

# Housing Guide for Visiting Scholars

Updated Spring 2023

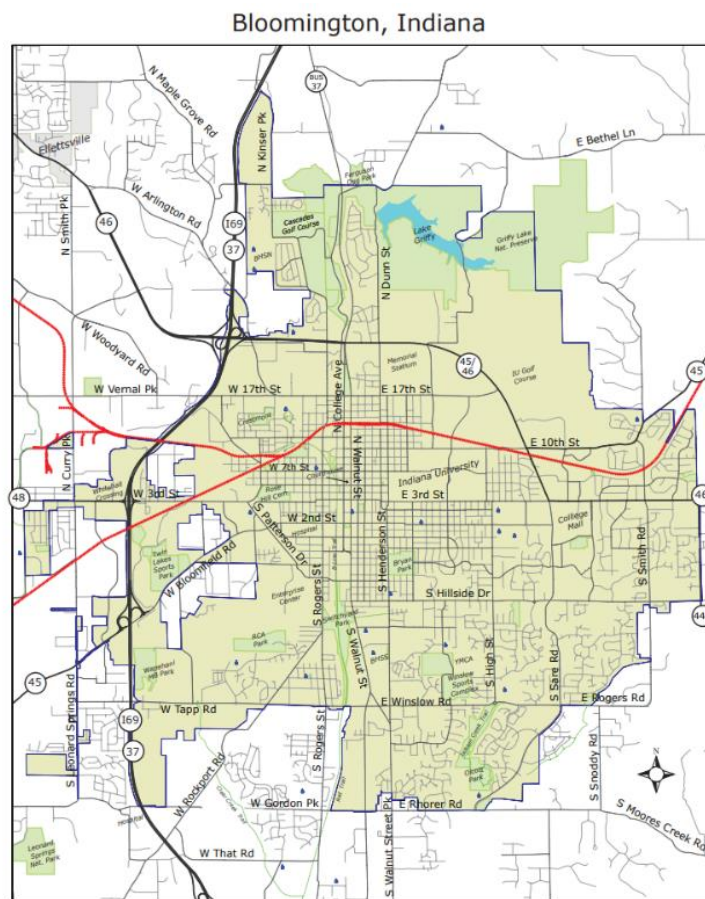
Congratulations on your appointment as a Visiting Scholar at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs! This document provides guidance for renting an apartment, home, or other accommodations in Bloomington for the duration of your stay.

**You are responsible for searching for and securing your own housing.** Please closely review this housing guide and follow the links included to make inquiries and secure your housing.

## Overview of Housing in Bloomington, IN

Bloomington, Indiana is similar to many other college towns in the United States. Approximately 80,000 people live in Bloomington, and about 45,000 of them are Indiana University students. About 35% of students live on campus, while the other 65% live in apartments, homes, or other rentals not owned by the university. There are several housing options available to you as a visiting scholar. Your ultimate choice will depend on price, availability, how long you are staying, transportation options, and related factors.

The Indiana University campus is located centrally in Bloomington. It is loosely bordered by the **Indiana State Road 45/46 Bypass** to the Northeast, **Dunn Street** to the west, and **Third Street** to the south.



High-resolution maps of

Bloomington are available on the City of Bloomington website: <https://bloomington.in.gov/maps>

Indiana University's interactive map of the university campus can be accessed here:

<https://map.iu.edu/iub/>

## General Considerations

Your process for selecting housing in the United States will probably be similar to other housing you've had in the past. Think about your day-to-day needs, then find a unit that can meet those adequately and is within your budget. Some specifics you may want to consider are:

- **Proximity to Campus:** Do you want to walk to campus? Many students do. Bloomington is generally safe and the areas close to campus are walkable.
  - Know the address of your academic building (O'Neill is at [1315 E 10<sup>th</sup> St](#)) and calculate how far your walk would be using Google Maps or a similar tool. If you live more than one mile or 20 minutes away, you should position yourself near a bus line or consider getting a bicycle.
- **Transportation Options:** The City of Bloomington has an excellent bus system. Its routes cover most of the city and several routes go through the IU campus. You can find a map and bus schedule on the [Bloomington Transit website](#). If you plan to use the bus regularly, you should find housing that is a brief walk away from the closest bus stop.
- **Nearby Shops and Points of Interest:** Most areas within Bloomington are walkable, but the city itself is quite large – in other words, you'll need to strategically place yourself near grocery stores, pharmacies, healthcare centers, or other essential businesses you will visit frequently.
  - The **Downtown Bloomington** area – near the IU campus, off Walnut St. and College Ave. – is close to two Kroger grocery stores, a local food coop, a weekly farmer's market, and downtown shops and restaurants. It also connects to several bus lines. However, rent prices in this area tend to be higher than in other neighborhoods.
  - The **College Mall** area – off 3<sup>rd</sup> St., to the east of Route 45/46 – is close to one Kroger, one Fresh Thyme, a local food coop, and one Aldi (low-cost grocery chain). It is also right next to the restaurants and shops at the College Mall and has access to bus lines that can connect you to the campus and other areas.
- **In-Unit Amenities:** At minimum, you want to ensure your unit has a kitchen – including a full-size refrigerator, stovetop, and oven. Most standard apartments and homes will have a full kitchen, but some single-room rentals and Airbnbs might not. Double-check what cooking appliances are included in your unit so you know what to expect for food preparation.
  - Some units will include in-unit laundry (washing machine and dryer) but this is not standard. In larger complexes, you may have access to a shared laundry facility in your building. If your unit does not come with either option, there are laundromats in town where you can wash your clothes for a small fee. Laundromats in the U.S., unless otherwise specified, typically require you to do your own laundry.
  - Some units will have dishwashers, but this is also not standard.
- **Potential Neighbors:** Bloomington's student nightlife scene is very active. Some complexes that cater to students can get very noisy, especially in the evenings and on the weekends. While this is not universal, noise issues tend to be worse closer to campus and downtown. Keep this in mind if you plan to work from home often, go to bed early, or have young children staying with you.
  - If you want to rent from a complex that offers "college" or "student" housing, ask them what their quiet hours are and how they are enforced.

