Wallingford has great views of Lake Union and downtown. North Wallingford is adjacent to the Phinney Ridge/Greenwood area (see below).

**Fremont**. Just like Wallingford, but farther west. A lot of students live in this area, both from UW and Seattle Pacific U. The retail district in Fremont is a unique experience and there are some good restaurants. Be sure to visit the Troll under the Aurora Bridge.

**Ballard**. Even farther west. Apartments can be more reasonably priced than other areas, the neighborhood is quiet, and there is an extensive retail district. Ballard was originally a small fishing town, settled by Scandinavians. Incorporated with Seattle in the 1920s, it retains the feel of a small town and is proud of its history (visit the Nordic Museum). The Ballard Locks, with extensive gardens and fish ladders (watch the salmon leap the ladders in early July!) are located on the Ship Canal. Too far from the UW to walk, it is easy by bike—no hills, if you ride along the Ship Canal and Burke-Gilman Trail. By bus, it is 20-50 minutes to campus (depending on traffic).

**Phinney Ridge/Greenwood.** Phinney Ridge is a long, north-south hill, with Greenwood at the north end. Woodland Park Zoo and Green Lake are in this area. Views from the sides of the ridge are fantastic, with Puget Sound and the Olympics to the west and the Cascades to the east. Bus service to campus is good, but may require transferring to a second bus.

**Green Lake.** This neighborhood surrounds the lake itself, a very popular location for walking, biking, swimming, etc., also the site of the Bathhouse Theatre. Any day of the year, there are people traveling around the 3-mile perimeter. The neighborhood is mostly single-family houses, some with rooms for rent. Bus to campus takes 15-30 minutes.

**Other neighborhoods directly north of campus** include Wedgwood, Northpark, Northgate, Lake City, and Maple Leaf; and are easily accessible by bus.

**Neighborhoods northeast of campus** include Laurelhurst, Sandpoint, and Viewridge. Bus service is good and the Burke-Gilman Trail (see below) provides easy access - no hills - to campus by foot or bike.

**Sources of Information**

**UW Family Housing:** <https://www.hfs.washington.edu/housing/Default.aspx?id=174#gsc.tab=0>

**Craigslist**: <http://seattle.craigslist.org>

**Zillow**: <http://www.zillow.com/seattle-wa/rent>

**Postings** in places such as cafes, grocery stores, the HUB, and UW South Campus Center.

**Agencies** that offer assistance with finding short- or long-term housing, such as Apartment Hunters: [www.apthunters.com](http://www.apthunters.com).

**Driving, walking, or biking around Seattle**. This is a good way to find something in the area that you want, since many apartments in small buildings aren't advertised other ways.

**Transportation**

**Bicycle.** The Burke-Gilman Trail (paved) is an efficient way to bike to campus from areas such as Wallingford, Fremont, Laurelhurst, Sandpoint, and all the neighborhoods to the north along Lake Washington.

**Link Light Rail.** The Light Rail has stations at Husky Stadium (which is near the UW Medical Center, Health Sciences Building, and South Campus Center), Capitol Hill, Downtown, South Seattle, and SeaTac Airport. Future expansions will include stations in the heart of the U-District all the way to Northgate. The Link Light Rail map and schedule can be found here: <http://www.soundtransit.org/schedules/link-light-rail>.

**Bus**. The bus system is very good, with several routes serving the U-District and campus. There are also express buses to UW from almost every part of the metropolitan area. The Metro website has all the bus schedules, bus route maps, and other info on bus riding: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov>. Most buses are equipped with bike racks, if you want to combine these modes of transportation.

**Shuttle.** There are free shuttles that provide transportation between the UW Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center, Fred Hutch, and UW South Lake Union. More information and schedules can be found at <http://www.washington.edu/facilities/transportation/uwshuttles>.

**Streetcar.** Another convenient mode of transportation is the Seattle Streetcar (<http://www.seattlestreetcar.org>). The streetcar has lines that go through South Lake Union as well as Capitol Hill and First Hill. An upcoming expansion linking the South Lake Union line to the First Hill/Capitol Hill line is coming soon.

**U-Pass**. This is the UW's comprehensive transportation plan. See information and current rates at

<https://www.washington.edu/facilities/transportation/student-u-pass>. The U-Pass serves as an unlimited bus pass on all Metro, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, Kitsap Transit, Everett Transit, and Sound Transit buses, the Link Light Rail, Seattle Streetcar, Sounder Train, and King County Water Taxis, and is also good for many kinds of retail discounts.

**Car or motorcycle.** Travel time is extremely variable, depending on traffic. If you live within one or two miles of campus, walking is sometimes faster. Parking near campus is usually nonexistent after 9:00 am. Student parking permits are extremely limited and very expensive. “Real time” traffic reports can be found at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle>.