

## OPEN HOUSING 2012 – 2013

Open housing, sometimes called gender neutral housing, is an on campus housing option available to all sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Open housing is an arrangement whereby two students, regardless of sex, gender-identity, gender or sexual orientation may mutually agree to share a room within designated residence hall(s) and apartment suite(s) on campus.

Tufts has had open housing available in apartment suites for many years. This year, we are adopting the practice of many other colleges and universities around the country by extending the option to students who want to share a bedroom. Open housing will be in Bush Hall and some of the suites in Latin Way.

### How to Apply

1. Interested students must consider that, as is the case with all Tufts housing agreements, you are committing to this living accommodation for the entire academic year 2012-2013. If your roommate/suitemate leaves this living environment for any reason (**study abroad, withdrawals, leaves or room changes**) and you are unable to fill the vacancy, the ORLL will work with you to try to fill the space in a way that best meets your needs, but cannot guarantee that the double will remain a part of the open housing program. (**See footnote below.**)
2. In this initial year of open housing we will conduct a manual assignment process to select rooms and finalize assignments. All interested student pairs will have to complete and submit a brief application by March 2, 2012 to the ORLL
3. All applicants will be notified beginning March 12, 2012 of their appointment times. All applicants will come to the Residential Life Office between March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 16, 2012, according to their assigned appointment time which will be determined by the averaging of lottery numbers. When you arrive at your appointment time you will select a room and sign the housing agreement; the office will then enter your assignment, which will be final. At this point you will be done with selection and **cannot** participate in any other lotteries.
4. Students planning to participate in open housing should **NOT** sign up for prior lotteries or lotteries thereafter. We are committed to providing open housing to all who submit an application for the designated buildings, as long as space permits

*Vacancy: When a vacancy occurs, students remaining alone in a double will have 72 business hours to pull in a new roommate who is already assigned a space in on-campus housing. Once 72 hours have expired, the ORLL may consolidate or assign students who have vacancies in their rooms or assign a student from the waitlist.*

# FAQ'S

## FAQs About Open Housing

### 1. Why is Tufts implementing open housing?

The open housing program is intended to be a supportive option for students who feel uncomfortable or unsafe in traditional single gender housing or for students who feel most comfortable living with a person of a different gender. Open housing is consistent with the University's non-discrimination policy regarding sex, gender, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation, as open housing provides more comfortable options for the full spectrum of sexuality and gender identity that exist on campus.

In the past, while Tufts offered options for students of different genders to reside together in residence hall suites, there was no option for students who felt uncomfortable living with a roommate of the same gender to comfortably have a roommate. The open housing option addresses that inequity and provides similar housing opportunities to all students.

### 2. Who can select open housing?

Open Housing is open to all Tufts sophomores, juniors, or seniors.

### 3. Is open housing all on one floor or in one residence hall?

In this first year of open housing, the program will be an option on all floors of Bush Hall and in some Latin Way suites.

### 4. How many people does this impact? Can students who have not selected open housing be randomly assigned to a roommate of the opposite sex?

Only students who want to participate in open housing and apply with another individual wanting to share the space will be assigned a room with a person of the opposite sex.

### 5. What will happen if I want to live in Open Housing but don't have a roommate?

The Office of Residential Life and Learning will try to facilitate a matching process.

### 6. Can I elect to live with my romantic partner?

Just as single-gender housing options or living in an apartment cannot prevent romantic partners from housing together, there is no mechanism to prevent students participating in open housing from rooming with a romantic partner. The university recommends students approach open housing as they would traditional single-gender housing, including assessing the viability of a year-long commitment to living with any chosen roommate.

### 7. What if two students choose to live together and become uncomfortable with the situation?

Any student who is uncomfortable with a rooming situation has to option to change rooms. The ORLL will try to accommodate roommate preferences in the room change process.

### 9. Why can't first year students sign up for opening housing?

In this inaugural year of the open housing program, participation is available only to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Requests from entering Transfer students will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### 10. Will my parents find out if I select to live in open housing?

Parental consent is not required for participation in any residential option on campus or to choose to live off campus.

### 11. Do any other colleges have a program like this?

Over fifty of Tufts' peer institutions currently have some form of open or gender-neutral housing. These include several NESCAC colleges, as well as many other private and public institutions around the country.

# Open Housing Application 2012 – 2013

**First & Last Name:**

**Email:**

**Class Year:**

**Phone:**

**School:**

**Name of Roommate:**

**Email:**

**Class Year:**

**Phone:**

**School:**

**We have discussed participating in the open house process and have agreed to live together for the academic year 2012-2013 as signed below**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Application due to the Office of Residential Life and Learning  
no later than 5 pm on Friday, March 2, 2012***