

**Seattle Housing (MCB Student Resource):**

\*Current students, please initial or otherwise indicate if you agree with things that are already written so people know what is popular advice.

\*\*Current students, please DATE your entry

**Note to the Incoming Class of 2020:** To avoid having to take the bus to commute due to COVID19 concerns, you may want to more heavily weight proximity to labs, specifically if they are walking and/or biking distance.

Seattle bike map:

<http://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a24b25c3142c49e194190d6a888d97e3>

**General Advice for Housing Search:**

- Use Craigslist, Zillow, Trulia, Facebook Marketplace and Groups (UW housing, sublets & roommates, Seattle, WA: Housing Rental and Sales), etc.
- Bring a check book to your apartment viewings! You might want to put a deposit down and fill out an application immediately. Seattle apartments go quick!
- Seattle housing search is very fast-paced. Things will get filled very quickly, but new things will also pop up.
  - ACG (5-7-19): unfortunately finding a pre-lease is challenging and many landlords will not rent to people who they cannot meet in person. As a result, the best plan may be to come visit seattle for a bit about a month before move in, or to get accommodations with a friend or at an cheap Airbnb while you look.
  - ARL (5/8/19) Seconding the month-early visit. I believe Seattle regulations are that current tenants need to give a 20 day notice at the end of their lease if they are moving out, so often the landlord won't know about availability until then (which may seem uncomfortably close to your move-in date).
  - MEG (5-8-19): A good option is to find a temporary sublet or month-to-month situation (for maybe 1-6 months), and use that time to determine which neighborhoods you'd like to live in and to go in person to search for housing. Also, the renting market is realllllly hot around August/September, and you'll often find cheaper housing and less competition later in the year.
- Check the "Housing" channel on MCB Student Slack! Sometimes, people will post openings on MCB listserv as well. Maia will forward incoming students these emails until they are officially added to the listserve.
  - MNH (4-22-19): This is a great way to go because you can find places with people who have similar needs as you (as fellow graduate students). They will likely have already lived in their place for some time so you can ask them about the place to make sure it suits your needs/wants.
- Have enough in your bank account! It depends on the landlord, but sometimes, you need to pay 1st month's rent and last month rent as a deposit.

- MNH (4-22-19) Yes, there is often even an additional security deposit on top of first/last month's rent, and there may also be a small fee just to apply to rent. If there is paperwork to fill out, you can usually scan it and send it to them. If you have the financial resources, another option is to travel to Seattle briefly during the summer to scope out places and meet with the landlords/current people living there/etc. I did this and it was helpful, but certainly not required.
- (4-22-19) If using Seattle public transit, note that bussing east/west is more difficult than north/south. You want to live somewhere that lets you easily catch a bus to UW/FHCRC
  - MNH (4-22-19) Maybe we can start a list of neighborhoods that are good for this? I can say from personal experience that Ravenna, Wedgwood, and Laurelhurst are all convenient for getting to UW. I've heard Fremont and Wallingford are also pretty good for the UW. I've heard Ballard is not as convenient but some people make it work (maybe someone who lives there can chime in on this).
    - ARL (5/8/19) Eastlake is also a great option, though many of the landlords are old school and put out a vacancy sign rather than post on Craigslist/Zillow. So just another reason to come visit about a month in advance and walk the neighborhoods in person.
    - MEG 5/8/19: I've lived in Capitol Hill and Fremont (loved living both places!), and can offer transit advice about those neighborhoods. It is quite easy to get to main campus from Capitol Hill (see the 49 bus, Link light rail). When I worked at the Hutch and lived in Cap Hill, there was no bus I could take and I had a 20-30 minute walk up and down the hill every day. Fremont is about equidistant to the Hutch and main campus (see the 44 and 62 bus route towards main campus, and the 5 and 40 bus route to the Hutch, and 31/32 from Fremont to UW campus)
    - ARO (5/14/2019) - I would suggest typing whatever address you are looking at into gmaps and see the approximate transit time. Add 15 minutes to this time ( It is unlikely you will hit the bus right everytime, and they are often late) and then see if that is how much time you want to spend in transit. I would say that try to get commute under 40 minutes (total, or bus says 25 minutes), because more than that gets old fast.
- HCL 5/7/19. Always, always ask if the house you are touring is going to be sold soon. DO NOT move into a house that will be on the market soon if you value your sanity.
- MEG 5/8/19: Post in the MCB first years' Facebook/group chat/listserv to see if anyone wants to rent a house together! Maybe someone is in the area and can view houses in person. Often splitting a house is cheaper than getting an apartment. ARL: To say nothing of the potential for hosting official MCB events. MEG: shhh, that's my sneaky ulterior motive ;)
- ANH 5/8/2019: Don't live in Aurora. Just don't.

