

MomsHooPray Housing Tips Updated for 2020-2021

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5-6

We recently reached out to Class of 2021-2023 moms. Their comments/students's comments are sprinkled throughout this document. Older comments from Class of 2019-2014 are also included. Specifics for rent/parking fees etc.. have not been updated; please do your own research. We hope this is helpful. Comments begin with bold orange type and vary based on personal opinion.

Upperclass Housing: Frequently Asked Questions

http://housing.virginia.edu/faq?faq_id=upperclass#faq_29

Application Dates for 2020-2021 Housing

<http://housing.virginia.edu/returning-application>

Christian Houses below are typically passed down from 4th years to new occupants involved in the various Christian fellowships. (Comments on apartments/on grounds housing follow this section on Christian houses.) Help us keep this info up to date!

My daughter really appreciated the MomsHooPray list of Christian houses and she visited several of them to choose the best fit! Knowing a few of the girls through Chi Alpha did help. The first years should definitely use the list! Before seeing the MomsHooPray list, she had originally hoped to live in a specific (Christian) house but didn't realize that it was important to sign the lease in October. So first years should lock it down if they have any idea where they want to be or who they want to live with. That being said, if they get invested in Christian community things will work out.) **submitted by Laura—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

The Ranch is at 206-14th Street. There are about 16 girls. It is open to any Christian girl, no particular ministry. They have some parking. Rent ranges from about \$600-750.

My girls have lived at The Ranch the last 3 years. They have an Instagram page listed where they have a virtual tour (your student will need to request to become a follower to access the private page @ adabofranch). My girls knew who they wanted to room with but you don't have to come in with a roommate. It has girls from many different ministries **submitted by Nanette—MomsHoo Class of 2024, 2021, 2020**

The Yellow House is part of the Elzinga Residential Scholars Program. 12 girls live in the house next door to the Study Center, while the boys live in the Study Center basement apartment. The program guides students through a year of living and worshiping with other Christians, learning from Scripture, and applying the Christian faith to all areas of life. This is implemented through Thursday night dinners, Thursday night seminary course and discus-

sion, retreats, mentorship program, and house meetings. More information can be found at <https://www.studycenter.net/ERSP>. Some great folks to contact about this would be Ethan Hightower (ethan@studycenter.net) for the guys, and Katie Hightower (katie@studycenter.net) for the girls. ***The rent will be reduced for the 2021-22 school year for both men and women since they are anticipating construction will be done on the new addition starting sometime in 2021 (so it will be a good deal and a great Christian environment!)***

My daughter, C., has lived in the Yellow House for Elzinga Scholars next to the STUD for 3 years. She loves the location for studying and social connection; it has worked well for her when classes were on campus.

submitted by Melanie—Class of 2021

The White House is a house at the end of Chancellor Street that holds 15 second year girls. Information typically gets out by word of mouth through various Christian fellowships. Interested girls submit their names to a drawing, and names are then selected at random.

Ella's in the second year White House. She absolutely loves the location and even enjoys living on the top floor in the quad. I would say the only downside is there's a very sketchy hotel next-door that possibly houses homeless folks. Other than that, except for a few disregarding some of the house rules, it has been a pleasure for her. She loves it.

submitted by Robin—MomsHoo Class of 2023

My daughter, Angela, is a current second year living in the "White House" on 165 Chancellor St which is traditionally passed down to fifteen second-year girls across fellowships. From Angela: I first found out about the house early on around September/October through some upper-class girls who'd previously had good experiences in the house and referred me to the Dessert party which traditionally happens every fall to allow prospective girls to walk through and talk to current girls in the house. I expressed interest and joined the interest list which then cycles through a random lottery system (in the case of more than fifteen girls expressing interest) to give the first fifteen girls an opportunity to decide on joining the house then re-picks for however many cycles till it takes to fill all fifteen spots. Through this system I had 2 weeks from when I got selected off the waitlist to respond with a "yes I'm in" or "no not interested anymore" or "no, but put me back in the lottery and come back to me later" and I even had my parents visit with me a second time during parent's weekend. This is more of an internal process to determine the fifteen girls — not anything official yet. I signed the lease in January and put down a security deposit and that was it.

As for my experience, I LOVE the location — it's literally right off of grounds, a three-minute walk to the Rotunda, right down the street of the Stud, minutes away from the corner, and my favorite coffee shop Grit, and a stone's throw from Mad Bowl field. I've also loved meeting and getting to know my housemates, most of whom I didn't even know when I signed the lease, in such a fun way of living together. It's never lonely or boring in the house! And I'm glad I didn't have to feel tied into a living situation too early on last year

before I even figured out who my friends are. We're not hosting a dessert party this year for obvious covid reasons, but if any first years are interested I'd love to chat about my experience and/or refer them to our current house mom Chloe Konson! Please contact Kathy Burleson for my info. **submitted by Jane—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

The Navigator's House - 113 Washington Ave.

