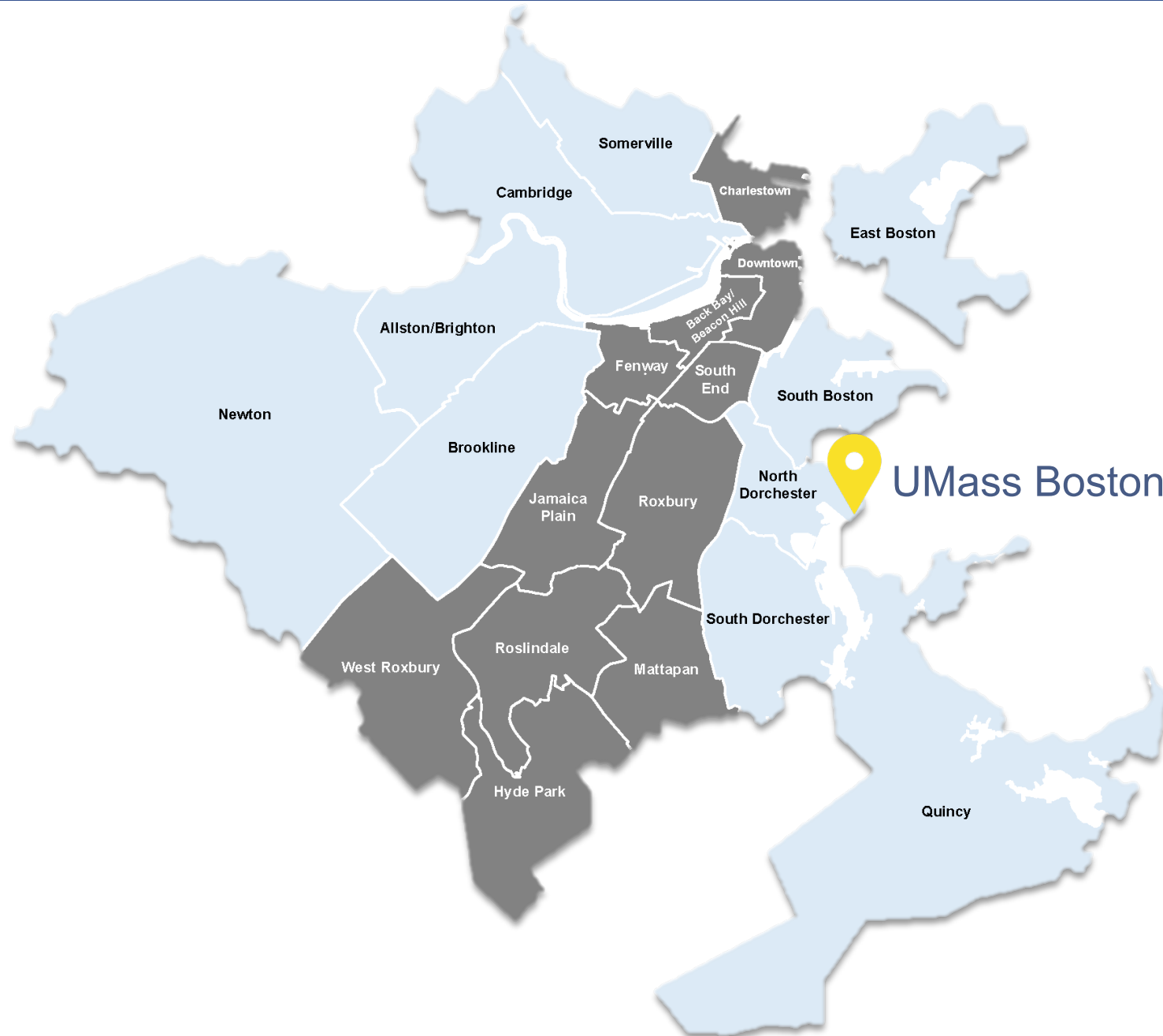




# UMass Boston Gerontology Student Housing Guide

# Where current and past students have lived





## Campus, Harbor Point

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,500+

**Live with roommates:** “I was living with three roommates and the rent was around \$1,200”

### Changmin says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?** *Star Market near to JFK station. Otherwise, you need to commute or drive somewhere else to shop around, like downtown.*

*This is not really in a neighborhood; it is more waterfront apartments adjacent to campus.*



“Very close to campus, ocean view, no need to commute (especially for those who do not have a car) but may need to shop elsewhere and limited social activities!”



