



# HOUSING GUIDE FOR FX STUDENTS INTRODUCTION



## I. INTRODUCTION

Finding housing in a foreign country can be challenging. It is important to plan ahead and be prepared for the housing search. There are many different options for our students. You can choose to live close to the law school, in other parts of San Francisco, or in other parts of the Bay Area. Additionally, there are a number of different living situations possible: staying in a residence club, renting an apartment by yourself, renting a house or apartment with roommates, or renting a room in house with shared common areas. It is most important to get settled in as early as possible before your time at UC Hastings begins.

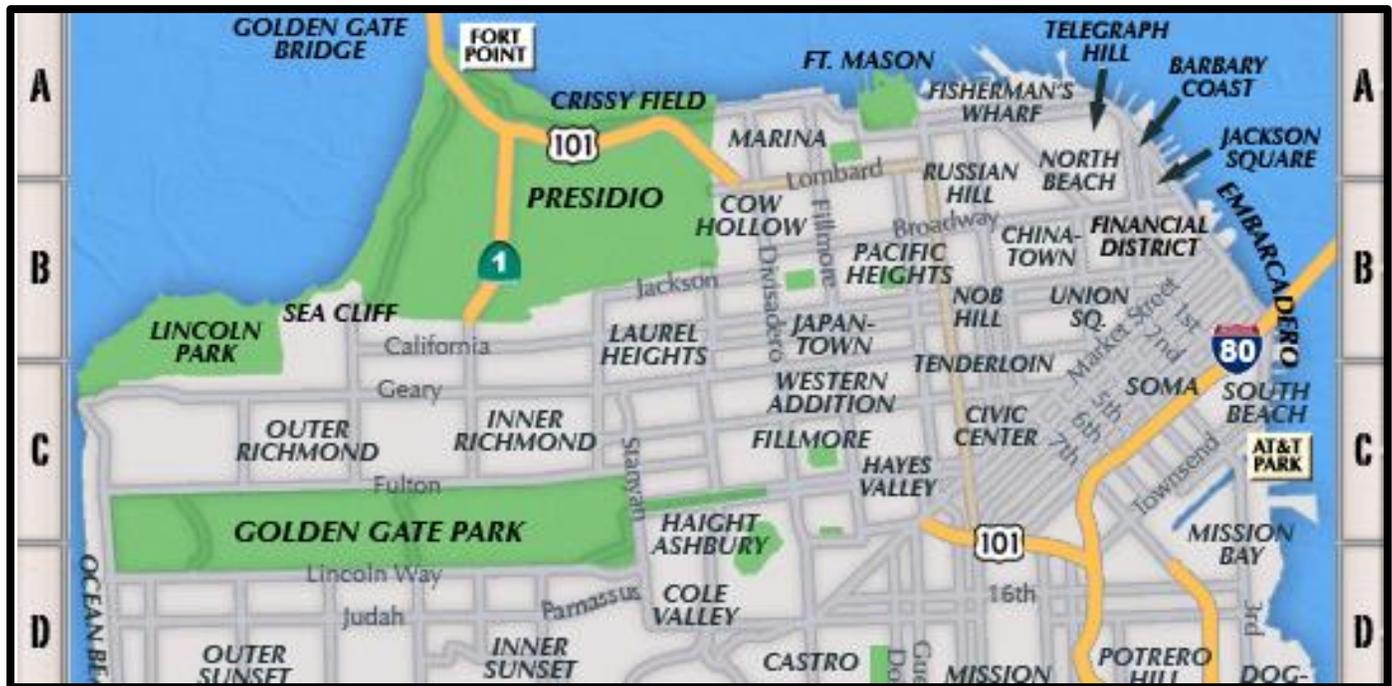
This guide contains general information about the housing available to our Foreign Exchange (FX) students at UC Hastings. Please note that **students are responsible for securing their own housing throughout their studies at UC Hastings.**

***NOTE: Information contained in this guide is for informational purposes only. UC Hastings assumes no responsibility for any contractual services or agreements entered into by users of this guide. Addresses, telephone numbers, agencies, services and transportation are included in the listings; however, users of this guide communicate, contract and do business with individuals, companies or firms strictly at their own risk. Students are responsible for securing their own housing throughout their studies at UC Hastings.***



# HOUSING GUIDE FOR FX STUDENTS

## OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING



## II. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

UC Hastings' on-campus housing (the McAllister Tower) is available only to degree-seeking students (JD, LL.M., and MSJ). All non-degree seeking students, including FX students, must find housing off-campus. As it can be a challenge to find housing in San Francisco during the popular summer months, we recommend that you secure housing before arriving in San Francisco.

