L.A. HOUSING

In the past, students who have held summer internships in Los Angeles have found housing through a variety of ways: suggestions from their employer, connections through friends, student housing organizations, or websites such as craigslist.org. The type of housing you're looking for, your budget, and your connections in Los Angeles are all factors that should help determine where you begin your housing search. The earlier you begin looking, the more options you will have and the easier it will be to choose exactly where you want to live for the summer. In the end, it is best to find housing that is near your job location with easy access to public transportation. This should be a priority when looking for housing; it will make your commute to and from work much easier and it will save you a lot of time and money.

Here is a list of steps you should take when looking for housing:

1. Ask your employer about housing options. Your employer might provide you with housing, have suggestions for where to live, or give you the contact information of other interns who will be also on a housing search so that you can room together or get advice from each other.

2. Exhaust all your connections in the city. Most apartments will be expensive and you may end up spending a good amount of your summer income paying for rent. One previous intern shared that, “Finding a place to stay can be challenging. Finding a friend, relative, or some other connection makes your summer a lot easier” if you can find a friend or relative who is willing to put you up for the summer, economically, this could be your best option.
3. Location is everything. It is vital that your housing situation is near your work and/or near transportation that will get you to work quickly. Also, a past intern noted, “make sure you know the route to and from your location”

4. Decide what is important to you. Whether you love trying new restaurants, shopping, or visiting museums and other cultural institutions, try to find a place that will give you the most time to explore your favorite things.

Student Housing Organizations
Student Housing Organizations are corporations that own large residential buildings and rent out rooms to students in the summer. Sometimes the buildings are set up like dormitories with single rooms and collective bathrooms, and other times the rooms are more like studio or one-bedroom apartments. It is important to look and apply for housing as soon as possible. Many of the applications for the following housing options come out in January or February and housing fills up quickly. There are both pros and cons to living in Student Housing, just as there are positives and negatives to living in a dorm.

Pros
• Assurance in your living conditions: security, reliable maintenance, amenities
• Opportunity to meet other students living in the same building
• Often much more affordable than finding a private apartment: prices range from $1,500 - $2,800 for the entire summer

Cons
• There is a possibility you’ll be matched with a roommate
• There are rules and regulations in most of these places that you’ll have to abide by

California State University – Conference and Guest Housing Services
The Housing Services office offers guest apartments during their conference period July 1st – August 31st. The amenities include furnished 2 and 4 bedroom apartments with shared living rooms, dining room area, and fully equipped kitchens. The occupancy rates range from $22 – 36 per person, per night. For additional information, contact Alexis Ireland, Summer Conference Coordinator at Aireland@cslanet.calstatela.edu or at (323) 343-6465.

Short Term Housing Resources
We do not investigate, endorse, or guarantee any of the following listings. Contact each establishment for more information.

RW Selby & Company
10 West Los Angeles locations, including 6 Westwood properties
(310) 479-6205
Email: ThePlaza@rwselby.com
Enjoy the comforts of home in one of our many luxury properties located throughout most prime West Los Angeles neighborhoods. Units have the option to come fully furnished with utilities included. Studios, 1- and 2-bedroom units available in a variety of prices to accommodate virtually any budget. Most properties have amenities including a fitness center, pool and hot tub. Minutes from major freeways and points of interest. RW Selby has over 30 years of experience in short term housing and we sincerely look forward to making your stay in Los Angeles enjoyable and hassle free. Please contact us today for more information.

Oakwood Worldwide
Call for locations throughout West Los Angeles and Santa Monica
(800) 846-8465
(310) 578-1372 Fax
Email: erodriguez@oakwood.com
Website: http://oakwood.com
Premium furnished apartments conveniently located throughout Westwood and Santa Monica and outfitted with signature furnishings and housewares. Inclusive rates with housekeeping, utilities and more. Hi-speed Internet in most locations.