**Changmin  
says**



## Dorchester, North Dorchester/Polish Triangle

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** Not sure

**Live with roommates:** \$800-1,200

### Taylor says

*Safe? During day yes, I did not feel safe at night alone. Stay away from the South Bay center at night.*

*Parking? Trickier on main roads but do not need permit (this may have changed!)*

**How walkable/accessible via public transportation?** *Close to JFK station and Andrew if in Polish Triangle. Star Market on Morrissey Blvd is walkable.*

### Commuting to campus:

*Walk to the JFK station and take the shuttle to campus. Definitely closest option.*

### Who lived here

Many students! Including Celeste Beaulieu, Taylor Jansen, Shu Xu, Evan Chunga, Claire Wickersham



“This area is the closest to campus and really close to the water and highway. I did not love how loud and traffic congested it was. It is mainly families who have lived here for generations but there is also a large homeless population in this area as well. South Bay is the nearest shopping center. There can be a lot of chaos there so use caution!”



**Taylor says**



## Dorchester, Savin Hill/Jones Hill

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** Not sure

**Live with roommates:** \$700-1,200

### Taylor says

*Safe? Yes, I always felt safe walking alone east of St. Mary's Health Center/Windemere St, and north of Downer Ave. I would not recommend living south or west of this area.*

**Parking?** *Easy, free street parking in Jones Hill. Permit needed in most areas of Savin Hill.*

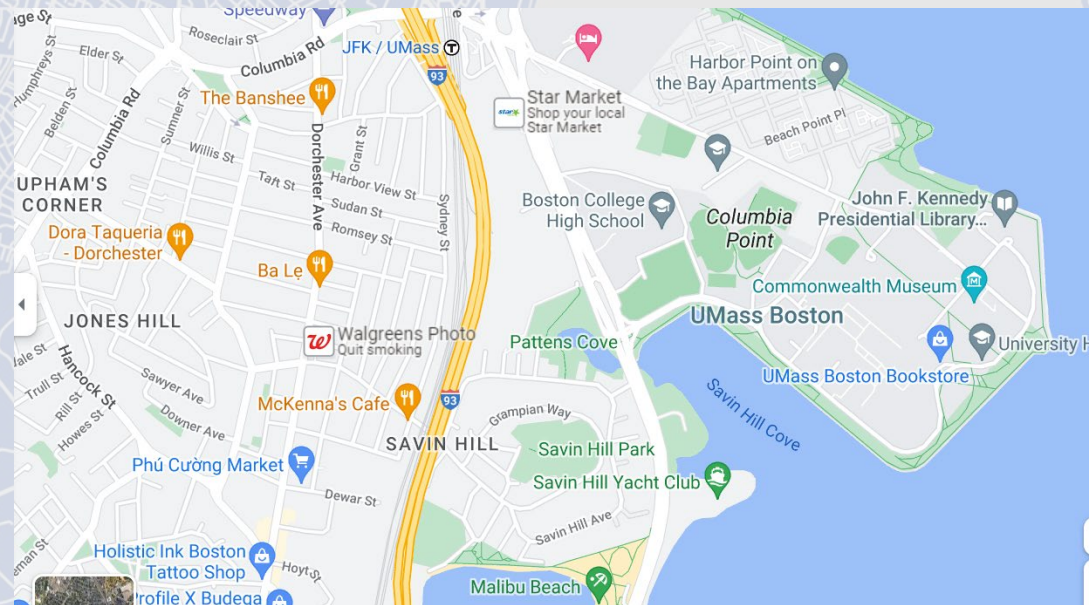
**How walkable/accessible via public transportation?** *Hilly area but walkable. There is a neighborhood market and Walgreens, but grocery stores are not walkable.*