We strongly recommend that you consider the Vantaggio Abigail Residence Club located next door to UC Hastings (more information on page 6 of this housing guide).

When searching for housing, following are a few things to consider.

### Location

UC Hastings is located in the "Civic Center" area of the map above.

The advantage of living in the city of San Francisco is proximity to UC Hastings and easy access to public transportation. The disadvantage is higher rent costs.

The advantage of living in other Bay Area communities, especially the East Bay region, is lower rent. The disadvantage is time and money spent on the commute to UC Hastings. Although in some instances, commuting from the nearby East Bay is comparable in commute time from some locations in San Francisco.



# HOUSING GUIDE FOR FX STUDENTS NEIGHBORHOODS

## Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods within an easy commute to school in which our FX students have lived and enjoyed in the past are:

- Inner Richmond District
- Inner Sunset District
- Laurel Heights/Presidio
- Marina District
- Nob Hill and Lower Nob Hill
- Noe Valley
- North Beach/Telegraph Hill
- Pacific Heights and Lower Pacific Heights

Compare and consider all of your possibilities. The following link will help you figure out how you could commute to school using public transportation: <http://www.sfmta.com/>.

Within San Francisco, MUNI is the primary mode of transportation. The **MUNI bus lines 5 and 19** stop directly in front of the law school; all MUNI underground lines stop at the **Civic Center Station** located within a half block walking distance from the law school.

If traveling to San Francisco from within the greater Bay Area, BART is the primary mode of transportation. Four out of the five BART lines stop at the Civic Center Station located within a half block walking distance from the law school.

For a detailed description of the neighborhoods in San Francisco, go to: [www.sfgate.com/traveler/guide/sf/neighborhoods](http://www.sfgate.com/traveler/guide/sf/neighborhoods).

Other Bay Area Cities in which our international students have lived are as follows:

- Berkeley, El Cerrito (staying near a BART (train) station is highly recommended)
- South Bay (staying near a BART (train) station is highly recommended)
- Daly City





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## RESIDENCE CLUBS

Finding an apartment or house online before you arrive in the United States can be a challenge. **We recommend reserving a residence club, hotel, hostel, or other temporary residence before your arrival in San Francisco.**

*UC Hastings is not associated with any of these housing options, nor does UC Hastings take responsibility for any of the businesses or referrals listed herein.*

### RESIDENCE CLUBS

Residence Clubs are like dormitories in that they are furnished, offer private or shared bedrooms and private or shared bathrooms, and generally cater to students. Residence clubs can be rented short-term as a temporary home base while you are searching for permanent housing or long-term. There is usually a small refrigerator and sometimes a microwave in the bedroom, complimentary breakfast, weekly housekeeping, and shared common areas and kitchens.

### Vantaggio Suites

The [Vantaggio Abigail on McAllister Street](#) is located ***next door to UC Hastings***. UC Hastings FX and LLM students frequently stay in this facility for the entire duration of their studies at the law school. The Vantaggio Abigail caters mostly to international students and the staff are familiar with challenges international students face living in San Francisco. Due to its proximity to the law school, we encourage you to consider staying at the Vantaggio Abigail.



Amenities include: 24 hour doorman, daily continental breakfast, and weekly housekeeping. Linens and towels are provided. All utilities are included in the rent and all rooms have attached private bathrooms. You can choose a private room (one bed) or shared room (two beds). If you wish to share a room with a fellow UC Hastings FX student, please indicate that when you make your reservation online (<https://ssl4.westserver.net/vantaggiosuites.com/registration/sf-abigail.html>).

### SPECIAL OFFER FOR UC HASTINGS FX STUDENTS

You will receive a \$25 Application Fee WAIVER when you mention that you are a UC Hastings FX student **on the comment section** of the online reservation system for the Vantaggio Abigail!

<https://ssl4.westserver.net/vantaggiosuites.com/registration/sf-abigail.html>



# HOUSING GUIDE FOR FX STUDENTS

## RESIDENCE CLUBS

### [The Vantaggio Abigail on McAllister Street \(cont.\)](#)

All rooms have a mini-refrigerator, study desk and chair, dishes and silverware, TV, wireless internet access, and microwave. The Vantaggio Abigail has a common lounge area, kitchen (pots and pans are available), and coin laundry on the premises.



Another Vantaggio Suites property that is close to UC Hastings is the Vantaggio Jefferson Square on Turk Street. It is located within an easy 10 minute walk from school and is on the UC Hastings evening Van Escort Service route. Visit <http://www.vantaggiosuites.com/sf-turk.html> or email [sf@vantaggiosuites.com](mailto:sf@vantaggiosuites.com) for more information regarding the Vantaggio Jefferson Square on Turk Street.