LA Furnished Apartments
400 S. Detroit St.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(323) 788-4483
Email: Sholom@furnapt.com
LA Furnished Apartments East located in the Beverly Center/Grove area, is close to UCLA, and provides a quiet residential atmosphere, ideal for studious people. Newly-Furnished 1 Bedroom units starting at $2,450 are available now, for short/long term, and include utilities, high speed Internet, gated parking, HBO+ 27” TV, stereo, cordless phone, answering machine. Sorry no pets, 1 month minimum. Located at N. Hayworth and Oakwood.
Apartment Listing and Locator Services

Apartment listing services, also known as prepaid rental listing services, sell lists of available rental units in Los Angeles. In recent years, craigslist and the internet have changed the way many of those services do business in Los Angeles. Most now offer free listings with the option of paying for more exclusive listings or more individual help in finding a unit. Some locator services charge a percentage of your first month's rent. A typical percentage amount is 75-100%. Locator services that charge a commission state that they offer clients more assistance in actually finding an apartment than do listing agencies. You will want compare services, and then decide which agency if any will serve your needs.

Housing Search Tools

There are a variety of web-based resources (some free and some fee-based) that provide housing vacancies. Keep in mind that those associated with universities might restrict their listings to their students.

http://www.gooffcampus.com
http://losangeles.craigslist.org/rt
http://losangeles.apartments.com/
http://www.usaish.com/apart.htm
http://dailybreeze.com
http://www.westsiderentals.com
http://smdp.com/classifieds

Neighborhoods of Los Angeles

Los Angeles is the second largest city in the nation. Here are descriptions of some popular neighborhoods. One past intern in LA shared, “Having access to a car is really helpful. LA is very spread out so getting from place to place van be challenging!” So be aware of this when exploring various neighborhoods.

Westwood is best known as the home of UCLA. Students may find rooms to rent in the fashionable area east of campus, or in the apartments along Hilgard Avenue. However, the area west of campus is dense with apartments. Expect high rents, though sharing helps keep costs down. There are lots of restaurants and movies, clothing, drug and convenience stores (Breadstiks has a deli and produce section). There are no laundromats. The nearest supermarket is conveniently located on Le Conte Avenue and there is a second at Westwood and Ohio.

West Los Angeles extends south of Westwood and west of the 405 Freeway. Apartments are clustered near Santa Monica and Olympic Boulevards. The area west of the 405 is popular with students. It has many small apartments, slightly less expensive than those in Westwood, and good bus access along Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevard. Supermarkets, laundromats and restaurants line these streets as well. The Nuart Theater and The Royal - both on Santa Monica Boulevard - show foreign, classic, new and cult films. Rancho Park is a residential area south of West LA (about three miles south of campus), where many students find rooms, and sometimes houses, to rent. Nearness to Westwood Boulevard, shopping, ethnic restaurants and bus lines are pluses.

Brentwood is home to many young professionals and students attending UCLA, Cal State - LA and USC. You might find rooms or guesthouses in the country-like roads in the northern section of Brentwood, but most apartments are in the triangle bordered by Wilshire, San Vicente Boulevard and Bundy. Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus serves Brentwood with its 2, 3, 4, 11, 13, and 14 bus lines. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) buses serve Brentwood include the 20 and 720 lines on Wilshire Blvd. (the latter of which is L.A.'s most successful bus rapid transit line), and several lines along Sunset Blvd.

Bel Air; President Reagan retired to this exclusive neighborhood directly north of campus, but there's not much here for students. There is no bus service; minimal shopping is available on Roscomare near Mulholland, or on Beverly Glen Boulevard.

Santa Monica, Not only is this an incorporated beach city, but it has the beach, great parks, good libraries and schools, buses to campus, clean air and rent control—the ideal life, it would seem. But low turnover, long waiting lists, condo conversions, stiff competition, and recent proposed changes in the rent control law make finding a place here difficult. Still, there are opportunities to share houses or apartments, or to rent guest houses or rooms. Rental turnover is greater on the south side (Ocean Park) and the inland area off Santa Monica Boulevard than in the exclusive northern part of Santa Monica.