**A note about neighborhood racial demographics:**

ERB: It should be noted that many of these neighborhoods that are close to UW and Fred Hutch are very white. I have included a census map broken down by race. Patterns you see can be

attributed to redlining in the past

(<https://www.seattlemag.com/article/seattles-ugly-past-segregation-our-neighborhoods>). South Seattle offers a lot more diversity (the zip code 98118 is one of the most diverse zip codes in the United States (<https://nwasianweekly.com/2010/06/98118-2/>)) than north-ish and central Seattle but at the cost of having a bit longer commute to UW, Fred Hutch, PNRI, etc.. Luckily the link light rail has a number of stops in south seattle that can quickly bring you downtown, to capitol hill and UW (free for UW students (<https://www.seattlesouthside.com/explore/getting-around/rail/link-light-rail/>)). There is also some ethiopian and asian populations in north seattle (lake city, maple leaf, northgate), which is also accessible by bus and soon light rail.



### **Testimonials from students about specific neighborhoods:**

#### **Wallingford:**

**Vibe:** Quiet, charming, small-town, central location, easy to get to a lot of place in Seattle.

**Pros:** Close to: main campus, shuttle to Fred Hutch, bike paths, breweries, really good food, grocery store (QFC), coffee

**Cons:** Rent can be a bit higher, lacks diversity (pretty white), avoid apartments and look at spaces / rooms available at homes in Wallingford. Lots of big houses that might have floors or rooms available

#### **Student Experience Living Here:**

#### **Experience 1:**

- Living situation: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, in-unit washer / dryer, 900 sq. ft., basement unit (with lots and lots of windows!). Living with significant other who is not in MCB program.
- How did you find this housing? The unit has actually be handed down through generations of MCB graduate students. The landlord tries to keep the unit available to MCB students, or other couples that are in graduate programs at UW.
- Commute? UW: 5 min bus / bike, 20 min walk. FH: 25 min bus / bike / shuttle
- Price? (\$750 / each; utilities included)
- Contact with questions: Kyle Hess: [kylehess@uw.edu](mailto:kylehess@uw.edu)

### **Fremont:**

**Vibe:** Neighborhood-y, fun but quieter than downtown/Capitol Hill. Traditionally a more hippy-dippy neighborhood.

**Pros:** Great food and nightlife, lots to do, along burke-gilman bike trail that goes to UW. Fremont flea market on Sundays. Famous Summer Solstice parade with hundreds of naked bike riders. Pretty equal distance to/from UW and Fred Hutch which is ideal for first year! Lots of other MCB students in the area.

**Cons:** Fairly popular, so rent can be higher. Only grocery store within walking distance is PCC (which is a Whole Foods-type place and pretty expensive), lacks diversity (pretty white), Generally I drive to Fred Meyer/QFC, others can chime in. 31/32 bus is often VERY late and full as is the 40.