**Commuting to campus:**

*One stop away on redline, or walkable.*

### Who lived here

Many students! Including Celeste Beaulieu, Taylor Jansen, Elizabeth Simpson, Janelle Fassi





## Dorchester, Lower Mills

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$1,600+

**Live with roommates:** \$800-1,200

### Janelle & Evan say

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *Yes, easy*

**How walkable/accessible via public transportation?** *Lower Mills is very walkable to the supermarket, parks, public transportation stops, and the supermarket!*

**Commuting to campus:** *It was pretty easy! It took about 25 minutes, but you had to take that shuttle/tram to get to Ashmont and then transfer.*

**Family friendly?** *The neighborhood is mostly families.*

### Who lived here

Evan Chunga & Janelle Fassi



“Really enjoyed the small suburban vibe and the fact that there were restaurants and bars all on one long street made going out locally very easy. There is a little park in the neighborhood that people walk their dogs in and play tennis. On the other hand, it's very far south and not so near to other Boston neighborhoods with nightlife/activities. But if you want a simple, quiet neighborhood, it's worth checking out!”



**Evan says**

“I drive to campus, which I enjoy more than the T. The worst time for traffic is after 8 am and around 3-4 pm during school pick up. However, I live fairly close to campus, so the traffic is not awful, and I am able to make it to class on time. The worst part is paying for campus parking though, definitely not cheap!”



**Janelle says**



## South Boston, Southie

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,000-2,500+

**Live with roommates:** \$1,000+

### Molly says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *Difficult/competitive*

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?**

*“Walkable to most needs. The Broadway or Andrew red line T stop is not easily walkable for some parts of South Boston, but there is a good network of buses that will transfer you to the T or take you straight into the city. Once you get to the Broadway T stop, you are only a couple of stops from JFK stop (UMass Boston).”*

*“This is a generally safe neighborhood with a mix of families who have lived in the area for many years and new residents who are recent grads or young families.”*

## Who lived here

Molly Wylie & Natalie Shellito



**Molly says**



“I always felt safe walking alone whether on Broadway (main street) or on side streets. Lots of people walking their dogs throughout the neighborhood. **There is a tight sense of community** and many residents are part of a Facebook group called the Southie Community Bulletin where you can stay up to date on neighborhood happenings. The “Buy Nothing South Boston” group is also very active, so you can often get free items from neighbors or give away unwanted items you have. There seemed to be a relative lack of racial/ethnic diversity, with most residents being white non-Hispanic.

“Large **social life** on the weekends! Community-oriented dog parks where you can get to know your neighbors. Lots of good walking paths along the water. If you are really feeling ambitious, you can even walk the path to the UMB campus! There are also local co-ed sports teams you can join, such as softball or volleyball.



