

Student Housing

Finding housing in a city you're not familiar with can be a rough process. Hopefully the advice compiled here gives you a head-start.

On Campus

University Housing

For information on University Housing, visit
<http://www.temple.edu/studentaffairs/housing/>

Undergraduate

University housing (dormitory) is reserved for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Transfer students. Transfer students may apply for University housing beyond their sophomore year.



Graduate

On Campus

The University offers the following University housing options for graduate students:

Triangle Complex

Broad and Norris Streets, Philadelphia

Triangle Apartments is located on Main Campus, which makes it convenient for students.

Rates range roughly from \$1308 – \$5089 per semester (as of 2009-2010) and include all utilities including electricity and cable TV. Furnished apartments and rooms are available.

Available per semester: Fall (August – December); Spring (January – May); Summer (June – July)



On-Campus (Not University Housing)

If you want to live on or close to campus and can not or do not want to take the University Housing option, I would recommend checking out these options and talking to Lisa Prestileo at the off campus housing office (see more below under "Resources").

- [Kardon/Atlantic Apartments \(Philadelphia Management\)](#)

The Kardon/Atlantic buildings are located on the east side of campus. They consist of shared apartments. Kardon itself is a converted warehouse, so the rooms are very large with high ceilings. Rates are comparable to University Housing and range from \$880 - \$3100 per month (as of 2009-2010). Furnished apartments are available. Kardon is largely filled by Undergraduate students and is typically similar to the dorms in terms of noise.



- University Village

University Village is also on the east side of campus. It is just across the street from Kardon/Atlantic, and is similar in terms of rates, and arrangements. One difference is, they offer individual leases. Their rates range from \$555 - \$790 per month per person. This building was just built in 2004 and is primarily filled by Undergraduate students. I'll warn that the walls are notoriously thin there, so sound carries moderately.

- Carlisle Street

The area immediately surrounding campus has limited reasonable options. The area bordered by Norris, 15th, Diamond, and Broad streets is arguably the only area within walking distance of campus that I would consider living in. This area is actually quite nice, but it is very small, so it is difficult to find an apartment or house here before it gets taken. If you want to stay on campus, take a walk around these houses and look for "For Rent" signs. I wouldn't recommend looking beyond those borders though.

- The Edge

The Edge is a new building just off of campus, which was built recently, in Summer, 2006 as part of a new shopping center complete with a new movie theater. The Edge got off to a rough start, with not having construction completed by the time the Fall, 2006 semester came up and students needed to move in. Soon after that there was a change of management, and I haven't heard much about it since. Try to talk to people before considering it. Like Kardon/Atlantic and University Village the rates are similar and it is also full of Undergraduate students so it is likely to be noisy there.

- Oxford Village

<http://www.oxfordvillageapts.com/>

Oxford Village is located within two blocks of Temple University. It is located within one block of the main recreation and sports center for the entire University and is easily accessible to all major attractions in Philadelphia. All rooms come furnished and the complex offers individual leases. The prices for the apartments range from \$535 – \$830 per month per person.

Off-Campus (Not University Housing)

By off-campus housing, we mean you're on your own. Outlined below are some resources to help you find a nice place off campus to live.

The first thing you should do is figure out where you would consider living. There are several things that need to be taken into consideration, but you should primarily think about the everyday commute. Some places may take as little as 10 minutes to ride to campus by bike, or 20 minutes by subway. Other areas may take 30 minutes or more by car or train. Think about your options. If you need public transportation then keep that in mind. Especially in the winter, you don't want to have to walk 15 blocks to get to the train station.

Resources:

Here are some resources to help you find a place to live. Start at the top and work your way down. Chances are you'll find a place on Craigslist or one of the University listings, but paper and sign hunting sometimes digs up some nice ones.

1. Craigslist.

<http://philadelphia.craigslist.org>

Get familiar with Craigslist. You'll be checking it every day for the next couple of weeks, looking for a place, and then looking for free or cheap furniture to fill it. It's full of free online local classifieds for everything and anything. Careful though, only buy things for which you meet in person and pay cash when you pick it up. Don't forget about craigslist, you'll use it later to sell your stuff when you no longer need it.