### **Student Experience Living Here:**

#### Experience 1: Fremont Ave N and N Motor Place

- Date written: April 2019, by MEG
- Living situation: 3 bedroom 1 bath apartment shared with 2 other grad students friends (one in the Immunology program and one in the Physical Therapy program) plus one very cute Shiba. We have the entire 2nd floor of a beautiful old subdivided house, very close to some bars and restaurants in North Fremont. We have in-unit laundry and a big balcony, which is nice.
- How did you find this housing: Craigslist. Saw the ad go up, called the landlady within the hour to secure our spot.
- Price (low, medium, high): Kinda high. We moved in August, which is a really competitive time to move. Each of us pay \$1030 a month + about \$40 in utilities.
- Commute: Currently takes me about 30 minutes, door to door, to get to my lab at the Hutch. I choose to take the 5 bus, which means a 15 min bus ride and a 15 minute walk. My roommate commutes to main campus, and says it is a 30 minute bus ride on the 44.
- Contact with questions: Meghan Garrett, [meghaneg@uw.edu](mailto:meghaneg@uw.edu)
  - NOTE: My roommate in the physical therapy program has to go live in Idaho for August 5th-30th as part of her clinical rotations, so we are looking for a subletter!!! Rent will likely be prorated/reduced for anyone interested. Room will be furnished, contact me if interested!! We have a quiet dog, she's a Shiba and is more of a cat than a dog, just FYI

### Experience 2: 36th and Francis Ave N

- Date written: May 2019 by JRB
- Living situation: 2 bed, 1 bath shared with my SO (not a grad student). Nice apartment with dishwasher, washer/dryer, reserved parking, small balcony.
- How did you find this: Trulia. I saw the ad and applied basically immediately. We got just barely got it - someone else applied 30 minutes later (first come, first served).
- Price: \$2,150 for the apartment (includes parking, garbage, water. Not electricity). Low for what/where it is. Would be high for two grad students, but we don't split rent evenly
- Commute: about 30 minutes to UW. I'm not close to the 31/32 stop, but after walking there it's a ~20 minute bus ride right to my lab (unless the Fremont drawbridge goes up. That can seriously delay buses).
- Contact with questions: Jilliane Bruffey, [jbruffey@uw.edu](mailto:jbruffey@uw.edu)

### **Ballard:**

**Vibe:** Cool

**Pros:** Breweries for days. Lots of good restaurants. Can be cheaper than elsewhere, and is pretty quiet.

**Cons:** Long commute (~30 mins in the morning, and 15 mins in the evening), homeless on the street, lacks diversity (very very white)

**Student Experience Living Here:** bus route 44 goes directly to UWMC. Lots of MFTE housing (~\$1100/mo for a one bedroom) and no wait list. 40 goes to the Hutch, but it takes a while (and is often quite full), however street parking/ places with a parking spot are plentiful.

### **Laurelhurst:**

**Vibe:** Quiet Residential Neighborhood

**Pro:** Residential Neighborhood. Feels safe. Currently has other MCB student in the area, great commute to UW. Grocery stores close by. Burke Gilman trail runs through if you want to bike.

**Cons:** Not as great of commute to Fred Hutch-- but still okay, lacks diversity (pretty white)

### **Student Experience Living Here:**

#### Experience 1:

- a) Date written: April 2019
- b) Living situation: 3 bedroom, 2 bath triplex shared with 2 other people (both MCB students, one of whom I met during the MCB interview).
- c) How did you find this housing? Craigslist
- d) Price: low, medium, high? Medium. Started off \$2500 for the entire apartment (split 3 ways; not evenly since roommate that has the master bedroom pays more). 4% increase the following year.
- e) Commute? Great commute to UW with 75/31/32 (75 line turned into 31 or 32) or 65/67 (65 turns into 67) bus line. Okay commute to Fred Hutch where I take the 75/31/32 to University District, then take either the Fred Hutch/UW shuttle or the 70 bus line to the Hutch from there. Takes 30-40 mins depending on traffic and how well the transfer goes.
- f) Contact with questions: Ami Yamamoto [ayama@uw.edu](mailto:ayama@uw.edu)

**Ravenna:**

**Vibe:** Residential neighborhood

**Pros:** Quiet, nice to walk around in during the day. Easy driving area with street parking around. Easy commute to UW, ok commute to FH. Grocery stores nearby. Places here are generally nice/ updated.