Robert was asked to be in a Navigators house. He told the Navigators he was interested in October and had to pay the deposit either right before or right after Thanksgiving. It has worked out well for him so far. I'm thankful if he has to do everything from "home" that he has 7 other guys, 6 of whom are Christian, to live with. They are already recruiting their housemates for next year. **submitted by Michele—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

Young Life Houses below: (mainly YL but boys/girls from other fellowships also live there)

318A (14th St near the Corner) - A house for 9-10 girls which shares community with girls in 318B and the guys' 316 house. Girls from all fellowships are welcome and it's often the hub for 2nd year Young Life leaders. Rent ranges from about \$350 for doubles to \$450 for singles, and parking can usually be accommodated for everyone on site.

"316" - A house for 17 boys. Rent varies based on type of room - single, double or attic. Recently renovated. Tons of seating in the main room for watching sports. Big porch for entertaining. Access to a small gym in the adjacent building. Great location. Boys involved in a variety of Christian organizations are welcome to live here. Some parking in the driveway and side lot. Neighbors with 318 houses for girls.

"463" - A house for 12 boys. 2 kitchens. Rent varies based on single or double. Boys involved in a variety of Christian organizations are welcome to live here. Some parking in the back lot. Great house and great location.

My son lived at 316 for 2 years and is in 463 now. If any moms of sons want to discuss these Young Life houses, specifically 316 and 463 (both on 14th Street), please let me know (via Kathy Burleson) For 316, the rent varies based on the room selection, so singles may more than attic dwellers, but the boys usually have a good system for selecting rooms. **submitted by Mary—MomsHoo Class of 2021/2024**

Housing Experience for my 2 girl HOOS: Annie's 2nd year she lived with 3 other friends in the **Wertland Square Apartments** near the corner. She currently lives at **The Ranch, 206 14th St**, also near the corner. The Ranch has 15 Christian girls from a variety of ministries living there. She would recommend both places, depending what your preferences are as to how many people you are comfortable living with. If I remember correctly, we did have to sign 12 month leases at both places sometime in October or November. The corner location really can't be beat for convenience and safety, especially for girls walking in the dark (which in the winter is anytime after 5:00pm!) **Margaret and her friends lived in the Lambeth**

Apartments on grounds her second year and that was great for her. The advantages to living on grounds are that you don't have to decide who you are going to live with until March, it's only an 8-month lease, all utilities are included, maintenance was handled immediately and furniture is included. Margaret's 3rd year she sub-leased from another girl in a house over by the stadium because she went abroad second semester. Her 4th year she lived in a house with 4 other girls **on Grady**. That worked out fine but it was quite a walk to grounds and I was always nervous with her walking by herself at night. Of course, the further you are away from grounds, the cheaper the rent, and the more likely you can get your own room. **Information for Lambeth or other UVA housing can be found online. Information for the Wertland Square Apartments can also be found online.** Information for The Ranch is word of mouth — I think the gal in charge of filling the house for next year is named Madison. If anyone is interested, I can ask Annie for more details and pass them along.

submitted by Heidi—MomsHoo Class of 2021

My daughter, Anna, is at 1725 JPA--it was a new building. They felt they were on the tail end of finding something and I think they signed in October. She linked up with a friend from HS and two mutual friends--the four of them share a two-bedroom. She is the only one currently living there, the others have opted to stay home in NOVA. All have resigned the same lease for next year. The landlord is University Apartments. They haven't been overly responsive, but the girls haven't had any major issues, either. It's a lovely new apt with a few quirks. It's far nicer than any I lived in before or after marriage!!

submitted by Carolyn—MomsHoo Class of 2023

My second year signed her lease at Lark on Main in October. It was late to her, and honestly, the price was increased every week starting in September, so she didn't get the best deal. Still better than if she had waited. She is living with three other girls-2 from high school and one unfamiliar to her. It's not going great. Their apartment is very small. Roommate issues are frequent. They're not the best communicators, so I think that's a maturation issue. We have no issues with the apartment complex. They've been great-responsive and have fixed every issue they've had, which hasn't been many. She doesn't have a car so parking isn't an issue. The Lark has parking but it's very limited and expensive. If she had to do it over again, I think she would do the same thing. The stress of being without housing was significant for her. She didn't want to live on grounds and she didn't want to live with people she didn't know. This fall she signed her lease for next year and has a group of friends and will be living with who she wants to. There was no stress in finding people to live with, just a house where they could all live together. Unfortunately, the housing panic is real. I wish it wasn't the case.