(It is also possible to see some pictures of the apartments on craigslist. However, these pictures only show the inside of the apartment, not the neighborhood. It is a good idea to ask friends about neighborhoods, then after you find your desired neighborhood, go to craigslist and look for apartment/houses at your desired place.)

2. University of Pennsylvania Off-Campus Housing website.

<http://www.upenn.edu/offcampusliving>

Yes, I know I'm listing UPenn's off-campus housing office before Temple's, but that's because they're a better resource. Their database is full of listings for the most part in better neighborhoods than Temple and they have more information and even reviews on landlords. Most of what you'll find here is West Philadelphia, but it's not a bad place to live.

3. Temple University Off-Campus Housing Office

<http://www.temple.edu/housing/offcampus/>

Lisa Prestileo is the coordinator of the off-campus housing office at Temple. While I haven't had much success with going through this office, they are very eager to help and they know the city fairly well. Properties are a safe bet in terms of quality, but be careful, they will take you outside of my "green zones" close to campus (see map below). They will also be a big help with telling you things you should know and your rights with dealing with your landlord(s).

The site can also be used to look for available rooms or to find a roommate.

4. Philadelphia Weekly

www.philadelphiaweekly.com

A weekly newspaper, the Philadelphia Weekly is free and full of advertisements. Most of the listings were out of my price range, but once in a while you'll get lucky. It's worth a look.

5. www.easyroommate.com

Along with Craigslist, you can use easyroommate to find roommates if you already have a lease and are looking for someone to share the price with. Besides, you can find someone who already has a lease and could add you to their contract.

(If you want to be a roommate for someone else it is a good idea first to come to the department or other areas on campus and look for student advertisements. Usually there are several advertisements in which students are looking for new roommates. You can easily call them and find out about the location and rent.)

Locations:

Near Main Campus:

Unless you are looking at the places outlined above, I would recommend not even looking around main campus. Anything more than a block away from Temple's borders has been more trouble than it's worth in my experience.

In or Near Philadelphia:

1. Podiatric Student Residence Complex

8th & Cherry Streets, Philadelphia

The Podiatric Complex is located within walking distance of nearly all of Center City. The Gallery at Market East Shopping Mall and Chinatown are only a block away, and Old City is just down the street. Temple offers a free shuttle during the Fall and Spring Semesters to and from the Podiatric Complex.

Rates range from \$3510 to \$5178 per semester (as of 2009-2010) and include all utilities including electricity and cable TV.

All apartments are furnished.

Available per semester: Fall (August – December); Spring (January – May); Summer (June – July)

2. Robin Apartments (215-567-1744)

2003 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Robin Apartments is one of those places you don't hear about right away but wish you did. Finding an affordable apartment in Center City is nearly impossible until you find Robin Apartments at 2003 Chestnut Street. Relying on word-of-mouth, it is dependable, affordable, and in one of the best locations in the city. You can find a studio a block from Rittenhouse Square starting at about \$475 per month. The apartments aren't new and aren't the prettiest, but the management is prompt to respond to any problems and you can't beat the price. Call or stop by and see if they have anything available.

3. Lynnewood Gardens (215-887-0210)

Lynnewood Gardens has been the home of several Borguet group graduate students. It is a very convenient place for Temple students as it's not far from the Shuttle bus and C Bus both going to the Main Campus (20 minute drive or bus ride north of main campus). The prices for the apartments are in the range of \$695 – \$1375 (2009 - 2010) (depending on the number of rooms) and often they have good discount programs for students. The lease is for one year at minimum.

Features:

Tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, swimming pool, baseball field and playgrounds.

ShopRite grocery store located just next to the apartment building

4. Presidential City Apartments (215-883-2000)

3900 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Presidential apartment is located in West Philadelphia. It is very convenient to share with 4 or 5 people. The environment is so safe; however, it is far from Temple University. If you have a car, you will be happy to live there. If you don't have a car, you'll need to take the subway and bus together; and it takes about an hour and 15 minutes to get to Temple University. The prices for the apartments range from \$1200 (for 2 bedrooms + 1 living room) to \$1750 (3 bedrooms + 1 living room + 1 dining room) (2009-2010).

