

# NEW HAVEN HOUSING: Read all about it!

Welcome Incoming YSN students! We figured that if you are anything like we were, you might be wondering, where am I going to live?!?! Fear not! Brought to you by the powers of PATCH\* and SGO\*\*, current YSN students gladly shared their housing wisdom, wonders and woes to improve your overall search and peace of mind! Good luck, and may the force be with you!

## Jen

So for me, coming to a city was daunting. I am a rural girl, liking the country and the mountains, and New Haven has neither. That said, East Rock Park is about as close as possible to being mountainous and uninhabited. I moved to East Rock so I could run in the park and spend time on trails - there is a nice network of trails, and some hills, and rocks to trip over. The trails start 2.5 blocks from my house. Running there is questionably safe: I've been told NEVER to run by myself, but I often have, and feel comfortable doing so. I stay very aware of my surroundings, and I almost always invite my friend's large black dog to join me. As for my apartment, I live in a huge one-bedroom apartment that costs me \$825 a month. It's a lot of money, but I get a lot of space, light, and privacy. On-street parking is free, but my car got broken into this fall, quite unpleasant. (I think East Rock is considered a very safe part of New Haven to live in, but I guess not totally.) 2 mile straight-shot bike ride to school, easy (and free) shuttle access, right off I-95 so easy access out of New Haven, and close to Romeo and Caesar's, a tiny little Italian market that sells amazing food at a fair price. I'm quite happy living here, and think I've got one of the best spots in New Haven.

## Regina

I found out about my apartment through Vacancy Busters, a local rental business, and had a friend who lived in NYC come up and check a few of them out in person. I live in East Rock and love living here. I live near many classmates and can walk lots of places, including to Nica's Market (one of the best spots in New Haven) and East Rock Park with my dogs. I have loved my housing situation and have lived here all three years of school.



## Kala

Location = 436 Orange Street  
Neighborhood = downtown (borderline East Rock)  
Rent = \$620/month  
Parking = off street available  
Utilities = included

When looking for housing in New Haven, I knew that I didn't want to live in the dorms and I knew that I was not going to buy any property. I was moving by myself from the Midwest, without knowing anyone else in the program, much less the city. I wanted to live by myself but the monthly rent payments I saw were more than I could afford. I was hoping, if I moved in with roommates, that they would not be in the nursing school - I knew that I would need a break from nursing after long days in lecture/hospitals. I moved right after completing my undergrad and having lived with 1-4 other female friends for five years (read: I was comfortable sharing space with others). I was bringing a car but did not want to drive to class every day for financial and environmental reasons - I wanted to live close enough to bike or walk. I did not own (nor did I desire to live with) indoor pets. I found my apartment on the Yale Off Campus Housing website (<http://www.yale.edu/gradhousing/ochousing/search.html>). The location seemed pretty close to the Nursing School and the rent seemed reasonable. I contacted the landlord via email and she seemed organized and friendly. She sent me a lot of pictures and put me in touch with some of the current residents of the apartment. As it turned out there are four bedrooms and I was able to choose which one I wanted based on the pictures she emailed me. I emailed with one of the tenants who planned to stay for the year I was going to move - she gave me a lot of good information and also seemed nice. I didn't have the time or money to make a house-hunting trip to New Haven so I didn't see the apartment or my bedroom before the day I moved in. My sister lived in New York City and she went up to New Haven to look at it for me and meet the landlady. She took more pictures to send me and said it looked nice. My room was furnished with a bed and I bought a desk when I got here. The roommate who stayed here for another year had most of the kitchen supplies and said we could share them. The other two roommates signed leases after me and we emailed for a while before I moved; I met them the day I showed up to move in and unpack. We get along and live together well: one is in Yale's School of Public Health and the other two are working in research labs on campus.