# Allston/Brighton

## Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,000+

**Live with roommates:** \$900-1,200+

## Taylor says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *Need permit*

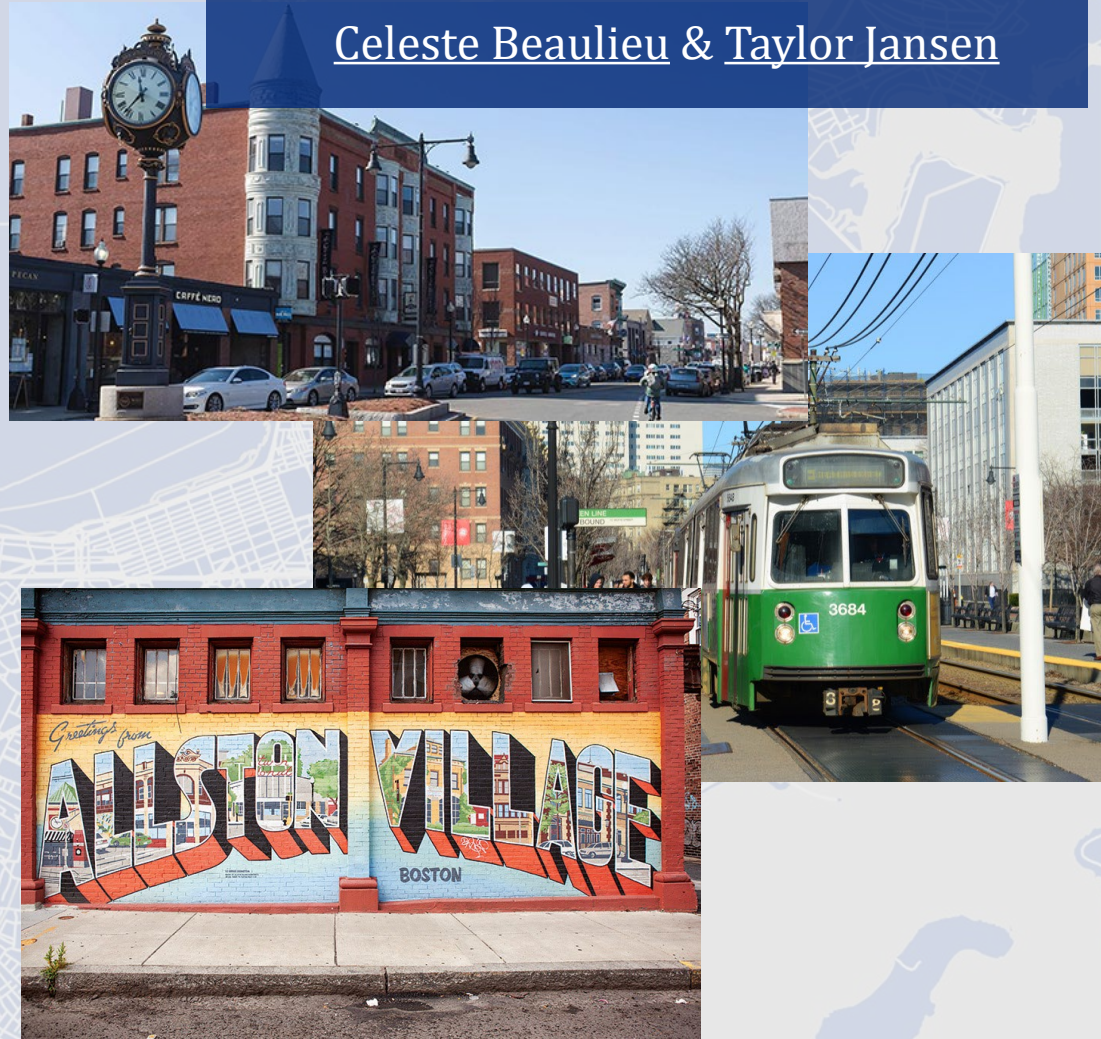
**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?**  
*Walkable!*

**Commuting to campus:** *I do not commute to campus anymore, but if I had to it would be one hour plus. The green line is very slow.*

**Family friendly?** *Yes, plenty of families although the area is fairly young.*

## Who lived here

Celeste Beaulieu & Taylor Jansen



“Allston/Brighton is a very young area, with many current college students living here. Lots of opportunities for a social life here. It is situated in between Boston University and Boston College. Overall, it is a nice place to live, as it is very accessible without a car. Some areas are very loud with heavy traffic near the main streets. Parking can be difficult depending on where you live. Lots of apartments to rent in this area!”