Pacific Palisades is an upscale community located just West of Brentwood and north of Santa Monica, five to six miles from the UCLA campus. Centered along Sunset Boulevard as it winds its way to the Pacific. most of this neighborhood is in the hills and canyons overlooking the ocean. This area might be considered hard to get to and isolated by some students, but it is beautiful and near the beach.
Palms is a neighborhood bristling with apartments that are more affordable than other areas. A walk around Palms will reveal vacancy signs for investigation. Palms has some convenience markets, a couple of laundromats and several ethnic restaurants, particularly along Venice Boulevard. There are supermarkets all around the periphery of the neighborhood. There are no movies here, but Palms isn’t far from the movies of Westwood or Century City.

Mar Vista is another neighborhood rich in affordable housing options for students. Single family houses still outnumber apartments, but apartment construction is widespread. One drawback is that parts of Mar Vista are poorly served by bus routes. The Mar Vista business center at Grand View and Venice is anchored by the Mar Vista Market. There are supermarkets on National and Sepulveda and Whole Foods Market health food store is on National just north of Palms Boulevard. Fix-it shops and small ethnic restaurants complement standard fast food restaurants on main streets. Like Palms, Mar Vista doesn’t have any theaters, but there are plenty in nearby neighborhoods. Also, Mar Vista has a large park and recreation center at Sawtelle and Palms, and it’s not far from the beach.

Culver City is an incorporated city five to seven miles south of UCLA and just south of Palms and Mar Vista. Rental prices tend to be affordable and the neighborhood pleasant. There are apartments between Venice and Washington Boulevards and in the area off Culver Boulevard, south of MGM Studios. Further south, toward Jefferson Boulevard, luxury apartments and condos are common.

Venice is a beach community six to seven miles southwest of the UCLA campus. Modeled after the Italian original (complete with canals), it has always attracted artists and social activists. In the 80s, parts of Venice were gentrified, and the community reflects a mixture of trendy and neglected, pricey and rundown. You’ve probably heard about the Venice Boardwalk: bargains, roller-skaters, jugglers and “Muscle Beach.” (If you haven’t, pay it a visit some Sunday afternoon.) Venice has some bargain housing left, but you need to look for it. Be careful not to settle for something that should be condemned just because the rent sounds cheap. High density, weekend tourists and almost impossible parking are tradeoffs for having sand and waves just footsteps from your door. As in all the beach communities, the weather in Venice can be cool; morning and evening fog is common. While much of Venice is peaceful, stay away from the beachfront after dark.

Beverly Hills, Sometimes there are guesthouses or rooms for rent in the area, especially south of Wilshire, and sharing an apartment is feasible. Most students, though, use Beverly Hills for fantastic window shopping, people watching, occasional famous-name dining, and magnificent public parks and gardens (along Santa Monica Boulevard north of Wilshire). North of Santa Monica Boulevard, services and public transportation are very limited; they are more plentiful along Beverly Boulevard, Wilshire and Olympic.

Century City: This new, high-rise commercial center has some condominiums, but not much housing for students. Sometimes there are rooms for rent west of Century City Shopping Center and apartments line Beverly Glen Boulevard. Entertainment is the area’s main value. Century City Shopping Center has great shopping, food and theaters offering matinee prices. The ABC Entertainment Center has live theater, more movies and shopping.

Pico-Robertson provides affordable alternatives compared to higher-priced housing in LA. Rents in the newspaper under “Beverly Hills Adjacent” may seem high, but many landlords here advertise only with a sign out front. Drive around and you may find a good deal. The small pocket of Los Angeles that abuts Beverly Hills just west of La Cienega Boulevard is popular and close to the Wilshire buses, but prices here are rising. The winding suburban streets of Beverlywood occupy the southwestern part of this neighborhood. Bachelor apartments and rooms for rent are sometimes available here but buses only skirt the area. Shopping and services are concentrated along Pico, Robertson and Olympic Boulevards. Pico has many small kosher groceries, ethnic restaurants and name brand discount stores.

