

Housing Testimonials

New Brunswick and Somerset			
Where do you live? (neighborhood, city, or street):	Douglass Gardens, Hamilton St, technically Somerset but on the border of New Brunswick.	52 Foxwood Dr., Somerset, NJ	100 Hiram Square, New Brunswick near the Hyatt and Old Bay.
What type of housing? (house, apt, townhouse, etc):	Apartment	"For real" House (i.e. front and back yard).	Apartment
Approx rent:	\$1125 for a 2br/1bath (heat and water included).	House: \$2250/mo. I pay \$515.	Rent is ~\$1800/month/2 persons. Utilities are <\$50 bucks/month/2 persons.
How far from school/the hospital?:	about 10 minutes from school, 2 min from St. Peter's and 5 min from RWJUH.	3.6 miles, ~8 minutes each way.	
How many people do you live with?	1	3 others (4 total)	1 other person.
Are they: med students, students, sig other, other?:	Med students.	All are med students.	Med student. Pets are allowed.
Why you chose to live there:	Cheap rent, fairly spacious rooms.	Convenience (it's right next to a grocery store), price, location, safe and quiet.	Chose to live there based on location and amenities.
Pros:	Ample parking, inexpensive compared to other places near new brunswick, heat and water included, fairly spacious.	Convenience, price, location, safety, quiet.	It's a nice place and the location's great. It's easy to get to school, Rt 1, downtown New Brunswick, grocery stores. It's a bit pricey but you get what you pay for. Electricity is the only utility not covered and it's never much.
Cons:	Our neighbors were really noisy (walls kind of thin).	Sometimes, the traffic at the junction of Easton Ave. and Landing Lane can be a pain in the neck, delaying travel time to and from school from 8 min to upwards of 10-15minutes.	Parking costs extra. The only real complaint is that the rooms of the doubles are disproportionate...definitely need to be pro-rated between roommates.
Comments:		I started looking for housing in July. It's relatively easy to find somewhere to live and I wouldn't stress too much. Worst comes to worst, you live by yourself the 1st year in an apartment building, and then move in with some friends for 2nd year. You'll make friends without a problem, and you'll be studying so much that where you live is a non-issue.	

Piscataway and South Plainfield				
Where do you live? (neighborhood, city, or street):	I live in Society Hill.	River Road in Piscataway	Lake Nelson	Rivendell Village Mindy Lane (border of Edison and Piscataway)
What type of housing? (house, apt, townhouse, etc):	We live in a 3-bedroom townhouse, and I occupy the master bedroom which has a gigantic closet and a private bathroom.	House	2nd floor apartment in a renovated house	Apartment complex
Approx rent:	The rent is average, but I am willing to pay a bit extra for the convenience of school being just around the corner.	\$725 includes all utilities.	\$1200	\$470 for me (total is \$1670 for three people)
How far from school/the hospital?:	"Just around the corner"	2 miles from school.	5 minutes to school	15 minutes from the hospital
How many people do you live with?	2 others (3 total)	3 other people	1 (2 total)	2 (3 total)
Are they: med students, students, sig other, other?:	Two other medical students...they are currently third years.	Other.	Another first year medical student. We found each other on the website and didn't actually meet until orientation.	Both are med students (one first year, the other is a second year)
Why you chose to live there:	I have lived there for one year, and I absolutely love it. I decided not to live with other first years when I began looking for housing because I wanted to separate my school life from my home life. My roommates are the best...they give me great advice about school and they let me borrow all of their old texts so I do not have to buy them.	Close to school and was easy to get on short notice (had about 1.5 weeks to get housing before school started.)	We liked the apartment because of the neighborhood and the lake in the backyard. The apartment was cheap and newly renovated. We saw potential.	The apartment itself is a huge 3 bedroom with three bathrooms (two have full baths) and a very large, spacious kitchen, a good size dining room, and a huge living room. It's also a quiet complex (a lot of families live there). We have washer, dryer, and dish-washer (awesome!). Parking is always available (there are huge lots and other spaces in front of the complex).
Pros:	The use of the Society Hill private pool in the summer!	Reasonably priced, close to campus, was furnished already.	It's cozy, close, and the lake is lovely. My roommate and I get along great.	I really like the complex's proximity to good restaurants, grocery stores (Shoprite, Pathmark), CVS/Walgreens, Target, Walmart, Panera, Starbucks, LA Fitness, etc.
Cons:	...	House is kind of old, no AC, heating is minimally set	We had to deal with a lot of renovation hic-ups. Delayed water/bathroom, heat that sometimes turned off, etc. There was something to call our landlord about every week or so. The neighborhood is too quiet for my tastes - walking around is boring.	
Comments:	Our landlord and his wife, a previous RWJ student used to live there when she was in school here, so he is very accommodating to us and understands our needs as medical students.		Update: We will be moving out because of a rent hike to \$1400. We've found a bunch of nice 2 br's in Highland Park for \$1200. I like that the main street has people, shops, and places to eat.	Also, it's a ten minute walk to the Edison NJ transit station (which is amazing for me - I love going into the city).

