

HOUSING FOR SFCM STUDENTS

The Conservatory is pleased to offer students a breadth of housing support services, including an exclusive partnership with Golden Gate Residence Hall. We look forward to welcoming you to San Francisco!

Golden Gate Residence Hall

Golden Gate Hall, located only two blocks from the Conservatory's new building, has served as the Conservatory's partner residence hall since summer 2006. Golden Gate Hall is a unique residential community that encourages interaction among San Francisco's collegiate students. Golden Gate Hall offers 24 hour reception and security, a large student lounge, and a fully equipped kitchen and dining area. Conservatory students can lease rooms at Golden Gate Hall on a month-to-month basis. Details can be found by contacting Golden Gate Hall at www.goldengatehall.com, (415) 703-9988 or goldengatehall@aol.com.

Fox Plaza Apartments

Fox Plaza Apartments has become a favorite of students seeking apartment living within three blocks from school. Spacious apartments allow multiple students to share studios and one and two bedroom apartments. The Fox Plaza community features include twenty-four hour security, an on-site fitness center, available parking, convenient laundry facilities, high-speed internet connection, and cable-ready units. More information can be found online at www.archstoneapartments.com.

Online Community for SFCM Housing Options

In order to distribute timely and important housing information, the Conservatory has created an online housing community. This interactive community provides a forum for Conservatory students to discuss housing needs, trends, and opportunities and includes a roommate database, comparison charts for over fifteen Bay Area neighborhoods, and helpful online links. The website can be found at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sfcm-housing/>. Access is restricted to current or incoming students.

Planning Ahead

Many students plan their move to the Bay Area in early summer. The online community offers helpful information about the Bay Area housing market, and also connects students to potential roommates and residences. Some students visit San Francisco in advance (June – early August) to find suitable housing before the semester begins. Please note that many apartment leases begin on the first day of each month. As the current rental market has become extremely competitive, students are encouraged to begin the housing search process early.

Students unable to solidify their housing before Orientation often make a reservation at a hotel, youth hostel, residence club, or Golden Gate Hall before their arrival. It is recommended that students not search for housing during Orientation placement exams and auditions. Please allow a minimum of three to four weeks to locate permanent housing. Hostels are usually the cheapest alternative, averaging \$25 to \$40 per night. Several hotels and residence clubs in the city provide weekly and monthly rates, and some include two meals a day plus maid service.

Come Prepared

We recommend you come prepared for your apartment search with a rental resume and a credit report. For help with designing a rental resume, refer to the Rental Application Resume form found online at www.rentalguide.com/pdf/rental_application.pdf. A credit report will be needed if you intend to look for your own apartment and/or sign a lease. If you do not have a credit history, be prepared to have your parents co-sign your applications. For more information about your credit report, contact Experian at www.experian.com; Equifax at www.equifax.com; or TransUnion at www.transunion.com/index.jsp.

Communicating with potential landlords or roommates is easier and more secure if you have a steady personal voicemail and/or email. If you do not have a mobile phone, voicemail companies can provide you with your own phone number for a small fee. Mailbox companies also have locations throughout the city where you can retrieve personal mail. Do not have your mail sent to the Conservatory.