West Hollywood is a densely populated city at the foot of the Hollywood Hills between Beverly Hills and Hollywood. A center of design, fashion, music and theater, it is known for its Melrose Avenue boutiques and theaters, famous restaurants and the Pacific Design Center. Look for housing north of Beverly Boulevard to Sunset, between Doheny and Crescent Heights. North of Sunset between Fairfax and La Brea is also popular. Be aware that “greater West Hollywood” extends beyond the official city limits, so West Hollywood rent control may not apply to every apartment. The bus commute is convenient if you live near the Wilshire or Sunset bus to UCLA. If you need to get around LA a lot, this neighborhood is not freeway friendly. It is well served by grocery stores, laundromats, parks, libraries, etc.
The San Fernando Valley, UCLA's location near the 405 Freeway makes parts of the San Fernando Valley a viable alternative to more expensive and densely crowded neighborhoods near campus. The freeway can be a nightmare during rush hour, but at other times it is surprisingly efficient. Furthermore, there are alternative routes to the 405-Sepulveda and Beverly Glen Boulevards and Roscomare Road. Despite its reputation as unending suburbia, parts of the Valley are surprisingly country-like. Lacking the coastal breezes found south of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Valley tends to get warmer and smoggier than the westside.

South and West Valley Neighborhoods
Sherman Oaks/Van Nuys, Located east of the 405, they have many apartments along the major north-south avenues. There are also house and condo shares, guest houses and rooms for rent. Carpools and the RTD #560 Freeway Express are alternatives to driving your own car to campus. Ventura Boulevard is not only the commercial lifeline of the neighborhood, it's the main thoroughfare of the entire south valley.

Encino, This exclusive community is west of the 405 Freeway. Many of LA's rich and famous live here, and apartments or condos tend to be expensive. Sometimes students can find a guest house or room for rent. Here, Ventura Boulevard is the Valley version of Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. It’s fun to window shop even if you can't touch the prices. Just north of Encino is the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area, with an eight-mile bike path, golf, tennis and other recreational facilities.

Tarzana is west of Encino, about a half-hour drive, without traffic, from campus. Primarily suburban, most apartments in Tarzana are near Lindley Avenue and Ventura Boulevard. As in most of the Valley, groceries and services are plentiful.

Woodland Hills is an aptly-named upscale suburban. Single family homes predominate. Most condominiums and apartments are near Warner Center, a residential business park north of Ventura Freeway. This neighborhood will more likely appeal to staff and faculty than to students. The Ventura Freeway—the only viable route to campus—is typically jammed during rush hour. You can soften the commute by avoiding rush hour or carpooling.

Canoga Park, North of the Ventura Freeway and Woodland Hills, Canoga Park is a large suburban neighborhood 18 miles from campus. It has affluent as well as run-down areas, so drive around to get a sense of the neighborhood.

Restaurants and services are adequate in this part of the Valley, but if you want something fancier, try nearby Woodland Hills.

East Valley Neighborhoods
Studio City lies against the hills at the southern edge of the Valley. Single family homes of TV and movie industry employees predominate, but there are many apartment complexes and some students live here. Small, inexpensive restaurants and shops line Ventura Boulevard.

North Hollywood stretches onto the Valley floor a mile north of Studio City. Students who live here usually own a condo or live with relatives. Along Magnolia Boulevard there are some older, well-kept apartments with large windows and courtyards. Drive through this neighborhood to find housing advertised by signs outside the apartments.

L.A. Public Transportation
The primary regional public transportation agency is the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), commonly referred to as Metro or MTA. The agency, which operates bus, light rail and subway services, averages 1.6 million transit trips per weekday, making it the third largest transit agency in the United States.