**Cons:** Not always safe to walk around at night, not a ton of restaurants/bars around, basically have to bus/drive somewhere if you want to go out

**Student Experience Living Here:****Experience 1:**

- Living situation: 2 bedroom apartment shared with random couple (found through Facebook UW housing page), one of whom was a UW grad student
- Found roommates via UW housing page on Facebook and apartment via Zillow
- Price: fairly high (~\$1100 with utilities per month for bedroom with ensuite bath)
- Commute: ~25 min by bus to UW, ~45 min by bus to FH (if you take the 64X, or else ~1 hour via 65 to 70)
- Contact with questions: Sam Schuster [sschust@uw.edu](mailto:sschust@uw.edu)
  - Note: I don't live here anymore, I did 2017-2018

**Experience 2:**

- Living situation: large studio apartment found on craigslist
- Price: low for a big studio (~\$1100 with utilities per month)
- Commute: ~20 min by bus to UW, ~45 min by bus to FH via 372
- Contact with questions: Alison Greenlaw ([acg24@uw.edu](mailto:acg24@uw.edu))
  - Hoping to sublet for summer since I am moving in with a roommate contact if you are looking for a studio

**Lake City:**

**Vibe:** Residential. Not a busy place.

**Pros:** Usually cheaper and quieter than more centrally located districts, more diverse than many north-end neighborhoods

**Cons:** Farther away from everything except UW. There are bus routes (including express routes) on the main N/S roads. Biking can be tough because it's mostly uphill going from Lake City and the Burke-Gilman bike trail is not close.

**Student Experience Living Here:****Experience 1:**

- 2013-2019
- Living situation: ~600 sq ft 1-bedroom that allows pets, in unit washer/dryer, parking available. Live with husband who does freelance work (read: doesn't make oodles of money).
- Price: \$1300 for rent. ~\$60 for parking.

- Commute: By bus, 20 minutes to UW and 40 minutes to the Hutch.
- Contact: Moriah Echlin ([moriah.echlin@gmail.com](mailto:moriah.echlin@gmail.com))

#### Experience 2:

- 2018-2019
- Living situation: ~1100 sq ft. 2-bedroom apt with small balcony, allows pets, in-unit washer/dryer/dishwasher, garage parking, and includes all utilities except electric. Live alone(!) in a 2 bedroom with 3 cats. Total units on property: 50. All one or two bed.
- Price: \$1650 including parking, water/sewer/trash - electric averages about \$45 a month, but varies a lot throughout year due to winter heating.
- Near 75, 309, 372 and 522 bus stops. 10 minute drive to the hutch by car, 10 minutes to UW by car both assuming low traffic. ~20 min during rush hour.
- Stucco building built in the '60s is being renovated right now for new plumbing and bath fixtures. Had new paint and carpet when I moved in. Cabinets, etc are original to the 60s - so clean but not fashionable. You get what you pay for here. Building manager is lovely but ancient and repairs can take a bit to get done.

#### Experience 3:

- 2016-2019
- Found via Craigslist after shopping around for about a month with a friend.
- Living Situation: 1250 sq ft 2-Bedroom, 2-bathroom apartment, top floor, 3 balconies. 55 unit modern building, built in the early 2000's. Washer/dryer in-unit. Utilities extra. Catered parties once a quarter, every month during summer. Rooftop grill and nice view. Master bedroom setup, that roommate pays more. Apartment managers live in the building and are great.
- Price: \$1900+utilities/internet. Garage parking available for \$60/mo, but parking outside is currently not a problem.
- Next to the 75, 65, and 372 en route to UW and across to Queen Anne. 309 to First Hill, and 522 (quickly) to downtown. Right next to a ton of restaurants, 1 block from the Fred Meyer, 1 block from the library and farmer's market.
- Contact: Dan Humphrys ([humphdan@uw.edu](mailto:humphdan@uw.edu))

#### **University District (U District):**

**Vibe:** Bustling and busy neighborhood. Somewhat more residential the more North you go, but definitely has a "youthful" vibe due to lots of undergrads, restaurants and bars.