Tips for Finding Housing

- Subscribe to the SFCM-Housing Yahoo! Group located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sfcm-housing/>. While the Conservatory maintains a physical Housing Bulletin Board in the student lounge, the most updated and pertinent information will be posted to the online community.
- Refer to the SFCM-Housing Yahoo! Group for information on Bay Area neighborhoods and for information on contacting utility companies such as gas & electric, water, refuse/recycling, and cable & internet.
- Find a roommate! The SFCM-Housing Yahoo! Group contains a roommate database for students looking to live with fellow Conservatory students. Once you are a member of the online housing group, you can post your own roommate listing or search the database for a compatible companion.
- Walk around the neighborhoods that interest you. Bring pen and paper to record addresses and telephone numbers from "For Rent" signs displayed in windows. Many landlords advertise their vacant apartments by placing a sign in the available apartment, as it is often more effective than a newspaper listing.
- Utilize the Internet; www.craigslist.org, www.sfgate.com and www.rentalguide.com are particularly helpful sites. Most students find apartments through Craigslist, known to be the most up-to-date and thorough listing of rentals in the Bay Area. While in Craigslist, search under apartments/housing, rooms/shared, and sublets/temporary for more opportunities!
- Local colleges & universities also provide online postings. The University of California at San Francisco Housing Board can be found at Milberry Union/UC Medical Center, 501 Parnassus Avenue, (415) 666-1426, or at www.housing.ucsf.edu. The San Francisco State University Housing Board is located at 1600 Holloway Avenue in their Student Union, or online at www.sfsu.edu. The University of San Francisco's Housing Office is located at 2130 Fulton Street with their website at www.usfca.edu. While not a local school, Rainbow Grocery has an extensive housing board and can be found at 14th Street and Folsom Avenue.
- Weekly newspapers and word of mouth are helpful resources. The San Francisco Bay Guardian, www.bayguardian.com, and SF Weekly, www.sfweekly.com, are delivered to the Conservatory and can be found throughout the city.
- There also are several rental agencies in San Francisco. One free agency is Citi Apartments, found online at www.citiapartments.com. Fee-based agencies include Bay Rentals at www.bayrentals.com and SF 4 Rent at www.sf4rent.com.

Transportation Resources

Public transportation service in San Francisco is readily accessible. MUNI, the city's bus and in-town train system, is convenient to use and provides easy access to every neighborhood in town. All collegiate students are enrolled in the MUNI Class Pass system, which allows access to any MUNI surface bus, underground train or cable car in the city of San Francisco. Visit www.sfmuni.com and www.511.org for more information.

The nearest public transportation lines to 50 Oak Street include:
MUNI Underground Station:

Van Ness Stop: Lines J, K, L, M, N

MUNI Bus Lines:

Market & Van Ness Stop: Bus Lines 6, 7, 9, 26, 66, 71, 71L
Fell & Van Ness Stop: Bus Lines 47, 49
Mission & Van Ness Stop: Bus Lines 14, 14L, 26, 49
City Hall Stop: Bus Line 5
Hayes & Van Ness Stop: Bus Line 21

BART Station:

Civic Center Stop: Daly City-Richmond; Daly City-Fremont; SFO-Pittsburg/Bay Point; Daly City-Dublin/Pleasanton

Temporary Housing (\$23/night - \$40/night, Rates Subject to Change)

Fisherman's Wharf Hostel 415.771.7277
Fort Mason Bldg. #240 www.sfhostels.com

San Francisco Downtown Hostel 415.788.5604
312 Mason Street www.sfhostels.com

San Francisco City Center Hostel 415.474.5721
685 Ellis Street

Residence Clubs (Rates Subject to Change)

The following residence clubs may include meals. They provide 24-hour security, weekly housekeeping and include private telephone and message services.

The Monroe
1870 Sacramento Square 415.474.6200
www.MonroeResidenceClub.com \$190-\$375/week

The Kenmore
1570 Sutter Street 415.776.5815
www.kenmorehotel.us/ \$190-375/week

Vantaggio Suites
835 Turk Street 415.922.0111
www.vantaggiosuites.com \$230-450/week

Vantaggio Suites
580 O'Farrell Street 415.885.0111
www.vantaggiosuites.com \$210-400/week

Voice Mail Service

BayLink
www.bay-link.com
800.909.8439

San Francisco Neighborhoods

San Francisco is one of the most distinguished and celebrated cities in the world. Its diverse cultures and lifestyles attract prospective students to the city, and with a little bit of direction, you can discover all the treasures of San Francisco! Short descriptions of the major neighborhoods are listed below. To further explore the city, visit the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau's Web site at www.sfvb.org.

