

HOUSING

ON-CAMPUS OR OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING FACILITIES?

On-campus housing facilities are mainly used by undergraduate students. These are expensive and very few Indian graduate students stay at on-campus dorms. Many of these do not have kitchen facilities.

Most Indian graduate students at TAMU stay in Off-Campus housing facilities as they are more affordable. Most apartments are within 5-10 minutes' walking distance to the University. They are available as 1,2-,3- and 4-bedroom apartments. They come with a kitchen, a hall and a bathroom. Some apartments are fully furnished whereas the others only come with fully equipped kitchens. The rates vary from \$350 (single room in a 2-bed 1-bath apartment) to \$900 (1-bed 1-bath apartment). Students can split a room in a 2-bedroom apartment, so 4 people in a 2-bed 1/1.5 bath or get a room of their own in a 3x3 (3-bed, 3-bath) or 4x4 (4-bed, 4-bath) apartment. In recent years, we've observed that incoming students prefer the latter option.

Note:

- Not all apartments allow sharing. You might have to check with them as they change their policies often.
- Do keep in mind that College Station is a college town and most apartment complexes fill up very fast. So you will usually have to book an apartment at least a few weeks before your flight (as opposed to some downtown universities, where you get the option of coming here and then looking for complexes). Analyzing the current trends, booking before July will get you good deals. It is really easy to get reviews on any of the complexes used by Indians.

HOW TO CHOOSE OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING?

Factors for choosing an apartment complex would be:

- **Cost.** Bryan-College Station (BCS) is fairly cheap when compared to most other universities. The cheapest option would be to share rooms in apartments that allow the same. Just make sure the apartment agrees to put all your roommates' names on the lease if you are sharing.
- **Maintenance.** You will want to know if the apartments are well maintained and if the staff is friendly.
- **Furnished or unfurnished.** Some apartments are furnished while for others you may need to buy basic furniture like beds, chairs, etc. There are also church giveaways from where you are likely to get furniture and appliances you need. But, if you do not want the hassle of finding/buying furniture, go for the furnished ones.
- **Distance from your university building.** Some complexes are walking distance away from the engineering buildings while some others are well connected by the bus services. Buses run from around 7 am to 11:45 pm. Ask the apartment you are planning to lease if

they have any bus stop close by. Buses cover almost all important areas of the city. Use the TAMU app on your phone to check for routes and bus timings. If the apartment you are staying in has its shuttle and is not close to any bus stop make sure you enquire about these- (i) Shuttle timings (ii) If it runs after 6/7 PM on weekdays; (ii) If it runs on weekends;

- More facilities like kitchen, spacious rooms, etc.
- Safety. Avoid unnecessary risks.

LIST OF APARTMENT COMPLEXES POPULAR AMONG INDIANS ALONG WITH THE WEB LINKS:

<https://aggierearch.tamu.edu/> is a great website to familiarize yourself with various apartments that are present around BCS. However, the list below outlines the major apartments that Indians choose to stay at.

FURNISHED:

1. **Reveille Ranch:** <https://www.reveilleranchapartments.com>
2. **Z-Islander:** <https://zislander.com/>
3. **The London:** <http://www.livethelondon.com/>
4. **The gateway:**
[https://www.gatewaycollegestation.com/?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=gmb_listing?switch_cls\[id\]=65860](https://www.gatewaycollegestation.com/?utm_source=gmb&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=gmb_listing?switch_cls[id]=65860)

UNFURNISHED:

5. **College Main apartments:**
https://www.dtiproperties.com/apartments/texas/college_station/college_main/
6. **Country Place Apartments:** <https://www.countryplaceapts.net/>
7. **Scandia Apartments:** <https://aggierearch.tamu.edu/view/complex/id/144>
8. **North Rampart:** <https://aggierearch.tamu.edu/view/complex/id/100>
9. **Casa Del Sol:** <https://www.mycasadelsolapts.com/>.
10. **Normandy Square**
11. **Cherry Hollow Apartments**

FEW TIPS:

- You can decide on your roommates and look out for subleases on TAMU housing groups on Facebook.

- Keep an eye out for IGSA deals on the Facebook page – files section.
- Check for specials on the apartments' websites for good deals. They only last for a certain period.

FAQS:

SINCE I INTEND TO COME WITH MY SPOUSE/DEPENDENTS, COULD SOMEONE ALSO SUGGEST TO ME A FEW LOCATIONS WHERE I COULD FIND THE INDIAN POPULATION CLOSE BY?

Most of the Indian students stay in apartment blocks that are close to the University. These are good for families and many Indian families stay in these apartments. Once you come here, you can also apply for an apartment on the University Apartments [website](#). These are maintained by the University and are especially good for families. The only drawback is that it has a waiting period of sometimes up to a year, so book for this as soon as you come here.

WHAT KIND OF FOOD IS AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS AND OFF-CAMPUS?

The University has a lot of cafeterias that serve food from morning till evening. There are also snack bars and vending machines that you can use. College Station has so many options when it comes to fast-food outlets and restaurants. Some of the outlets near the campus are - Chipotle, Schlotzsky's, Subway, Mcdonald's, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Dominos, etc.

Most students cook by themselves and have food at their homes. This is more economical and is better for your health too. There are many stores from where you can get Indian food (rotis, paranthas, sabjis, etc.)

I KNOW OF A FRIEND WHO STAYS ABOUT 15 MINUTES AWAY FROM CAMPUS. ISN'T THAT A BIT FAR TO WALK IN THE HOT SUMMER?

The University buses have routes that run through most apartment complexes. You can use the bus facilities to commute to and from university.

HOW ABOUT THE TRANSPORTATION FACILITY ON CAMPUS?

The University has its buses that run through a couple of routes, off-campus and on-campus. It covers all the campuses and most locations out of campus. The transportation fee is already included in your fee statement so you don't need any separate bus pass to use this facility. (Ironically, even if you don't use the service, it is still charged to your fee statement!). During the semester, bus frequency is very good almost every 5 mins. Use the TAMU app on your phone for more information.

Once you come here you can also buy a bicycle (for a cheap price, ~100 from Walmart or a cheaper used one). There are also Pay and Use cycles on campus that you can use. It's a common mode of transport for us *desis*, here within the campus.