**Pros:** Rent can be really cheap if you play it right and don't mind an older house and/or lots of roommates. Can't beat this commute. Lots of fun things to do - U District farmers market every Saturday, lots of nightlife, close to Ravenna Park and Greenlake, more diverse due to UW students

**Cons:** Not super quiet, not very safe, lots of nightlife = lots of random yelling late at night sometimes. Crime is a big issue in this district, especially late at night when the bars get out. Both of these are truer close to the University/Campus Parkway/Fraternity Row. There aren't a whole lot of nice places out here - most are old and several are falling apart due to heavy undergrad use. Lots are getting sold for "micro-studios", so stability is a problem.



## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### Experience 1: 55th St. and 15th Ave NE

- Date written: May 2019
- Living situation: 5 bedroom, 2 bath house shared with 4 other people (Craigslist randos). House was built in 1920s so it's creaky and weird.
- How did you find this housing? Craigslist
- Price: Low. \$670 + ~\$100 utilities / month
- Commute? GREAT
  - 10-15 minutes to UW via 75/45/73/373, 15-20 minutes walking
  - 25 minutes to Fred Hutch via 70
  - 35 minutes to SLU via 70 and walking
  - 45 minutes to PNRI via walking and 49
- Contact with questions: Hannah Lewis [halewis@uw.edu](mailto:halewis@uw.edu)

### Experience 2: Brooklyn Ave NE and 52nd Ave

- a) Date written: May 2019
- b) Living situation: 1 bedroom 1 bathroom apartment on the second floor of an older, small apartment complex. About 600 square feet (so pretty small), shared with significant other who is an MCB student. I would really not recommend this general area, landlords of apartment complexes are used to steam rolling over young undergraduate students so generally they are not a great bunch to work with. The area is also very unsafe, we are moving this year.
- c) How did you find the housing? On trulia.
- d) Price: Very pricey. \$1675 including g/s/w, another \$100 for assigned parking.
- e) Commute? The one upside of U-district is how close it is to the University. You can even commute to the Hutch pretty easily if you live on the 70, which is the only bus the runs a North/South and then East/West route from around the University to the SLU area.
- f) Contact with questions: Taylor ([tkward@uw.edu](mailto:tkward@uw.edu)) or John ([jywang74@gmail.com](mailto:jywang74@gmail.com)) Wang

## **Green Lake:**

**Vibe:** More residential and family-oriented. There are some small commercial areas around the lake.

**Pros:** The lake! The inner trail around the lake is 2.8mi - perfect for walking or running. The surrounding park is great for picnicking and dog-watching (or dog walking if you are lucky enough to have one!) when the weather is nice. The neighborhood is very quiet and safe. Easy commute from the East/Northeast side of the lake.

**Cons:** On the more expensive end. More difficult commute from the West side of the lake(?), not diverse (very white)

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### Experience 1: Woodlawn Ave NE and NE Maple leaf place

- Date written: May 2019
- Living situation: Shared 2 bedroom apartment with one roommate. Large (~900sq ft) apartment in smaller/older 6-unit building on the NE side of the lake.



- How did you find this housing? Craigslist
- Price: \$1097 rent + \$50 utilities per month per person
- Closest grocery store: PCC (very expensive) but also a Safeway within walking distance. There is also a Safeway, Whole foods, and Trader Joes on the bus route between UW and E Green lake.
- Commute: Very good
  - 25 mins to HSB via bus route 45
  - 25 minutes to Fred Hutch/SLU/SCRI via 63 express (only runs south in the morning and north in the evening) or 45 mins via 62 + walking
- Contact with questions: Marielle Beaulieu [marieb4@uw.edu](mailto:marieb4@uw.edu)