## Christina

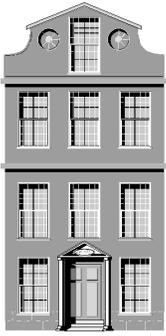
*West Chapel District (York St to Sherman Ave, Whaley Ave to Frontage Rd)*  
1 to 1.5 miles from YSN. The West Chapel District is a diverse part of New Haven, home to a mix of grad students, local families (including kids and the elderly), and health care providers working at nearby St. Raphael's, the second largest hospital in New Haven. There is a lot of shopping and dining along Chapel St. Along Whaley Ave. there is a Shaw's, CVS, Walgreens, Staples, Dunkin Donuts, KFC and the like. Also, there is Edge of the Woods, an independent natural and organic grocery store popular with students. A brand new High School has just opened up in the area, adding to the mix of people in the neighborhood. The West Chapel District is not on a Yale shuttle line, though the Yale night shuttle, Yale security shuttle, and many local bus lines do service the area. It is a cheaper area of New Haven, and again, very diverse!

## Jodi

My boyfriend and I started a small grad student housing co-operative on Nash St, which is on the edge of the 'nicer' East Rock neighborhood. The street is residential, but situated next to the State St. shops, restaurants, and markets. There is a community garden a block away and on our block there is an elementary school and a community green space where there are regular neighborhood barbecues, pumpkin-carving events, and Easter egg hunts. Because the street isn't in the heart of East Rock, the rent is cheaper (\$1,800 for a 4 bedroom) and the neighbors have lived here for decades. We were able to find the split-level unit and a super kind landlord through the Yale Graduate Housing Site and found housemates through sageboy.net and craigslist.

\*PATCH= Positive Action Through Community Health, an amazing YSN student Run Group! Keep an eye out for us!

\*\*SGO= Your very own YSN Student Government Organization!

**Michelle**

I live in Taft Apartments at 265 College St (College and Chapel, by New Haven Green). It is a New Haven landmark, a former hotel that opened in 1912 where Taft lived after his presidency while teaching law at Yale. There is a 24 hour doorman, and maintenance is available for emergencies 24 hours and quickly responds to routine calls as well. I found a spacious studio apartment for \$899 per month, with water and sewage included, and a month free off of rent. There is a one-time common room fee for an exercise room, laundry room, and TV room in the basement. My electric bill is about \$20 per month. It is a cat-friendly apartment for a fee. If you renew your lease three months prior to its expiration, rent is not raised for the following year. The Taft does not accept financial aid as evidence of payment; two months security deposit may be requested, as well as parents income tax forms if you do not have a current full/part-time job. There is a monthly newsletter, staff is attentive to tenants needs. There are free gatherings every three months with meals and/or desserts for tenants. Broadway shows are next door at Schubert Theater. Call Management at 203-495-TAFT for more information.

**Maureen**

I currently live in a 2BR apartment in East Rock off of Whitney Ave. I really enjoy the neighborhood and we have a great apartment. It's pet friendly, includes heat and hot water in the rent, and has a small parking area in our backyard. I don't have a car, so its location very close to the blue and orange shuttle is also key - it's very close to downtown but also far enough away that you feel like you're actually "going home" at the end of the day. We began our search at the end of May via Craigslist. I encourage everyone to start early and to set aside at least one day to come see places so you get a feel for the neighborhoods. Overall, East Rock is very grad-student populated which means there's a high turnover based on the academic year. Some people have asked if it would be easier to be close to school - personally, I haven't found this necessary. We're only in class two days a week, and as grad students we're able to use any of the libraries (ie, the divinity school library is close to east rock and one I go to quite a bit). Good luck with your search! There are lots of great places to choose from.

**Jenn**

Downtown Living: My boyfriend and I moved from San Francisco and we wanted to preserve our ability to walk to restaurants, bars and transportation, so we chose to live in downtown New Haven. After making that decision, we scoured Craigslist for openings, but ultimately found that our choices were rather limited to the few high-rise style buildings that exist in New Haven. Ultimately we chose to live at CenterPointe, which is amazingly convenient to everything - restaurants, bars, a movie theater, the train station, and importantly, YSN! We are very happy with our decision! There are a few downsides, like that it can be noisy at times (sirens, people yelling, etc.), but it's worth it to be in such a convenient location. If I were to do it all over again, I'd definitely make the same decision! Some facts about building and apartment: We have a 1-bedroom + den, 1-bathroom for \$1750/month, which includes basic cable and high-speed internet. All units have dishwashers, and in-unit washer/dryers. Parking is not available, so we park in the Omni Hotel for \$160/month. Pets are not allowed. There is a gym and huge game room (great for parties!) for use, free of charge! If interested in units at CenterPointe, you can contact the on-site building manager, Corrine Doyle at Corinne@cawhite.com or 203-848-1800.