### [Monroe Residence Club](#)

The Monroe Residence Club is located in Lower Pacific Heights, within an easy 20 minute commute by bus to UC Hastings. Amenities include: 24 hour doorman, two meals a day Monday through Saturday with brunch on Sundays, and weekly housekeeping. All utilities are included in the rent and all rooms have a mini-refrigerator (no kitchen). Room configurations include a limited number of private rooms with private baths, private rooms with bathroom shared with one other unit, and private or shared rooms with hallway bath. Visit <http://www.monroeresidenceclub.com/index.html> for more information.

### [Paramount Student Housing](#)

Paramount offers housing to students in the Union Square area of San Francisco, which is one Muni-metro stop from UC Hastings. They offer short-term and long-term housing, furnished and unfurnished units (no kitchen in room). The Herbert is a newly renovated building and The Spaulding has more rooms available to rent. You may access their website at [www.sfohousing.com](http://www.sfohousing.com) for locations and information. The contact person at Paramount is Claudia Babo, 415-773-2070 or [info@sfohousing.com](mailto:info@sfohousing.com).



# HOUSING GUIDE FOR FX STUDENTS

## OTHER OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING RESOURCES

### FINDING OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

#### **A. UC Hastings Online Housing Board**

UC Hastings Housing Board – A Google Group based discussion board for newly admitted and current students seeking housing, roommates or offering housing.

E-mail [uch.housingboard@gmail.com](mailto:uch.housingboard@gmail.com) to request an invitation to join the UCH Housing Board. Please include your UC Hastings ID number, your student status (Foreign Exchange student), and the dates of your program. If you have a Gmail account, it is easier to access the board.

#### **B. Craigslist and Airbnb**

In addition, FX students in the past have had luck finding apartments using Craigslist and Airbnb.

<http://sfbay.craigslist.org> – A good site for general information on available housing, including apartments and rooms for rent and other items for sale. For housing, search in the “housing” section on the main page.

[www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com) – A good site for short- and long-term apartments for rent from apartment owners.

#### **C. Campus Housing Boards**

Information is also available on the campus housing boards of other universities in San Francisco:

- San Francisco State University – <http://www.sfsu.edu/~housing/>
- University of California, San Francisco – [http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/housing/services/on\\_campus\\_housing/mission\\_bay](http://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/housing/services/on_campus_housing/mission_bay)
- University of San Francisco – <http://www.usfca.edu/offcampushousing/>

#### **D. Other Housing Referrals**

The following websites are resources where you can find additional furnished rentals.

- [www.amsires.com](http://www.amsires.com) – furnished rentals available for \$3800 per month and up
- [www.sfhousingservices.com/#!student-housing/cvpm](http://www.sfhousingservices.com/#!student-housing/cvpm) – furnished rentals (check both “students” and “corporate housing”) for \$1500 per month and up; private and shared units; most no kitchen
- [www.usastudentrooms.com/](http://www.usastudentrooms.com/) – furnished rentals for \$850 per month and up; private and shared units; no kitchen



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## TIPS AND MORE

### E. Rental Application

Most rental applications will ask for a record of your credit history, prior landlord references, social security number and driver's license number. As an international student, you likely will not have any of this information. Instead, you should ask your landlord if he/she can accept documentation to prove that you have adequate funds to pay the rent. These documents could include copies of financial documents, such as bank statements. It may help to mention that you are a graduate law student studying at UC Hastings and that you have a first degree in law or are licensed to practice law in your home country.

Landlords will often ask for an application processing fee of around \$20. We do not recommend that you pay anything much higher than this.

Appropriate questions to ask your landlord might include the following: what the rent is; whether utilities are included in the rent (water, gas, electricity, internet, cable); when the apartment will be available; deposit amount; and safety of neighborhood. Confirm that all of the above information is written in the lease.

Before moving in, you will likely have to pay a security deposit plus first and last month's rent. For a furnished apartment, the landlord cannot demand a deposit of more than three-month's rent. For an unfurnished apartment, the landlord cannot demand a deposit of more than two-month's rent. Security deposits are refundable and should be returned with 5% interest as long as you follow the requirements of the lease. Your landlord cannot keep your deposit to pay for repairs due to normal wear and tear.

### F. Furniture Rental Companies

- **Cort Furniture Rental:** <http://www.cort.com/>
- **Fashion Furniture Rental:** <http://norcal.fashionfurniture.com/index.php>

Lastly, these sites offer additional information, including maps and other resources for newcomers to San Francisco:

<http://sites.uchastings.edu/housing/choices-of-housing/>

<http://www.baycityguide.com/maps/maps.html>

**Best of luck with your housing search!**