#### Experience 2: 63rd and 9th Ave NE

- Date written: May 2019
- Living situation: Shared 2 bedroom/2 bath apartment with one roommate. Large (~1200 sq ft) apartment. Apartment is not situated in either Green Lake or Ravenna, it is in a neighborhood called Roosevelt. I would say though that it is a little closer to Green Lake than Ravenna.
- How did you find this housing? MCB Student Listserv
- Price: \$~1000 total with rent and utilities (rare find)
- Closest grocery store: Whole Foods is closest (5 mins) but Safeway is also nearby (10-15 min walk), as well as Trader Joe's (15-20 min walk). Also there is a Bartell Drugs in the strip where whole foods is.
- Commute: Very good. There are a lot of options for transportation. The green lake park and ride is very close for the express bus towards downtown (stops about a 15 minute walk south of the Hutch). The 67 and 45 are good for going towards the university or for catching the shuttle to the Hutch. Also, this neighborhood is about a 20 minute walk to one of the Hutch-SLU shuttle stops, making it possible to walk and then take a shuttle directly to the Hutch or SLU. This is my preferred option, because public transportation is often not punctual. **Also, if you are a biker, this is a great neighborhood to be situated in!** There is a bike lane that runs down Roosevelt way.
- Pros: A lot of restaurants (Thai, Indian, Mexican, German), coffee shops, bars, all within a 5 minute walking distance or less of me. Green Lake is stunning! Ravenna Park is also nearby. It's a quiet neighborhood as well. I would love to stick around this neighborhood if I can.
- Cons: I have very few, but we have had issues with mail theft in our neighborhood. While our mailboxes are locked, theft is rampant
- Contact with Questions: Terry Hafer [th48@uw.edu](mailto:th48@uw.edu) 484-797-2025

#### Greenwood:

**Vibe:** neighborhoody, quiet

**Pros:** more diverse, more affordable

**Cons:** long commute (~1 hour), don't be fooled that it looks close on a map, it is not easy to go east/west in Seattle

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### **Columbia City**

**Vibe:** neighborhood near the lake and park, historically large Black and Vietnamese populations, lots of good food

**Pros:** great neighborhood, awesome food and lots to do, near lake, very diverse (Black, Vietnamese, White, Hispanic), along the light rail so east direct commute to UW, downtown, capitol hill, etc..

**Cons:** longer commute (~40-50 min to UW or Fred Hutch)

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### **Mt. Baker (the neighborhood, not the mountain)**

**Vibe:** very neighborhoody vibe, lots of families

**Pros:** more diverse (Black, Vietnamese, White, Hispanic), along the light rail so east direct commute to UW, downtown, capitol hill, etc..

**Cons:** longer commute (~30-40 min to UW or Fred Hutch)

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### **Central District**

**Vibe:** historically home to many black artists (Jimmy Hendrix, Quincy Jones) especially jazz but has unfortunately been pretty gentrified recently, a neighborhood vibe with lots to do, restaurants, bars, etc..

**Pros:** still has diversity (Black, White, Asian), lots to do and centrally located, great food and some night life because close to capitol hill & first hill, neighborhood feel, near the lake, centrally located - close to fred hutch, short bus ride to UW

**Cons:**

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### **Queen Anne/Magnolia:**

**Vibe:** Family neighborhood, fancy-ish.

**Pros:** Quiet and safe. Two Safeways, Trader Joe's and a Metropolitan Market. Good restaurants and really pretty walks (Kerry Park). Tons of coffee shops and cute boutiques at the top of the hill. Top Pot too! (Donuts, that is).

**Cons:** It's hilly, so if you bike brace yourself. Kind of pricey. Little or no night life. Can be difficult to get to other parts of city easily, not diverse (very very white)

## **Student Experience Living Here:**

### **Experience 1:**

- 1) Queen Anne Ave N. April 25, 2019.
- 2) 500 - 600 ft Studio Apartment for \$1125/month. Living alone. Lease ending on June 30. Available to take over in July 1.
- 3) I found the apartment by walking around and calling the numbers outside of the building.
- 4) Commute
  - a) To the Hutch: 20 min biking, 30 min walking or 30 min taking 2 buses.

- b) To UW 30 min biking, 45 min takin 1 bus.
- c) To SLU 10 min biking, 20 min walking.
- d) To PNRI 40 min bus, I don't bike up Capitol Hill, it's crazy.