Metro Rail
The Metro Rail is the mass transit rail system of Los Angeles County. It is the indirect descendant of the Pacific Electric Red Car system and Los Angeles Railway “Yellow Car” lines, which operated in the area from the early to middle twentieth century. Currently, Metro Rail operates three light rail lines and two rapid transit subway lines, altogether totaling 79.1 miles (127.3 km) of rail, 70 stations, and over 300,000 daily weekday boardings as of August 2009.
- The Blue Line is a light rail line running between Downtown Los Angeles and Downtown Long Beach.
- The Red Line is a subway line running between Downtown Los Angeles and North Hollywood.
- The Green Line is a light rail line running between Redondo Beach and Norwalk in the median of the Century Freeway (Interstate 105), providing indirect access to Los Angeles International Airport via a shuttle bus.
- The Gold Line is a light rail line that runs between East Los Angeles and Pasadena via Downtown Los Angeles.
- The Purple Line is a subway line running between Downtown Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Mid-Wilshire district.
Metro Liner

Los Angeles’ newest form of transportation is the Metro Liner bus rapid transit system. The Metro Liner is meant to mimic the Metro Rail lines, both in the vehicle’s design and in the operation of the line. Vehicles stop at all stations, tickets are sold only on platforms, passengers can board at any door, the vehicles receive priority at intersections, and vehicles are painted in Metro Rail’s silver livery. Bus Rapid Transit is described by promoters as “light rail on rubber tires.”

- Metro Orange Line is a 14 miles (23 km) line traversing the southern San Fernando Valley from the Warner Center Transit Hub in Woodland Hills to the North Hollywood station where the line connects to the Metro Red Line.
- Metro Silver Line is a 26 miles (42 km) line operating between the San Gabriel Valley from the El Monte Bus Station in El Monte to the Artesia Transit Center via Downtown Los Angeles.

Metro Rapid buses are distinguished by their bright red color the agency has dubbed “Rapid Red”. This bus service offers limited stops on many of the county’s more heavily traveled arterial streets. Metro claims to reduce passenger commute times by up to 25 percent by several methods, among them the lack of a bus schedule so that drivers are not held up at certain stops.

Metro Express - Currently only implemented on two lines, 450X and 577X, Metro Express buses are painted a dark blue color the agency has dubbed “Business Blue,” the buses are designed to offer premium, reduced-stop service along Los Angeles’s extensive freeway network. There are other lines using the county’s freeway system, but these are original lines using Metro Local & Rapid painted buses, with line numbers in the “400” and “500” series (Metro Express also uses line numbers in these series but append the letter “X” to indicate “expedited service”).

Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)
http://www.ladottransit.com/

L.A. SAFETY

After living in the city of Chicago, you should be well-versed in safety precautions for urban environments. However, here are some basic tips you should be reminded of before your internship in LA.

When Walking:
- Always remember that there is safety in numbers. Walk with friends, or take populated routes when going places. Be especially careful when walking at night.
- Plan your route in advance, walk with a purpose, and be alert at all times, especially when talking on a cell phone or using headphones.
- Avoid deserted areas such as parks, alleys, and vacant lots.
- If you think you’re being followed, cross the street, change direction, or go to a public place.
- If you need to use a public restroom, try a Barnes & Nobles or a Starbucks’s Coffee.
- Never display large amounts of cash or flaunt jewelry or cameras in public. If you need to organize your wallet, duck into a store.
- Don’t keep your wallet in the back pocket of your pants or backpack, and be aware of your wallet or purse in commotions. Pickpockets often use helpers to create disturbances nearby.
- Use caution when using ATMs and don’t carry too much cash around with you. Most places accept credit cards and there are ATMs everywhere. Just make sure you choose one that is in a busy, well-lighted area.

When Using Public Transportation:
- Be aware - If someone riding near you forgets a personal item, remind them to take it along.
- Be informed - Know the location of emergency phones and memorize the Metro Sheriff’s Hotline: 888.950.SAFE (7233).
- Be alert - Report any suspicious behavior, persons in unauthorized areas or unattended packages to Metro or Sheriff’s personnel immediately.
- Avoid empty subway cars. Ride with many people or in the conductor’s car (usually the middle car of the train).
- In crowded subways, keep your wallet in your front pocket, and keep your purse closed and held in front of you or tightly to the side.
- When taking the subway after dark, stand near the “During off hours trains stop here” sign or in view of the Metro-Card booth.