**Taylor says**





# Quincy, MA

## Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$1,800-2,000+

**Live with roommates:** \$500-800+

**\*\*NOT sharing bathroom:** \$1,000-1,500

**Live with families:** \$800-1,000

## Students say

**Safe?** *Yes, relatively suburban.*

**Parking?** *“Easy, free street parking. When closer to a T station, it is permit parking. Permit is free from city.” - Jay*

**How walkable/accessible via public transportation?** *“Yes, some parts are far from public transport, so if I do not walk I uber.” - Wuyi*

**Commuting to campus:**

*Redline, door to door can take up to 20 – 30 minutes*

## Who lived here

Many students! Including Jay Lee, Emily Lim, Wuyi Dong, Changmin Peng



“North Quincy: Very convenient for Chinese people (barbershop, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.). Basically, you can get everything you need here. Not sure if natives would like it.”

**Changmin says**

“The town of Quincy is a great location for a student attending UMB. The rent is relatively reasonable. It has great public transportation. It is just two or three stops away from JFK station. Most stores and grocery markets are easy to access. It is a great location when looking for Asian things.”

**Jay says**

“Basically, Quincy is a great destination for those seeking Asian cuisine and grocery options, but the neighborhood infrastructure and cleanliness may not be up to par with other areas.”

**Wuyi says**



## Somerville, Porter Square and Davis Square

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$1,800-2,800

**Live with roommates:** \$900-1,000

### Shayna & Caitlin say

**Safe?** *Yes*

**How was the commute?** *Always took the red line. It's a long commute (45-60 minutes) but very doable and reliable.*

**Parking?** *Difficult. Not many places have designated parking, but on-street permit is \$40/year as I recall and that's what most people do.*

**How walkable/accessible via public transportation?** *Very easily. We used our car very little.*

### Who lived here

Shayna Gleason & Caitlin Connelly



“Somerville is safe, walkable, very convenient, and there are lots of restaurants and bars. The Somerville community path is a great asset and access to public transit is great. Downside is little green space and neighborhoods are very transient and generationally segregated; most people are in their 20s-30s which for some people is just right, but if you're looking to know your neighbors/have intergenerational neighbors, not necessarily the best place.”



**Shayna lived in Porter & Davis Square!**



## Cambridge, West & North Cambridge

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,500+

**Live with roommates:** \$1,000 +

**Parking?** Permit needed

### Changmin says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Commuting to campus:** *Walking or taking bus to Harvard Square and then Red Line to JFK and shuttle bus*

**Accessible to grocery stores?** *Yes - to Star Market, Stop & Shop, pharmacy, Wholefoods*

**Family friendly?** *Yes*

*Cambridge is a very wealthy, highly educated, liberal town. West Cambridge is pretty suburban.*



“Comfortable living environments, very beautiful scenery, highly educated areas, lots of social opportunities, but need to commute (traffic) and very expensive.”



**Changmin  
says**



## Cambridge, Central Square/ East Cambridge

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,600+

**Live with roommates:** “a typical room in a four beds, 1 bath may cost around \$950+utilities or more”

### Molly & Emily say

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *“Like most Boston neighborhoods, challenging but doable. I had a resident sticker which helped. I always found parking on a side street no farther than a 5 min walk from the apartment.” - Molly*

**Commuting to campus:** *Redline, door to door can take up to 45 minutes – 1 hour*

**Accessible to grocery stores?** *Yes - Trader Joes, Whole Foods, HMart*

**Family friendly?** *Yes*

“You are walking distance to Harvard Square, which is full of cultural and educational opportunities. Cambridge is very vibrant and has a large population of students. There is no shortage of things to do for families. Many good restaurants, coffee shops, parks, the library, etc. Central Sq can be a bit busy with cars and pedestrians, but the side streets are generally quiet and family friendly.



**Molly says**



“I would give the same advice that someone else gave me: live closer to the campus when you need to commute to school frequently and then when you don’t have to commute to the campus as often anymore, live somewhere else to experience a different living environment. However, if you would like to have a social life outside of school, Cambridge will be a better place to live in than Quincy.



