

Exceptions for Transient Housing

Housing policy: <https://mit.who.edu/academics/policies/housing/>

When students are no longer taking classes full time (typically after their second year), they are expected to reside where their advisor/lab is located and to obtain housing in the local community. Students who choose to live in an area away from their institution of residence at any time do so knowing that WHOI housing will be available for them only at current rates. These students will not be reimbursed for travel between their homes and their institution of residence. These students are also not eligible for summer rent assistance.

Students who are advised or co-advised by MIT faculty members do not require an exception for WHOI transient housing.

For the student: If the above policy creates a hardship, students may request an exception from the Associate Dean via email (atarrant@who.edu). Exceptions must be requested each term. If the circumstances surrounding the exception have not changed, the same text may be used. If sufficient housing is not available to accommodate all requests, students requesting housing exceptions will generally have lower priority than students taking classes full-time or students with advisors at MIT.

The most common and compelling reasons for requesting an exception are continued academic or professional interactions in the Cambridge area. These included continued enrollment in classes, use of MIT research facilities, and regular meetings with MIT faculty or research staff.

We understand that leases are typically signed for a one-year period, so access to transient housing can generally be extended for a full year (e.g., if a student is taking classes during the first portion of the lease). However, students are advised to consult with the Academic Programs Office prior to signing a new lease if they plan to continue accessing transient housing.

For the advisor: Each term that the student requests transient housing, the Associate Dean will request confirmation that you are supportive of the request. Support for the request means that the student is making adequate progress and that in your view, the living/commuting arrangement is satisfactory (e.g., the student is able to meet any expectations regarding in-person presence).

Expectations for transient housing: Registration for transient housing comes with the expectation that the student will be resident in Woods Hole for an average of at least two nights per week throughout the term. Students who anticipate less frequent presence should use on-call housing.