## Short-Term Housing for Visiting Scholars

There are several housing options available for scholars staying between **1-5 months**:

1. **On-Campus Guest Housing.** The IU Office of Residential Programs and Services (RPS) offers [Guest Housing](#) on a limited basis. Each unit is a fully furnished two-bedroom apartment on campus. As of April 2023, monthly rent is \$1550. Tenants must stay a minimum of 30 days. To inquire about Guest Housing availability, contact RPS at [askrps@indiana.edu](mailto:askrps@indiana.edu).
2. **IU Classifieds.** The [IU Classifieds](#) is an online community board where IU students, staff, and faculty can list items for sale. You can see available short-term housing offers in the section labeled "Roommates and Sublets." Typically, these housing offers will be short-term, flexible, and allow you to avoid signing a lease. **You must set up your IU Account before accessing the IU Classifieds.**
3. **Airbnb.** [Airbnb](#) is great for finding fully furnished rooms, apartments, and homes. These units have flexible dates and do not require signing a lease. An Airbnb might seem more expensive than renting an apartment on your own, but many of them come fully furnished or with other amenities that will make your time in Bloomington easier. When selecting an Airbnb, keep in mind any requirements or questions you would have for a regular apartment. Also, make sure you understand:
  - a. Whether your listing is for the **whole unit** or just **one room**
    - i. If it's just one room, are other people going to be staying in the same unit?
  - b. If you can access the unit's kitchen and what appliances it has (oven, microwave, etc.)
  - c. What your host's policy is on having other people visit and/or stay with you
  - d. How you will gain access to the unit (key, door code, etc.)
  - e. Cleaning fees and other costs
4. **SummerHouse Rentals.** [SummerHouse](#) is an apartment complex located on the east side of Bloomington. They offer townhome-style units, furnished or unfurnished, with flexible lease terms from two weeks to one year. Their furnished short-term apartments include kitchen essentials, Wi-Fi, cleaning services, and in-unit clothes washers and dryers. The cost of all utilities (water, electricity, etc.) are included in your rent payment. There is also an onsite bus stop that connects to the IU campus.
5. **Hotels.** Scholars who need lodging for a few extra nights at the beginning or end of their lease might consider staying in a hotel. Hotels are not the most practical option for stays longer than a week or two. They can be expensive, especially at busy times of year, and most don't come with kitchens or other living necessities.\* Still, they are a good option if you need a place to stay for just a few days or on short notice.

To explore Bloomington's hotels, check out this guide by Visit Bloomington:

<https://www.visitbloomington.com/hotels/>

*\*Some hotels, like [Century Suites](#), [Home2 Suites](#), and [Townplace Suites](#) are designed especially for long-term stays. They include amenities like kitchenettes and laundry facilities. However, their per-night cost may still be higher than other housing options.*

## Long-Term (6 Months+) Housing for Visiting Scholars

Visiting scholars staying for a longer period can use any of the resources listed above short-term scholars. However, since you are staying for longer, you might also consider committing to a longer-term housing situation or a leased apartment to reduce your per-day housing costs. Consider these additional options:

1. **Temporary Rental Housing.** The Vice Provost's Office hosts a website where IU staff and faculty can list their properties that are available for lease. Many units listed here are houses or townhomes. They can be leased for several months to several years. Visit the [Temporary Housing website](#), and if you see a listing that meets your needs, contact the owner directly using the information they have provided.
2. **Apartment Complexes.** If you plan to stay for a year or more, it might be worthwhile to lease a unit at a local apartment complex. The O'Neill Master's Program Office has compiled a list of [local apartments and property managers](#) that you can use to inform your search – start toward the bottom of page 3 with the section titled “Off-Campus Housing.”

## Final Thoughts

The O'Neill International Office provides this resource as a starting point for your housing search. If you need more individualized support, please contact the [Office of International Services](#) via their website or at [ois@iu.edu](mailto:ois@iu.edu).

We wish you all the best on your endeavors at Indiana University, Bloomington!