Highland Park	
Where do you live? (neighborhood, city, or street):	I live in Highland Park which I like to think of as a happy medium between Piscataway and New Brunswick. It's not as suburban as Piscataway. It has a main street which you can walk to with some cute shops, a supermarket, and some good restaurants. It's also not as urban as New Brunswick. It's not as busy, has no tall buildings, doesn't have it's own NJ Transit train station stop and certainly has less restaurants/stores/bars.
What type of housing? (house, apt, townhouse, etc):	I live in an two story house, but my apartment is only the top story. The first story is another person's apartment. This is a common situation in Highland Park, though there are also several apartment buildings.
Approx rent:	\$1250 for a two bedroom
How far from school/the hospital?:	It's a 7-10 minutes drive from the Piscataway campus and just across the river from New Brunswick. You have to drive to get to Piscataway, but depending on where in Highland Park you live, you can very likely walk to New Brunswick or it's a super short drive. There are some NJ transit buses that run between Highland Park and New Brunswick (which I've never actually taken) or a cab ride is generally about \$7. A cab to Piscataway would likely be about \$10-\$15.
How many people do you live with?	1 other person.
Are they: med students, students, sig other, other?:	Significant other.
Why you chose to live there:	Originally I looked in New Brunswick because I generally prefer a more urban environment, but I have a dog and I couldn't find anything dog friendly that was in my price range. So I found something here in Highland Park, and I'm totally fine with the outcome. I find that anything I really need or want is here and New Brunswick is close enough for when I want to go out, and I like having a little bit of distance from school. My 7-10 minute ride home is one of the nicest parts of my day! Also, I don't have to deal with New Brunswick traffic which is nice.
Pros:	See above.
Cons:	If you go out in New Brunswick, you do have to figure out either a) where to park (which is not the worst thing ever, but it wouldn't be a concern if you lived in New Brunswick) or b) how you're going to get home if you are planning to drink (there are cabs, but again, if you lived in New Brunswick you could just walk home...or really, I guess that depends on your circumstances...but you get the point.) Also, if you're the kind of person who wants to easily come and go from school many times a day (come for class, go home for lunch, come back for afternoon, go home for nap, come back to study, etc.) you may be better off in Piscataway.
Comments:	