Studios are also available for \$750 (utilities included), very cheap electricity (\$25/month). It is close to shopping centers (target and pathmark). It takes 30 min to get to Center city. There is a bus station (route 38) just across the entrance and by 5 min walking (route 44). Just one stop from 30th street station (8 min by bus 44).

5. Alden Park Apartments (215-844-7900)

5500 Wissahickon Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144

www.aldenparkapts.com

Alden Park contains offers everything from studios (~\$500/mo) to four-bedroom apartments (>\$1500) (2008-2009). Included in rent is open access to the fitness center and indoor heated pool. While it takes ~20-30 minutes to drive (or ~40 minutes train ride) to main campus, the security offered by the gated community is worth it. Also, Alden Park is located minutes away from beautiful Fairmount Park, a great location for the outdoors type.

6. Wynnewood Park Apartments (610-642-5850)

Advantages:

- 1) It is safe (so far, people who live there claim),
- 2) Convenient for commuting: it takes 2-3 minutes to walk from the apartments to the train station, 30 minutes on the train to Temple station, and 6 minutes to walk from Temple station to Buery Hall. You could read literature or books, or just relax on the train.
- 3) Convenient for living: it is a 2-3 minute walking to Genardi (food) supermarket, Bed, Bath & Beyond (daily stuff), post office, bus station, banks, bookstore, bakery, and a few other markets and shops, you don't really need a car.
- 4) The apartment is clean and nice, surrounding is green and quite
- 5) Free parking in the lots
- 6) The price is high, but not too high depends on one's criteria

Disadvantages:

- 1) It is relatively expensive: one bedroom, one bath, with a separate kitchen and living room is priced at \$1050/mo, including everything (heat, water, electricity, cleaning fees...) and two bedrooms, one bath is priced at \$1300/mo. Deposit is one-month rent.
- 2) Half-an-hour on a train seems a little bit too long for those who don't know how to use this period of time.
- 3) Need to buy a train pass at \$127/mo.

