

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](http://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**

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### **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 \$9000 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 so long as your off-campus living expenses do not exceed the estimated \$9,000 (\$1,000/month).

### **Does Hopkins give me money for rent and food?**

Your financial aid funds (with the exception of Federal work-study) are applied to your tuition charges first. If you live in non-university housing, tuition should be the only charge on your bill. If your financial aid is more than the tuition, you will have



a refund due to you that can be used to pay for some or all off-campus housing expenses.

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 long does it take to get my refund?**

You must request your refund from Student Accounts (Rm. #31 Garland Hall) or submit your request electronically at [www.jhu.edu/studacct](http://www.jhu.edu/studacct). After you have requested the refund, allow a minimum of 1 week to receive the check. (Due to the large number of requests, allow a minimum of 2-3 weeks at the beginning of the semester.) 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, because it will not have a university room and board charge. The amount your parents previously paid to the University for room and board will now be able to go toward 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, you may request a refund from student accounts to use toward your off-campus expenses.

### **What if my living expenses are more than \$1000 per month?**

If your actual cost does 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](http://www.jhu.edu/finaid/elecerv). The form is located under the **2012-2013 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 \$13,428.