

## Housing Survey Data Analysis

### Overall Trends

- International students are using the Berkeley Facebook group(s) to find roommates, but not to find housing
  - 20% used Berkeley Facebook Group to find roommates, 7% reported that Berkeley Facebook Group was the most helpful resource in the housing search
- 49% international students report that finding housing listings was the most difficult aspect
- Over 90% international students live on campus live with other international students (from different country) and domestic students.
- Top 3 resources that students report would be helpful to find housing
  - Connect with current students
  - Provide additional temporary housing
  - Provide more pre-arrival information

### Graduate Students

- Majority (52%) live in University Village
- Majority (85%) do not have a roommate
- Have a low satisfaction rate with the price with on-campus
- Have a low satisfaction rate with their roommate (number and relationship)
- For graduate that have a roommate, graduate students have more issues with their roommates than other students

### International students that arrive from August 1-16

- International students that arrive from August 1-16 are still finding housing before arriving to the US (35% these students find housing prior to arrival)
- 85% are still living in their original accommodation

### Comparison of students that found housing prior to arrival and students that found housing 1 week-1 month after arrival

- Students that found housing prior are **more likely** to use their friends as a resource to find housing
- Students that found housing prior are **less likely** to rely on online search tools
- Students that found housing prior are **more likely** to rely on the Berkeley Facebook group(s)
- Students that took at least 2 weeks to find housing are on average more satisfied with the location of their residence.
- Expect for location, there the data does not support a correlation between when students secure housing and satisfaction

### Students that pay less than \$1000/month

- Majority of these students arrive from August 1-23

- About half of these students live in temporary housing for a week or longer
- 43% of these students live roommates that are opposite or mixed gender(s)

### **Recommendations:**

- Provide more information on online resources of where to find housing listings
  - Potential ideas: script to use when contacting landlords/rental companies, email template, separate housing guide, additional pre-departure videos, provide examples of housing listings (examples of housing scams)
- Set realistic expectations of the amount of money to live off-campus
- Provide students place to store their luggage during the winter or summer break
- Provide a list of housing that student can stay over the winter or summer break. e.g. university village
- Suggest students first year live on campus, then find off-campus housing
- Suggest students to live on-campus if they want to live with domestic students
- Develop (or delete) BIO roommate search resource
- Connect incoming international students with current students
  - Include resources to connect with current students (student groups, social media groups, academic department support, current student mentor program, etc)
- Post Youtube Video on YouKu or use online webinar (Adobe connect)
- Suggest housing department develop internal site for housing and roommate search
- Provide specific suggestions for students for different types of students (Example students with a limited budget, graduate students (see details below))

### **Suggestions for students who has a limited budget (less than \$1000)**

- Come to Berkeley at least one week early to look at the place in person
- You will most likely share the apartment with other people and may also share the room with other students (Or stay in the living room)
- Main methods of finding roommates: Berkeley facebook group; friends\* (majority); Online - craigslist; room with a roommate; Student organization (10%)
- You might also live in the apartment with people who are opposite gender, or mixed genders
- You might also be expected to stay in a temporary housing for a week or longer
- Most time you might be living within walking distance, but you might also expected to take a bus (AC transit)
- In order to secure your housing, most time you can pay less than \$1000, but you might also expected to pay more range \$1000- \$2500
- South Berkeley is generally cheaper

### **Trends based on data below:**

- 41% of students that arrive prior found housing through their friends

- Students arrived after 1 week (36%), 2 weeks (29%) 1 month (36%)
- 18% of students that arrive prior found housing through online search tools
  - Students arrived after 1 week (48%), 2 weeks (52%) 1 month (45%)
- 15% of students that arrive prior found housing through Berkeley Facebook group(s)
  - Students arrived after 1 week (0%), 2 weeks (0%) 1 month (6%)
- 14% of students that arrived prior were very unsatisfied with the location of their residence
  - Students arrived after 1 week (13%), 2 weeks (13%) 1 month (3%)
- 29% of students that arrived prior were very satisfied with the location of their residence
  - Students arrived after 1 week (20%), 2 weeks (45%) 1 month (40%)
- Only 21% of graduate students living on campus are satisfied or very satisfied with the price of housing
- 62% of graduate students living on campus are satisfied or very satisfied with their roommate
- 51% of graduate students are satisfied or very satisfied with the price of off-campus housing
- 66% of graduate students living off-campus satisfied or very satisfied with their roommate