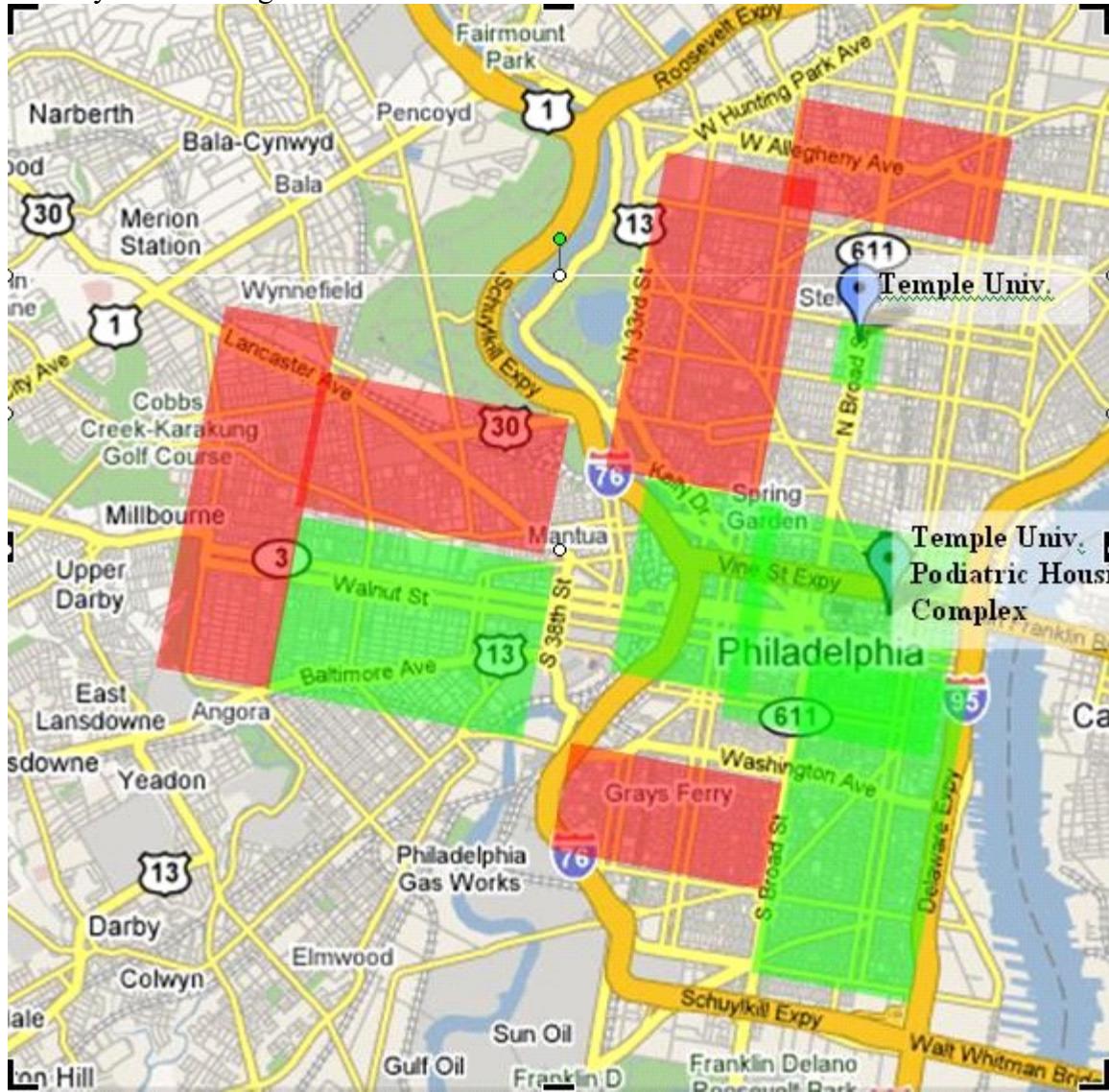
7. Johnson Arms Apartments

It is located in the Northwest at Mt.Airy and Germantown. The apartments are reasonable within \$600-700 for a single bedroom and double bedroom apartments. If you do not have a car it is not the best option as you have to commute for 1 hour to get to school. The wait times for the buses and the regional rail lines are from 15 minutes to 1 hour some times. If you have a car then you may consider living here, but there is a perpetual problem of noise.

Map:

Below I've roughly outlined the areas within the city limits that I consider "green zones." These are areas where I would feel safe comfortable living. I've also outlined what I consider red zones, which should be avoided. No matter what people tell you, several friends of mine that have ever lived near Temple Hospital (Allegheny Ave.) have had everything they owned stolen from their house/apartment.

Outside of the inner city, make sure to remember transportation issues and check out the area if you're looking out there.



Grocery Recommendations:

This will really come down to going to whatever's closest to where you live, but general suggestions have been made:

Chinatown

Chinatown is in center city and has a lot of small markets and shops where you'll find a lot of things not available in larger chain grocery stores. Prices are low here too.

Cookware can be found at low cost at Ross at 9th and Market Streets.

For people who prefer European food the following supermarkets are suggested:

Net Cost Market

11701 Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19116

Phone: (267) 672-2500 ([map](#))

Bell's Market

8350-56 Bustleton Av.

Philadelphia, PA

Phone: (215) 342-6016 ([map](#))

Other suggested grocery stores near Temple's Campus are:

Cousin's Supermarket

1900 N. 5th Street

Philadelphia , PA 19122

Phone: (215) 236-4000

The Fresh Grocer

1501 N. Broad Street,

Philadelphia, PA, 19122

Also, South Street has a number of stores and markets in which you could find affordable food and cookware.

Particularly for Lynnewood Garden's leasers, there's a very convenient shopping center – Shop Mall. Also there's a ShopRite which is also not that far from the place.