submitted by Lisa—MomsHoo Class of 2023

Sam is in a dorm this 2nd year. He had housing options with friends but the friends had to know if he was committed or not by the beginning of December. He was trying out to be a RA and did not find out until the beginning of February. He found via Facebook 3 others who tried out also and did not get the position. They are all living together now. He did not know them beforehand. Not ideal, but there is a diversity that he would not have had other-

wise that we trust God can use for all roommates' growth and learning. He provides and is in control. **submitted by Nancy—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

Yes, students do have to secure roommates and housing now. This is hard and stressful for a first-year student who may have hardly made deep friendships thus far in the semester. Unfortunately, I have seen a quality student who waited and her housing choices were extremely slim. I have watched my own students and friend's children live in off-campus housing that is passed down through Christian fellowship groups. The condition of the houses ranges from rats (yes, actual rats, in the houses) to off the charts mold and structural damage that is not taken care of by the landlord. One of my kids just moved out of a house, with her eight housemates, because of structural damage and high levels of mold. The landlord of that property owns much off-campus housing so if anyone wants to know more they are welcome to contact me through MomsHoo "Matriarch" Kathy Burleson. I would not recommend this landlord. The newer apartments look like a better option than many of these old decrepit houses that are passed down year after year and not taken proper care of. However, I do have a close friend whose daughter lives in a house managed by a company and it seems they are much more amenable to keeping up the houses than the house owners who do their own management. **submitted by Tessa—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

My second-year secured a place at the Flats by the beginning of October with three other roommates. **submitted by Sandi—MomsHoo Class of 2023**

My daughter lived in a fellowship house in her second year. The landlord was great! However, she didn't have the best roommate...She really really did not like the location which was past the stadium. **She spent her third year in Lambeth** and really liked that. I think she would recommend Lambeth to anyone on grounds. This year, she toured several apartments. Some were hard to get appointments with. The things to make sure you understand before signing are what utilities are included/not included, parking, and if roommates are involved how will the bills be split. The four-bedroom apartment had only one parking spot. **submitted by a MomsHoo'—Class of 2021**

ADVISE FROM MomsHoo' Class of 2019-2014 follows:

Chancellot!! Find out from the IV guys if there are openings in their duplex right behind the Stud. They have intentionally tried to lease all those apts behind the Stud (which serves as their living room half the time.) It was an amazing group of guys for Sam all 3 years. They try to fill it year to year with more Christian guys of all years so they can have an intentional "mentor type" environment. They use to try to have a meal together each week. Also there are options for single rooms or shared rooms. They break down the rent by square footage (sort of). **Susan Speers - momHOO' 2014**

From the Center for Christian Study: UVA students tend to make their housing decisions for the following school year during the fall semester – as early as September but typically

in October or November (yes, we think that's early too!). **There are lots of good options for Christian students looking to live with Christian friends, and our recommendation is to talk with a campus minister or older Christian student about specific recommendations.** Costs vary widely depending on the location and condition of the house/apartment, from \$250/month to \$1000/month for rent (that we know of). We advise students to show patience when committing to a housing situation – there is often pressure (from landlords or other students) to sign a lease quickly, but there are more good options than students realize and being careful about who you live with is generally a wise decision. If a student feels left out in the housing process, there are good resources within the Christian fellowships for finding a house with other believers or you can also peruse the “[UVA Christians Class of _____](#)” [Facebook](#) page to see if there are any listings there. We should also mention that the Study Center hosts a residential program for 2nd-4th-year students, with applications accepted during the fall semester, and we encourage Christian students to consider that option.

More information can be found at <https://www.studycenter.net/ERSP>– and students who are interested can contact Katie Hightower (katie@studycenter.net) or Ethan Hightower (ethan@studycenter.net), our Directors of Undergraduate Ministries. Additional clarification: The costs listed are monthly rent, and the higher ones (up to \$1000) tend to be single (living alone) or double apartments in the newest places. The average near the Study Center is probably \$500-600/month, while closer to the Stadium tends to be \$300-400. We talked about Lambeth but recent student experience has not shown that is the best place to find Christian household community. It is a common choice though, so probably would be worth mentioning - UVA provides better information on it than we could: <https://housing.virginia.edu/area/1171>

Stephen's best housing situation was with Chi Alpha. At the time he was there, Chi Alpha was the largest Christian community with over 700 students. There are quite a few **Chi Alpha houses**. Consider touching base with that group to determine which houses have available rooms. They have quite a few group homes that are shared. Stephen's house was rundown (I donated smoke alarms for all of the rooms!), but living with other Christian men strongly influenced him. :) *MaryAnn Lastova - momHOO' 2014-2015*

Lambeth Apartments are a great option for second years. They are on-campus housing paid directly through UVA and include all utilities, Internet, etc. Margaret lived there last year with a group of 4 girls and it worked out well. They had a 3rd floor corner apartment with lofted ceilings, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms. It was clean and there were no problems with rodents or bugs. Maintenance issues were handled immediately and parking is very easy and plentiful in the apartment lot. Applications are not due until March and you don't have to sign a 12 month lease.