**Emily says**



## Brookline, Coolidge Corner

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,500+

**Live with roommates:** \$1,000-1,200+

### Changmin says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Family friendly?** *Yes, great public schools*

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?** *Walkable to needs!*

**Commuting to campus:** *Green Line to Park Street and transfer to Red Line to JFK and then shuttle bus.*

*This is wealthy, family friendly town. Large Jewish population here as well! Lots of nice parks and great restaurants, but rent is expensive, and it is pretty far from campus.*

## Who lived here

Changmin Peng & Yan Lin



“Convenient to restaurants and grocery stores, some social activities, but need to commute (Green Line is slow) and very expensive.”

**Changmin says**



# Newton

Newtonville /West Newton

## Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,000-2,500+

**Live with roommates:** \$1,200+

## YanJhu says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *Pretty easy*

**Family friendly?** *Yes, especially for schools.*

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?**

*“Yes, but there is no T station nearby... I would say a car is needed in West Newton.”*

**Commuting to campus:** *Drive, 30 mins without traffic. It's takes forever with traffic – YanJhu*



*Very similar town demographics as Brookline. Beautiful suburb with great public schools, but high rents and home prices!*

“Newton is some distance away from the city, it is considered a suburb. It is safe, but the rent is relatively high compared to other surrounding cities/towns.”



**YanJhu says**



## East Boston, Jeffries Point

### Things to know

*Estimated rental costs*

**Live alone:** \$2,400+

**Live with roommates:** \$1-1,500

### Molly says

**Safe?** *Yes*

**Family friendly?** *Yes*

**Parking?** *Challenging but doable.*

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?** *Walkable*

**Commuting to campus:** *Blue line to downtown Boston, transfer to Red Line to JFK and then shuttle bus. Walkable to needs!*

*“It is a quiet neighborhood with new developments but still maintains its family feel.”*

### Who lived here

Molly Wylie & Natalie Shellito



“There are beautiful views of downtown Boston from Eastie’s harbor. There are also new restaurants, bars, and apartments that are popping up frequently. Also, there are many families, and East Boston is racially and ethnically diverse with a large immigrant population. There are more affluent young adults moving to the neighborhoods, especially close to the water, but East Boston still has diversity and a wide range of small, independently owned businesses.”



**Molly says**

# Commuting to campus from New Hampshire

**Rentals:** Not much to rent in this community... 2 bedroom looking at about \$1500 per month (utilities, tv/cable, heat NOT included)

**Family friendly?** Yes

**Commuting to campus:** I drove my personal vehicle down 93 South to Boston. Traffic was heavy at certain times of day (i.e., 6:30 am – 10:30 am and 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm). If I avoided those times I could drive into Boston in under an hour (i.e., no traffic). If I did not avoid those times my drive time would be about 2.5 times (or about 2 ½ hours).

**How walkable/accessible to grocery stores via public transportation?** No, we have no public transportation in Kingston, NH.

## **Overall thoughts:**

**Pros:** no income tax, rural setting, a lot of outdoor activities available, safe community,

**Cons:** high property tax, very few amenities (there is no grocery store or any shopping), no public transit (only Uber/Lyft), closest hospital is about 20 minutes away,

**Other:** depending on your political views and preferences/tolerance level my town tends to host a much larger percent of Republicans.



**Alison** – lives in Kingston, NH (right next to Haverhill, MA)



# How to get started

## Sources for finding rentals:

1. Apartments.com
2. Zillow
3. Trulia
4. Realtor.com
5. Hotpads
6. Facebook listings\*\*
7. Craigslist\*\*

*\*\* Can be good options but use discretion!*

## Other non-traditional sources:

1. Nesterly
2. OurHome Boston



UMass Boston

*Created by Taylor Jansen, PhD*

[taylor.jansen001@umb.edu](mailto:taylor.jansen001@umb.edu)

Reach out with any questions or concerns!