

HOUSING

St. Louis is a wonderful place to live, and this information will help you decide where to make your new home in the city. Make your plans as soon as possible, well before you arrive in St. Louis. Remember that space is limited in on-campus housing.

On Campus

On-campus housing is owned by or affiliated with UMSL. We strongly recommend you live on campus and that first-year students live in Oak Hall. On-campus housing is within walking distance to your classes and is a great way to meet other students and practice your language skills.

1. Residential Life (Oak Hall, Villa Hall, Mansion Hills) – These residence halls and apartments are managed by UMSL and may require you to purchase a meal plan. The units have shared or individual kitchens. For more information, go to umsl.edu/services/reslife or email umsreslife@umsl.edu.

2. University Meadows – These on-campus apartments are managed by a private company and contain their own kitchens. You do not need to purchase a meal plan. For more information, go to universitymeadowsumsl.com or email info@universitymeadowsumsl.com.

Always ask when your contract will begin. If your contract will begin after you arrive, ask about moving in early.

- Mansion Hills contracts have flexible dates.
- Oak Hall and Villa Hall contracts begin January 16. You can move into your room early paying \$20 per day prior to the start of the contract.
- University Meadows contracts begin January 16. You can move in early paying \$20 per day prior to the start of the contract.

When you arrive, you must check in at your housing. If you request our airport pick-up service, we arrange check-in for you.

If you do not request our airport pick-up service, you need to arrange your own check-in. In this case, ask Residential Life or University Meadows when you can check in. Usually you can only check in when offices are open. If you will arrive when offices are closed, you might need to stay at a hotel your first night.

Off Campus

Off-campus housing is not owned by UMSL and is not located on UMSL's property. High quality apartments are usually farther from the university, and you will need to take public transportation or drive to school. It can be challenging to make off-campus housing plans from abroad, or even from another city in the US, but off-campus housing can be an attractive option.

Off-campus properties usually require a commitment of 12 months (a lease). It is best to arrive in St. Louis and see the property before you sign a lease, as these documents are legal contracts. You may have to pay a security deposit (often higher for international students) and 1 or 2 months' rent when you first arrive. You may also need to complete a background check as well. Once you arrive in St. Louis, you must usually sign a lease and get the keys to an apartment during business hours (Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

Frequently Asked Questions

▪ **When should I arrive in St. Louis?**

You must arrive in St. Louis before Monday, January 12, 2015. If you will live on campus, we recommend that you arrive January 9 – 11. It is difficult to move into your apartment and find dining options earlier than January 9.

▪ **What should I do if my housing won't be ready for me to move in?**

If you will arrive before you can move into your room/apartment, reserve a place in temporary housing. Space is limited, so reserve a room several weeks before you arrive. Make your request online at www.umsl.edu/~umslconf → Temporary and Guest Housing → "[Housing request form](#)" link. For questions, email umslconf@msx.umsl.edu or call Allyson Bowes at +1 314-516-4399.

If you want to search for off-campus housing only after you arrive in St. Louis, you must make temporary housing arrangements, either through UMSL or a hotel. If you choose this option, we suggest you arrive at least two weeks before orientation to look for an apartment.

Remember you cannot enter the country more than 30 days before the program start date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

▪ **How can I get from the airport to my housing?**

- If you will live in on-campus housing and will arrive January 9 – 11, you can request an airport pick-up. Send us the *Airport Pick-up Service* form by January 2.
- Your Mosaic International Ambassador can pick you up if you sign up for the program. For more information, look at the information sheet *Mosaic International Buddy Program*.
- By taxi: stlouislamberttaxi.com. Directions are available on umsl.edu/services/reslife/ and universitymeadowsumsl.com.
- By Metrolink: metrostlouis.org. Use the UMSL North stop for Mansion Hills and UMSL South for University Meadows, Oak Hall, or Villa Hall. Do not use this option at night or if you have large luggage.

▪ **What should I ask when I make housing arrangements?**

- Ask if the unit is furnished (comes with furniture) or unfurnished (has no furniture). Usually, on-campus housing is furnished and off-campus housing is unfurnished.
- Ask about utilities and internet. Both on-campus and off-campus units have different policies about internet access, phone, and utilities (gas, water, and electric).
- Ask when you can move in, and if you can move in early if needed.
- Ask if bedding (sheets and pillows) is available. Usually, UMSL temporary housing in Oak Hall and Villa Hall has bedding available, but Mansion Hills and University Meadows do not.