



Time to Start Thinking About Housing

Unfortunately, Housing can be quite tricky. Here's a short description of the different types of housing, and how one gets these assignments.

What are the different types of housing? There are three types of Housing status. If this is your first year at MIT or you are an officer, you have *Incoming Student Status*. This means you signed a lease to stay in Edgerton for one year only (until August). Then you'll get kicked out, and you do not have the option of renewing your lease. An *18 Month Lease* is given to people with special circumstances, such as a return from medical leave or military service. This means you can stay in Edgerton for 18 months. This Housing status is given to very few residents, so you'd know it if you had it. *Continuing Student Status* allows you to stay in Edgerton as long as you are a registered student. This status can be obtained as described below.

How can I stay in Edgerton? If you find you like Edgerton and want to stay here, there are a couple of possibilities. The surest way to stay is to become a House Association Officer. Each year that you are an officer, you get to stay in Edgerton. The second way is to attain the coveted "Continuing Student Status". You may be able to get this if you are an officer for two years (and do a good job), or if you win the Housing lottery (sponsored by the Housing Office) in

May. Although it is easy to win this lottery for some dormitories, it is not so easy to do this for Edgerton.

My roommate is leaving – what are my options? A little known fact is that if your roommate is leaving, you can request for someone specific to move into your room. The policies are the same as when requesting a roommate in the lottery – both people be MIT students, of the same gender, and must submit a request in writing to Housing. Note that your roommate has to inform Housing that they are leaving at least a month in advance, and that Housing fills these spots extremely quickly.

How can I switch to a different room in Edgerton? The easiest way to switch to a different room is to participate in the *Edgerton Transfer Lottery* in May. You will be supplied with a list of available rooms, and can opt to move to one of them (maybe because it's nicer, or you want to live with a friend, or you want a different room type). Placings are determined by seniority points; for a full description, please see the policies listed on the Edgerton website. To switch rooms at another time of the year, you must go to the Housing Office and put your name on the waiting list.

How do I transfer to another building? If you find you don't like Edgerton (but we know this won't happen), there is a House Transfer

Process sponsored by Housing (<http://web.mit.edu/housing/grad/index.html>) during the winter months. Since few people participate in this lottery, there is a very good chance you can transfer to another dormitory. If you can't wait, please contact Student Support Services (<http://web.mit.edu/counsel/www/>), and they may be able to help. Housing will not simply move you whenever you want. Note that if you gain "Continuing Student Status" in another dormitory, you may be able to switch back to Edgerton in the House Transfer Process (and therefore attain "Continuing Student Status" in Edgerton). Finally, if none of these options are working, you can re-enter the continuing student status lottery in May. Note that by exercising this option, you will lose your current status.

What is this GRT/GC business all about? Another housing option you

may want to investigate is becoming a Graduate Resident Tutor (live-in counselor at an undergraduate dormitory or FSILG) or a Graduate Coordinator (live-in counselor at a graduate dormitory) which awards you free housing and a small stipend. Information will be available on the Housing website in the winter; please note there are only 3 GC positions, so it would be highly unlikely for you to obtain one of these.

Any other options? Several of MIT's Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups offer Graduate Students the opportunity to live with them at very reasonable rates. Though they are in no way affiliated with the Graduate Housing Office, they may represent for some students the perfect solution to a difficult (and expensive) housing problem. Please see the Housing website.

Edgerton Elections

Worried about that housing status? Never fear, Edgerton Elections is near! Edgerton is a student-run house that relies on its elected officers to organize programs for residents and to respond to resident concerns. Election to an Edgerton House office constitutes a one-year commitment (March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007). Officers must reside in Edgerton House during their term; housing at Edgerton is guaranteed for the year that the officer serves his/her term. In addition, officers receive an officer point in the Edgerton Transfer Lottery, which will increase their chances of getting their first choice if they wish to switch apartments in the spring.

Note that 2 positions – the First Year Rep, and the IT Chair are appointed by the current officer board. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding these, as well as the regularly elected positions!