**Housing and Leases:**
HSPH students can live in the Harvard housing near (Shattuck, Trilogy, and Vanderbilt) or away from the campus but space is not guaranteed since HSPH does not have a dormitory and thus students are advised to begin their search for housing as early as possible. Some information on housing options and listings are available:


There are various sources available to investigate housing options. Feel free to use the following two resources as ways to get to know various neighborhoods:

Office of Student Affairs – [Housing Guide](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/)
City of Boston – [Rental Housing Resource Center](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-life/housing/)

However, before choosing where you want to live, take note of some tips:

1. The area you would like to live?
2. Would you like to live alone or with roommates?
3. If you would to live with roommates: how many roommates?
4. How will you commute to school (will you use your own car or the public transportation?)
5. Will you require parking?
6. Is there anyone who can co-sign the lease with you?
7. What is the rent range that you are willing to spend?
8. If you have any pets and if you are a smoker: you would want to learn more about having a pet as well as the smoking policies at the place you want to rent.

When looking for non-Harvard housing:

1. If you are going to have a roommate and you know who they are, take them with you to see the house and be ready to make a deposit to confirm that you will be taking the place as housing especially at convenient locations do fill up very quickly in Boston. In most cases, you will be required to do the following:
   a. Pay a one months’ deposit fee and an application fee which are both non-refundable once the landlord accepts your renting application
   b. Fill out the rental applications
   c. The renting company/landlord will do a credit check on you and your roommate/s and then you get an approval from the landlord
   d. In most cases, the landlords will ask for the first and the last months’ rent as well as a security deposit. These can be paid at once or distributed on the monthly rentals.
e. In many cases there is an agent who works on behalf of the renting company and they help with the rental breakdown, which you will agree to as well as the landlord.

f. The rental company working with the real estate agent also takes one month's rent, which in most cases is paid by the landlord, and you learn that the house/apartment you want to rent will have no fee on that.

g. It’s good for you to find out if there will be fees at the end of the lease which is usually in September.

h. Important to know if your rent includes utilities, check to see if there is a clause that talks of utilities and who is responsible for which kind of utilities.

i. Good to check if the heat provided is through gas or electricity, in most cases gas heat is cheaper than electric heat.

j. Then next is completing and cosigning the guarantor’s credit form as well as the guaranty of lease form that need a notary's signature.

k. These forms will be taken to the renting agent and upon approval; you and colleagues will sign the lease.

l. To complete the entire process, make sure the paper work is complete, money is paid, and both you and the landlord sign leases.

Things that students should know before renting an apartment:
http://www.cityofboston.gov/students/housing.asp