The Castro

The universally-agreed Mecca of gay life is San Francisco's Castro District. It is home to a predominantly lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community with excellent bakeries, boutiques, cafes, restaurants and nightlife. The Castro hosts a variety of festivals, street fairs and activities throughout the year.

Cole Valley/UCSF (University of California – San Francisco)

A generally quiet neighborhood populated by families and young professionals, this area offers a variety of mom-and-pop shops in lieu of mainstream franchises.

Haight-Ashbury

Commonly referred to as the Upper Haight, the Haight-Ashbury was the center of '60s psychedelia. It is now home to a variety of gift shops geared towards the ex- or wannabe hippie, piercing salons, vintage clothing stores and Amoeba Music, the country's largest independent music store.

Hayes Valley/Civic Center

With the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco Ballet, Opera, Symphony—and the Conservatory—Civic Center is the cultural nexus of San Francisco. Adjacent to Civic Center is Hayes Valley, which caters to the "symphony crowd" with its fine restaurants, boutiques, trendy furniture stores and upscale shoe emporia.

Lower Haight/Western Addition

One of the more culturally and economically diverse neighborhoods in San Francisco, Western Addition and the Lower Haight offer a vast array of housing ranging from low-income complexes to gorgeous older Victorian and Edwardian buildings with San Francisco charm. The Lower Haight offers unique restaurants and bars, as well as intriguing shops.

The Marina

A bustling area that boasts many tourist attractions but also a plethora of trendy restaurants, bars, and shopping. Many young professionals call this area home.

The Mission

The Mission is an exceptionally diverse area of San Francisco with a strong Latino influence. The area boasts a colorful collection of authentic restaurants, taquerías, Mexican bakeries, produce markets, specialty shops, kaleidoscopic murals, and a lively, thriving club scene.

Nob Hill

Known for its landmarks and famous hotels, upscale Nob Hill offers a wide variety of shops, restaurants, and a range of bars and clubs.

Noe Valley

West of the Mission and south of the Castro is Noe Valley. Like those two neighborhoods, its streets are lined with renovated Victorians. Somewhat upscale and slower-paced, Noe Valley attracts young families, students, artists and professionals.

North Beach

Even though it's home to Little Italy and the Beat movement, North Beach offers an extremely wide variety of restaurants, bars, clubs, shopping (fantastic bookstores and funky shops) and sites.

Pacific Heights

A very wealthy neighborhood offering beautiful multi-million dollar homes and amazing views, Pacific Heights boasts upscale shopping and restaurants. However, some find the most exciting activity is to sit at a sidewalk café on Fillmore Street and people watch.

Potrero Hill

Once a largely industrial area, the Internet boom brought a change with warehouses being converted into offices and houses. Potrero Hill is fairly residential with unusually clean streets and a strong sense of community. You will see window boxes and gardens adorning almost every house.

Russian Hill

Encompassing two of the highest points in San Francisco, Russian Hill is a neighborhood of steep ascents and descents, panoramic views, interesting restaurants and shops on Hyde and Polk Streets, and fairly pricey housing. Macondray Lane was the inspiration for Barbary Lane in Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City.

The Sunset

Home of the Conservatory from 1956 to 2006, this largely residential area is a good place to find affordable housing. Irving Street features a number of excellent, reasonably-priced restaurants.

The Richmond District

A middle-income, family-oriented area, the Richmond is convenient to a variety of shops, restaurants and transportation. In addition, Clement Street offers many options in East Asian cuisine. This neighborhood is relatively inexpensive and is close to Ocean Beach, The Presidio, and Golden Gate Park.

Housing Disclaimer

The Conservatory assumes no responsibility for accommodations, services, injuries, loss or damage that occur on any properties suggested by Conservatory and its employees or found through listings on the SFCM-Housing Yahoo! Group, housing referral board or suggested housing Web sites, newspapers or bulletin boards. Students and landlords alike are urged to thoroughly investigate any housing, rental or roommate options.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Yunny Yip, Associate Dean for Student Life, at 415-503-6281 or yyip@sfc.edu.