Living "At Home"			
Where do you live? (neighborhood, city, or street):	South Plainfield	New Providence, NJ	Home with the parents.
What type of housing? (house, apt, townhouse, etc):	House (a big house).	Townhouse.	House.
Approx rent:	\$0 (that's my exact rent, actually).	FREE.	\$0 a month.
How far from school/the hospital?:	15 minutes max from school (10 when no traffic).	On average: 35 minutes.	School: 10 minutes, Hospital: 15
How many people do you live with?	3	2	3
Are they: med students, students, sig other, other?:	Family (mom, dad, little sister).	My mom and my step-father.	Mom, Dad and the bro
Why you chose to live there:	My parents' house is really close by, so it didn't seem worth the money and time to get an apartment. I didn't have to deal with the housing search, landlords, rent, etc. And I'd been away from home for ~5 years, so it was a good time to come back.	I chose to live with my mom because the price is perfect. I had planned on moving home for a little while and then finding a place, but it worked out so well that I stayed.	Quite honestly, there was no reason for me to spend around \$10k a year to live 5 minutes closer to school. Plus, they are pretty lenient with responsibilities when I have exams.
Pros:	Free everything! Food, laundry, utilities, bills - it's all taken care of. I have plenty of space to sleep/study/relax. My family is really supportive, and it's nice to come home to happy people who aren't medical students. (Oh, and during exam time, I don't have to resort to ramen noodles and cold cereal for sustenance.)	Living at home is great-- I don't have to worry about every day chores that other people do. There is always food in the house, the place is always clean, and they have much better cable than I would be able to afford. The best part (a close second to the prepared dinners): I'm saving some serious cash. I don't have to pay for rent, utilities, or food. My main expenses are my cell phone, books, car insurance, and gas.	The food, the TV, not moving all my stuff during the summer, no landlord horror stories.
Cons:	It took some time to adjust to living with family, after being away at college, but sacrificing a bit of privacy has been worth it. Also I'm expected to attend most family functions, but that's not really a "con" (think more good food + conversations unrelated to medical school).	The biggest issue I have with living at home is how far away I live. The commute really isn't that bad-- it's more or less 35 minutes each way-- but after a while it starts to get to you. You have to plan ahead-- I usually try to leave before rush hour, which means that sometimes I am leaving the house before 7am. For me though, that works. I'm more productive in the morning than at night. Also, I really have leave the house having planned for the whole day. I can't run home for lunch, or if I forget my white coat, and I can't just hop over to the library/airplane for a few hours if I'm not getting anything done at home. Living far away also sometimes gets in the way of going out at night/on the weekends. Again, if I'm going to go out and have some drinks with friends, I have to plan ahead to make sure I have somewhere to sleep over. I can't just grab a cab home from the bars.	Less independence and privacy, but let's face it, I study more than anything else so it doesn't seem too big of a deal
Comments:			

Housing with Pets			
Where do you live? (neighborhood, city, or street):	Birch Glen, Piscataway, Moonlight Dr. off of Birch Run Dr.	Rivercrest Apartments	Highlands at South Plainfield, a gated community. The address of the rental office is 1300 Cook Lane South Plainfield 07080 Phone: (908) 822-7181.
What type of housing? (house, apt, townhouse, etc):	These are condos normally (plenty are up for sale) but due to the current situation in the buyers market, they are renting out some of the units and so although other medical students have bought in Birch Glen, I rent.	Apartment.	1 Bedroom apartment.
Approx rent:	\$1650/month	\$1110/month	\$1320/month (w/o the dog fee)
How far from school/the hospital?:	Less than 3 miles to school .	School - 6 min; Hospital - 15ish .	About 10 min or so from school.
How many people do you live with?	1 other person	0 people, 1 pet.	0 people, 1 pet.
Are they: med students, students, sig other, other?:	I live with another rising second year medical student.	Dog	Dog
Why you chose to live there:	Nice neighborhood, new buildings (only a few years old), one of the safest neighborhood, hard wood floors, bay window, 2 bed/2bath, laundry room, two story entrance, impressive square footage, but the main reason is that they allow pets (I have two cats).	Only liveable place that I could find that allowed dogs.	It's one of the very few places that allow dogs- which is the reason that I'm living here. Dogs are an extra security deposit (maybe \$300) and an extra \$50 a month rent.
Pros:	See all reasons listed above, plus the lighting is great with big windows, there is a small gym room, and pool for residents use.	Very clean apartments, awesome staff (very quick & responsive to needs/requests), beautiful pool, nice dog run, very close to school & QuickChek.	I really like the apartment- it's pretty big, full carpet, newish appliances and has a washer and dryer. The grounds are very nice, lots of grass and side walks. The neighbors are nice.
Cons:	Rent is expensive and only includes water not gas or electric.	The cost to live alone here is quite expensive for a med school budget; also, my upstairs neighbors can get pretty noisy.	The main con is that it is very expensive.
Comments:		Ask to live on the 2nd floor w/ carpeting if you need something quieter (and not a resonant hardwood floor on the first floor w/ another resonant hardwood floor above you, like I chose!). Another suggestion-get on the waiting list NOW so that you can get a place in time for the school year.	