

SUMMER 2017
DETAILED INFORMATION
FOR STUDENTS



Berkeley Student Cooperative
Providing Low Cost Cooperative Student Housing Since 1933

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Student Eligibility -

In order to meet our eligibility guidelines, you must be a full time student in either the Spring 2017 or the Fall 2017 semester at your home university. Documentation of your eligibility or student status must be on your university's letterhead and include your name and your university's name. This documentation can be in the form of a confirmed class schedule, transcript, or letter from your registrar indicating your full time enrollment. These documents must be dated after February 24th, 2017 and can be emailed to us in PDF form at housing@bsc.coop.

If you are 25 years or older or are a graduate student, you are eligible for Hillegass Parker and Convent, our graduate/reentry student housing. If you are interested in these properties, your documentation must explicitly state your status as a graduate student. If it does not, please send us a photo of a government-issued ID showing us your age.

About the Houses -

We have three options over the summer: room and board houses (food is included), room only houses, and apartments. The houses are a unique living environment where you will share common spaces and a kitchen with 20 to 140 other people. You may have your own room or up to two roommates. Note: it is unlikely you will receive a single room if it is your first time in the BSC. For houses with food, dinner will be cooked about 5 nights per week by house members, and you will have 24/7 access to a fully stocked kitchen. All of our houses have a distinct culture, but we have several theme houses: Lothlorien (vegetarian and vegan), Andres Castro Arms (Person of Color Theme House), Oscar Wilde House (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex and Asexual) and our African American Theme House. Cloyne Court, our Academic Theme House, is only open to students taking 6 units or more over the summer. We will release a list of which houses will be offering food sometime in February.

The apartments are a more traditional living situation, with two to four residents sharing an apartment with a kitchen, bathroom, and common space. In an apartment, you will be guaranteed your own room. The apartments are not as social as the houses are, but you will have your own bedroom.

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Workshift -

Residents are responsible for the day to day operation of their co-op in order to keep costs low. Therefore, members must contribute several hours per week to cleaning and maintaining their house. For a house with food, members owe 5 hours of workshift per week, while members at houses without food owe 2-3. For the apartments, members owe 4 hours per 6 week session. Workshifts including doing dishes, cleaning, vacuuming and sweeping the house, organizing, management positions, and more. Members report to a Workshift Manager, an elected position, at the house to coordinate which shifts work best for their schedules.

The Price -

We will release our summer 2017 rates in February, but last year's summer rates can be found here: <https://www.bsc.coop/index.php/summer-rates> The price is set per 6-week session. Note: if the house you are interested in offers food in the summer, you will not have the option to opt-out of food (board houses).

The Application -

The application for housing can be found here: <http://www.bsc.coop/housing/apply-for-housing-main/apply-for-housing>

You will need to pay a one-time, \$25 registration fee in order to create your account. Once you fill out the registration, you can log back in to add an application for the summer period you are interested in, and fill out your housing preferences.

Information from a former summer student:

Living in a co-op may be a very different experience from what you're used to and it's a great part of a summer experience in Berkeley.

Our co-op houses entail communal living and the houses range in size from 17 people to 120 people. This means cooperatively living with a diverse group of students. The smaller houses tend to be more quiet and clean, whereas the larger houses are often more loud and social. The larger houses might be a more extreme culture shock, so be prepared for this when choosing housing preferences. Cloyne Court, our substance-free academic themed house of 120 people, is a good fit for those who want to meet a large number of new people, but also want a calmer environment. In addition, during the summer all of the houses are co-ed and during the school year, though during the academic year, there are 2 all women houses.

The houses are democratically run, and the decisions about the house culture, spending habits, and everyday community agreements are decided upon as a collective house. For example, at the beginning of each semester and summer each house votes on its own quiet

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hours, such as between 11pm and 9am, which are times when members of the house are required to be quiet in common spaces. Additionally, the idea of a “safe space” is an important concept in the houses, which often entails a liberal environment where respect and sensitivity for the beliefs of fellow house members are strongly enforced. Consent is a key component to facilitate this safe space. It is taken very seriously that all members’ respect each other’s space and don’t pressure anyone to do anything they don’t feel comfortable with.

In order for a communal space to operate smoothly everyone contributes 5 hours of workshift a week in the room and board houses, 3 hours a week in the room only houses and 6 hours per 6 week session in the apartments. These are chores around the house based on each member’s preference and schedule. Some workshifts include cooking dinner, washing dishes, gardening, even working in the co-op office. All of the food in the houses is collectively shared and the kitchens are stocked with supplies, so members can cook for themselves if they want, although dinner is prepared some of the nights each week depending on the house decision. Additionally, in the houses, new members share bedrooms and bathrooms.

The co-ops are a very “Berkeley experience”. The Berkeley Student Cooperative is the largest non-profit housing cooperative in the country so for most people living in the co-ops is their only chances to experience communal living on such a large scale. This is a unique opportunity that should definitely be taken advantage of, but understand that it might be an adjustment upon first arriving.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday between 10 AM - 5 PM Pacific Standard Time and our phone number is [510.848.1936](tel:510.848.1936).

Betsy Putnam
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Berkeley Student Cooperative
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Berkeley, CA 94709

www.bsc.coop

[510.848.1936](tel:510.848.1936)

We’re open M-F 10 AM - 5 PM Pacific Standard Time

Fax [510-848-2114](tel:510-848-2114)