

For many students, junior and senior years will be spent living in off-campus housing. While living off campus can be quite rewarding, it does present new responsibilities and challenges.

Things to think about:

- Finding the right apartment that fits your budget.
- Other expenses like utilities, groceries, and furniture
- Arranging the services you will need - cable, internet, telephone, etc.

The Off-Campus Housing Office is a great resource for you to take advantage of as you begin to research these things. Open from 8:30am to 5:00pm, they are located in Wolman Hall room 102. Also visit their website: www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus for more information.

Students often have questions on how, if at all, living off campus will affect their financial aid. Whether you're living on or off campus, the main thing to remember is that your family's contribution towards your educational costs will not significantly change, and in some cases, may be reduced.

The staff in Student Financial Services understand that every student's situation is different, so please don't hesitate to contact them with any questions or concerns you may have. The Office of Student Financial Services is open Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.



How living off-campus affects your financial aid.



Johns Hopkins University
Office of Student Financial Services

www.jhu.edu/finaid
fin_aid@jhu.edu
146 Garland Hall
410.516.8028



Frequently Asked Questions

How is my financial aid calculated if I live off-campus?

Most juniors and seniors will live off-campus in non-university housing. Your financial aid will be based on a budget using your actual tuition cost, books and personal expense estimate, and an estimate of \$10,563 for 9 months of housing and food expenses. Since the cost of living off-campus varies for each student depending on your living arrangements and spending habits, we use a standard estimate for everyone.

Given that the estimated cost of living off campus is less than the cost of university housing, students may see a reduction in their financial aid. This reduction will not result in additional out of pocket expenses provided that your off-campus living expenses do not exceed the estimated \$10,563 (\$1,174/month).

Does Hopkins give me money for rent and food?

If your financial aid is greater than tuition, you will receive a refund that can be used to pay for some or all off-campus expenses. Your financial aid funds (with the exception of work-study earnings) are applied to your tuition charges first, and any aid in excess of the charges on your bill will be refunded to you.

Please note that room and board expenses for the summer months are not considered in the calculation of your financial aid. Your financial aid for the academic year will be based on



the 9 month fall and spring period only. Therefore, any refunds received should be budgeted appropriately and are not intended to help meet summer expenses.

How do I get a refund for off-campus living expenses?

If you are registered for classes and your financial aid file is complete, grants and loans will be applied to your SIS Billing account. If your financial aid or other payments exceed your billed costs, the Student Accounts Office will automatically process a refund of the credit balance to cover your living and other expenses.

The excess credit will be forwarded to the Bank Mobile Processing system for distribution to you based on your preference method on file at Bank Mobile. You do not have to request a refund from JHU, as any excess credit will be transferred to the Higher One System on a daily basis.

We strongly urge you to be prepared with two months worth of living expense money when classes begin in September. Your financial aid will not be disbursed early under any circumstances, and it will be delayed if you have outstanding financial aid requirements.

What if my financial aid award is less than tuition?

Your aid will be applied toward tuition, and your family must pay the balance on the bill. If you live in non-university housing your bill will be less than it was when you lived on-campus because it will not have a university room and meal plan charge. The amount your parents previously paid to the University for your room and meal plan should now help cover your monthly rent and food expenses. What your family pays overall toward your education will not change significantly.

Can my family take out a loan for my living expenses?

Yes, parents can borrow a Federal Direct PLUS loan, or you may take out a private educational loan (most students will need a credit-worthy co-signer). Off-campus living expenses are included in your total budget, so your family can borrow to cover them. Parent loans and private educational loans are credited first to your tuition bill. If this creates a credit balance on your account, your refund will be automatically sent to the Bank Mobile Refund Processing system for distribution to you.

What if my living expenses are more than \$1,174 per month?

If your actual costs exceed the financial aid estimate, you and your family are expected to make up the difference. It may be possible for you to borrow an additional amount for living expenses, but that is dependent on your eligibility and availability of loan funds.

Your financial aid advisor will work with you if your budget does not meet your off-campus needs. Be aware that you will incur start-up costs for your apartment (security deposits, phone installation, furnishing, etc.) that are not a part of the financial aid budget. Changes to your budget can be requested by using the Budget Adjustment Request Form, which is available at www.jhu.edu/finaid/elecerv. The form is located under the **2017-2018 Academic Year** heading, forms to PRINT.

What if I choose university housing?

If you will be living in university sponsored housing, every attempt will be made to assist you in your choice of housing and meal plan up to approximately \$15,425. If your university room and meal plan exceed this amount, the difference will not be met with additional institutional grant funding. Depending on your eligibility, it may be possible to borrow additional loan funds.