#### Experience 2:

1. Date written: 05/08/19
2. **Living situation:** Top of Queen Anne hill. Two-bedroom apartment with a giant living space and kitchen. Really awesome sized rooms. Patio, working fireplace and street parking. Laundry in-unit. Our apartment was part of a converted three-story house, with each floor being a separate apartment unit. I really really really loved the location. There's a cozy family-oriented neighborhood feel at the top of the hill. It's quiet and safe, both of which were selling points for me. Definitely enough on the main street (Queen Anne Ave.) in terms of grocery, coffee shops etc for me. All of that is within walking distance, too, so no car needed. I lived here with another MCB student for 2 years (2016-2018). We moved out only because we both moved in with our partners.
3. **How did you find this housing?** Craigslist! It was super easy.
4. **Price** (low, medium, high): Medium, I'd say. But totally worth the price for all of the space and location. We paid ~\$1865 total, I believe. Definitely do-able with our stipend, between the two of us.
5. **Commute:** Took me about 25 minutes to walk to the Hutch, which I did almost every day. If you took the bus, it'd take about 30 min (a lot of that being walking, as well. The bus only gets you down the hill). Getting to UW is a bit more of a pain -- takes multiple buses/ light rail -- so that's more like 45-60 min. Getting to and from downtown is incredibly easy -- there are at least 4 buses (2, 3, 4, 13) that take you from the top of Queen Anne to the central downtown area.
6. Contact with questions: Sarah Crist, [scrist12@uw.edu](mailto:scrist12@uw.edu)

#### Capitol Hill:

**Vibe:** Busy, 'edgy' neighborhood. Used to be considered the alternative, gay neighborhood of Seattle (still a very LGBTQA friendly place!)

**Pros:** Bars! Music venues! Cheap food! Light rail is easy to access, easy to bus to/from. There are so many dogs! Some racial diversity

**Cons:** Bars! Can be a little iffy in places. Loud! Busy! Higher crime rate but generally safe

#### **Student Experience Living Here:**

#### Experience 1:

- 1) Living situation: 1 bedroom apt, 700 sqft, live with my partner
- 2) How did you find this housing? Padmapper
- 3) Price: Generally expensive, but you can find a good deal sometimes. I pay \$1124 for a one bedroom, and they will have to forcibly remove me from that apartment when I am dead because that's a hell of a deal.
- 4) Commute? Great, if you're going to the UW or enjoy walking!
  - a) To the Hutch: 20 min walk from most places on the hill, busing is hard

- b) To UW: 10 min light rail ride, several buses (43, 49) go by the med center
- c) To SLU 30ish min walk down Denny Hill, buses are terrible from Cap Hill to SLU (dont ever take the 8 during peak hours, it's faster to walk) (The 9 regularly runs 15-20 minutes late, constantly stuck in traffic)
- 5) Other: I've lived in Seattle for many, many years and wouldn't trade Cap Hill for anywhere else in the city (except maybe Greenlake, which is lovely). But be aware that if you're looking for a cheap, quiet neighborhood this is probably not it. HIGHLY recommend living in the North end of Cap Hill (either East toward 15th or West toward the freeway) - the South end of the hill tends to be much louder, much more expensive, and a little crazy on the weekends.
- 6) Contact with questions: Marcella Cline: [marcline@uw.edu](mailto:marcline@uw.edu)

#### Experience 2: 13th Ave E and E Mercer St

- Date written: April 2019, by MEG
- Living situation: 5 bedroom 3 bath house shared with 4 other random roommates. House was an old mansion, not super well maintained by the landlord, but had a guest bedroom (so useful!) and porch for chilling. Huge place where all the MCB parties used to be hosted, until I moved out. My room was huge with big windows. All roommates were carefully interviewed and chosen because we wanted to live in community with one another. Was really nice having built in friends when I first moved to Seattle! Was in a quieter part of Cap Hill, just south of Volunteer Park and close to bars/restaurants on 15th Ave and Broadway.
- How did you find this housing? Craigslist. Had to answer some questions, was chosen for an in person interview, and they offered me the spot. Because the rent was so cheap and the location was amazing, there was a lot of competition.
- Price (low, medium, high): Low. This place was an incredible deal at \$650 a month + about \$50 a month for utilities.
- Commute: Took me 20 minutes to walk downhill to the Hutch, 30 minutes to walk back uphill home. I could take either the 49 bus or light rail to main campus, was there in 20 minutes.
- Contact with questions: Meghan Garrett, [meghaneg@uw.edu](mailto:meghaneg@uw.edu)
  - NOTE: I lived there for nearly 4 years, from October 2014 to August 2018. Only moved because I wanted to live with my grad school friends, and the house was much loved but not maintained well by the landlord.