Con: The location is a bit far out between Arts Grounds and the basketball arena.
Heidi Veldman - momHOO' 2019

Holly lived in Greenhouse. Great apt with 4 rooms. Expensive, but close to the school and

lots of second years. CBS greenhouse <http://www.cbsrentals.com/greenhouse.cfm>

Karen Dodd - momHOO' 2016

Elzinga Residential Scholars program and Lambeth. Lambeth wasn't first choice for Ronnie but it meant there was no need to come up with furniture second year. My boys lived at the **Octagon and the Pound**. They loved being in a house with several other believers in that area. The Octagon needs serious repairs but I just tried to ignore that and love those lovable guys. Obviously, the more expensive options tend to be in better shape. I wonder too if some students might prefer a private room but in a dorm with friends. That could be another option to consider for people who don't feel ready to commit to room with new friends but would like to live near each other. **Nancy Rooker - momHOO' 2014, 2016**

Claire lived in Lambeth 2nd year. She LOVED it in the beginning—"all" the 2nd year inter varsity students lived there, and socializing was easy. There even was an IV potluck between Lambeth apartments. It was close to everything, including the Christian Study Center, where she was spending increasing amounts of time. But by the end of 2nd year, she was tired of it, really for the same reasons she had loved it before—there was just too much homogeneity, and she was eager for something that felt more off campus. We did learn that if you want to apply to live at Lambeth, especially if you have a group you are applying with, you need to apply EARLY. If you apply late (after Christmas), there likely will not be room for you. Friends who applied late were sent to live over by the law school... I don't remember the names of those dorms. Parking at Lambeth was easy.

Fourth year she lived in **Jack Jouett apartments**, on University Circle (I think, or University Drive, or something like that... this is just above Lambeth field). These are great apartments, so well situated, with hardwood floors and working fireplaces. Again, she applied early and was in line to select her apartment the day they took people off the wait list, which was not really a wait list but a sign up list. She loved living in Jack Jouette. For parking, again, we were EARLY in arranging parking in the gravel lot across the street from Jack Jouette; spots are available for rental from one of the local apartment rental agencies (but not the one that leases Jack Jouette) **Margaret Cundiff - momHOO' 2014**

Consider these questions before signing any lease:

1. Are the other prospective roommates believers? We have had people sometimes start to make groups from their hallways early on as they hear people talking and with "only a month of getting to know them" it might sound great but it has only been a month.
2. Recommend that if they have gotten involved in a fellowship (InterVarsity, CRU, RUF, Chi Alpha, etc) that INSTEAD of grabbing the first group they see on their hall that they talk to the upperclassmen at their Christian group for suggestions on group houses, etc. Most of the fellowships have groups houses that pass on through the years and take 2nd, 3rd or 4th years in as they have room. That will enhance the community aspect of their Christian experience.
3. For guys there are the same "fellowship of Christians" opportunities with others in the specific fellowship to which they have decided to get involved.

4. We strongly recommend that they room with people from their church or fellowship to try to reduce unforeseen awkwardness from different values, priorities, etc.
5. Having said that, they should visit the HOUSING OFFICE in Newcomb for guidance on leases, roommate agreements, etc. The office has a housing fair parents weekend (may be earlier but you can call them and check) in which lots of rental companies advertise things for next year. The parents committee at UVA and the housing office is trying to get students to DELAY in committing to try to make it more of a “renters market” rather than driven by first month panic. There are even students who wait until second semester until after the on grounds housing lottery is over and have still found places to rent.
6. We strongly recommend they talk to people in their fellowships, however, or others they have met at church **Trudi Hays - momHOO' 2015**

Consider applying to become an Elzinga Scholar. These students commit to living in intentional community (a weekly meal with one another and the staff, serving for Study Center events, being disciplined by one of the Stud staff members, and auditing a theology class together taught by a Study Center staff member). I would HIGHLY recommend that Christian students consider doing this for one year. It was an incredible growth experience for Kathryne. **Debbie Appleby - momHOO' 2014**

Jenna and five others lived in Lambeth, on campus apartments leased through UVA, their second year. It is owned by UVA like the dorms, but is apartment style living. They pay the university directly. The apartment is furnished like a dorm and they are committed for the school year only (not through the summer). This was a great second year option!
Bonnie Weida - momHOO' 2016