



Disclaimer: All views expressed here may not apply to all students and all department. It is meant to give students a general idea and ANKUR cannot be held responsible in any event.

### Housing

Students generally live in the following areas –

**Oakland** - This is in the vicinity of the university buildings. This means you can probably walk to the university. You must know that this area is swarming with undergrads and there is often a lot of noise (just like us when we were undergrads :-)).

**Shadyside** - Pretty quiet area. Most grad students prefer this area to Oakland. Lots of nice houses, but the newer buildings are relatively expensive. Shadyside is not exactly walkable from university. If you work late in the nights, you can call the [Pitt Safe Rider](#) and they will drop you at some locations at Shadyside (~20 times a semester). Transport is free via the Port Authority transport, which is the local bus, and the frequency is not too bad. **Squirrel hill** - This place is like Shadyside. It is a lot further away from the university but pretty quiet area. One advantage of Squirrel Hill over Shadyside is that buses go via Pitt and Carnegie Mellon. But if you work late in the nights, you do NOT have the luxury of the [Pitt Safe Rider](#) as they do not cover the Squirrel Hill area. Transport is again not that much of a problem and rents are similar to Shadyside.

**Fifth avenue** - Also a good area for stay, basically because transport is never a problem. Fifth is a main road and almost every 5 minutes a bus comes probably at the doorstep. But apartments are a little more expensive.

**Friendship** - This area is further away from university than Shadyside, but its generally cheaper - basically because the houses are older.. much older. But this area is still pretty well connected by the bus.

A Suggestion - look for houses in Shadyside or Squirrel Hill. [Download this map](#) that shows Pitt, Carnegie Mellon, Shadyside and Squirrel Hill. Also, bus routes are shown. House rents are considered decent in the range of \$300-\$350. Anything more than that is considered expensive. This is exclusive of utilities. Electricity comes to about \$10 per person, while gas may range from \$40-\$70 per person, depending on how independently you want to live. Of course, if you live alone, the budget is higher. Look for houses where utilities are included. Especially gas. Electricity is generally ok. Gas expenses are bad. Try to avoid having to pay for them. Frankly, we don't need to tell you this, but take some advice from the experienced ones, especially if you decide to stay in shared accommodation for the first time. Find good roomies. Make sure that you have decided that you wont have any problems with each other in the very beginning itself. All places have charges for breaking the lease, in case you decide that you cannot live with someone anymore. And it is a real pain finding a place to stay in the middle of a semester. We have seen fights over petty bills and even domestic duties. So make sure you take care of all that. On-Campus Housing (the Oakland area): Not many students prefer staying in on-campus housing facilities, as they are expensive. Off-Campus Housing (Shadyside, Squirrel hill, Friendship ...): Generally, most of the Indian students stay in off-campus apartments. There are three kinds of apartments that are available: - One-bedroom apartment \$500-\$700/month - Two bedroom apartment \$650-\$1000/month - Studios \$450-\$600 (1 person or a couple) The rents of the apartments vary depending on whether they are furnished or not. As a standard, apartments have a refrigerator and a cooking range and are centrally heated and carpeted. Here are some links you can use for apartment searches: <http://pittsburgh.craigslist.org/apa/> (superb) <http://www.pitt.edu/~property/>