#### **East Lake:**

**Vibe:**

**Pros:**

**Cons:**

**Student Experience Living Here:**

#### **South Lake Union:**

**Vibe:**

**Pros:** could walk to Fred Hutch and quick commute to UW

**Cons:** expensive, loud

**Student Experience Living Here:****International District/Chinatown:**

**Vibe:** similar feel to any other Chinatown in a major city except way less crowded/cramped

**Pros:** All the convenience of living “downtown” but doesn’t feel crowded, lots of good food nearby that is relatively cheap (at least by Seattle standards), has a link station and feels like every bus line is accessible from here, small neighborhood markets + Uwajimaya = basically all grocery needs, fairly diverse (large vietnamese, japanese, chinese and filipino populations)

**Cons:** There are homeless people both here and in adjacent Pioneer Square (much less in ID than Pioneer Square) so this may make people feel less safe esp compared to other areas of the city, encountering the occasional drunk/otherwise-influenced homeless person yelling in the street is not uncommon, not as much greenery as other areas of the city

**Student Experience Living Here:****Experience 1:**

- 1) Living situation: sharing a 1-bedroom apartment with sig other + dog, maybe ~900sq ft including a patio, in-unit washer/dryer, apartment building seems on the older side but the unit itself feels fairly new/likely renovated recently
- 2) How did you find this: Craigslist
- 3) Price: The unit is \$1550/mo, utilities usually ~150/mo total (split between two people the cost is ~\$850/mo per person total), great price for the amount of space so really good for sharing with a partner
- 4) Commute:
  - a) Route 70 takes 15-25min to get to the Hutch depending on traffic - I tend to avoid rush hour commuting (8-9a or 5-6p)
  - b) Link light-rail to corner of UW campus takes less than 15min, then about 10-15min walk from UW link station to any point on campus that I’ve needed to access so far

**Wedgwood:**

**Vibe:** Quiet/Midwest-y

**Pros:** Quiet/Midwest-y, good bus routes if you’re living near Ravenna Ave/Lake City Way or 35th Ave.

**Cons:** Quiet/Midwest-y (seriously, it just depends on what you’re looking for). Also a con: if you’re on the side of Wedgwood right by Lake City Way, you miiight hear a few Lake City vibes late at night...., not very diverse

**Student Experience Living Here:****Experience 1:**

(ANH 2019-05-08)

1. Living situation:

- a. I live in a Condo that's right near Lake City Way, but is *technically* still in Wedgwood (which is important for when home property values because it is a nicer neighborhood)
  - b. My living situation does not apply to most people. My parents purchased the condo unit as a home renovation project/investment. I live with my husband and two cats, renting at-cost (straight HOA fee, mortgage, taxes, etc), so it is much more affordable than most Seattle rentals.
  - c. If relevant, our rent (including HOA, which includes parking, water, and cable) is \$1820/month total. The condo is ~1050 square feet, 2 bed 1 bath, with a large patio. Washer/dryer in-unit and has two additional storage units.
  - d. We've lived here since August 2015, and don't plan to leave.
2. How did you find this house?
  - a. Zillow
3. Commute:
  - a. The 372 bus route is right outside my Condo. This goes straight to campus. On a weekend with no traffic it's about a 15 minute ride, during peak traffic commuting home it can get up to 35-40 minutes if it's bad.
  - b. To Fred Hutch/SLU it is more of a pain, you take the 372 and then the Fred Hutch Shuttle or I think the 70. If I had joined a Fred Hutch lab I would have heavily considered driving
4. Other
  - a. I'm from the midwest so I like the fact that it's quiet and nothing is going on
  - b. Grocery stores are not within walking distance, I have a car. There are two Safeways and two QFCs in ~5-10 min drive
  - c. Restaurants are also not in close walking distance, though the 372 can bus you down to U village or up to Lake City where there are some restaurants