Please feel free to contact me, Jenn, with any questions: jenncorum@gmail.com

**Andy**

I moved to New Haven with my boyfriend and my large black dog named Wiley. For all those dog lovers out there, I wish I could tell you there are a lot of pet friendly places to rent, but to be honest I found less of a variety than I expected. I was unsure of when to start looking for a place, so I called some agents, and they told me to start looking for housing a month before my expected move in date, which seemed reasonable. I ended up finding a one bedroom in east Rock for \$1150 a month. However, with hindsight and talking to fellow GEPNS, my advice to you would be to start looking early!!! I think if I had started looking in May/June I would have found more variety in apartment as well as price especially concerning I had a dog. In my opinion, it is better to pay an extra month at the beginning if you can and secure a lower rent for the remainder of the year. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about moving to New Haven and owning a pet! andrea.crane@yale.edu

**Bronwen**

I moved out from California, and in early June, I was on the internet looking at Craigslist and various realty websites in the area. I set up 30 appointments on the hour every hour (averaging 6-7 appointments/day for a week). I flew out from California during the last week and a half of June. My first five viewings were very disappointing. I basically discovered that what was left were places that weren't desirable for whatever reason. While I was out in New Haven, I kept checking Craigslist everyday for any new postings. The place I eventually ended up getting was a posting that I happened to be the first one to respond to, which happened to be within the first few days of my visit. I set it up so I didn't have to start renting until August.

Wooster Square is a great location if you want to be close to school and downtown. Even though I live about 2 miles away, I still drive to school simply because I do not want to walk home in the dark by myself. There's also a local farmer's market every Saturday just down the street from where I live. I live by myself in a one-bedroom apartment and I feel very safe. In a nutshell, I discovered that finding a nice place to live was pure luck. My monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment including heat is \$1,100.00. To secure a good spot, I suggest checking Craigslist ALL THE TIME.

**Jen**

My idea of a "neighborhood" is being within walking distance of coffee shops, theaters, restaurants, little cute stores, etc. Living downtown is a great opportunity to be in the middle of it all. You're a 10-minute walk from YSN, and near all the good study spots and libraries. I live on Chapel & York, and I have 3 coffee shops within a 200-yard radius! My favorite is JoJo's with \$2 adorable pots of tea, fresh baked goods, big tables and free wi-fi. My apartment is in grad student only housing, managed by Elm Campus Partners. They are very organized and friendly, and things get done quickly around here. I have a great view of Chapel St. and free heat and hot water, which saves me a lot of money in the Winter. There are some disadvantages to living downtown though: it can be a little noisy, especially on weekends, and there's no parking (I have a permit in a Yale lot a couple blocks away but bringing up groceries can be a pain when all the metered spots are full). But, for me, this is the perfect spot.

**Morgan**

I really enjoy living in Westville! It's a little farther away from campus, but that actually provides a nice separation between home and school.

The neighborhood is very quiet and safe and full of a great mix of people who are often out walking their dogs or going for runs. It's a very friendly place, close to a small shopping area with quite a few neat art galleries, two or three good restaurants, and some nice little shops. It's close enough to downtown that it's easy to get there by bike, bus, or car and there are a lot of nice old houses to look at when you go on neighborhood walks. My apartment itself is great—hardwood floors, lots of built-in storage, laundry in the basement, and very affordable. It is cat friendly here, I'm not sure about dogs. The landlord is quick to respond to any problems and the neighbors are friendly. I found my apartment through a friend of a friend, but the landlord owns a number of buildings in New Haven and has a great website: <http://www.trumbullenterprises.com/> where they are all listed. I would definitely recommend him to anyone!