



2017 Dunster Lottery Handbook

I. Eligibility

Most continuing students in the House are automatically eligible for housing next year. **However, students returning from a leave of absence, study abroad, or off-campus housing** will not be eligible unless they have filed a Returning Student Application (RSA) with the Office of Student Life by the February 6th deadline. If you missed the OSL deadline, you can be added to the space available waitlist, but you are not guaranteed on-campus housing by the College and therefore are not eligible to participate in the lottery.

Returning Students: If you are a returning student who filed the RSA by the OSL deadline, you may choose to be housed as if you were a member of your original class. For example, if you have taken one or two semesters off and your original classmates are now rising seniors, you can enter the lottery as a rising senior this year. However, you may only enter as a rising senior once. In future lotteries you will enter as a rising junior.

Returning Seniors: If you entered the lottery as a rising senior in a previous year, you will enter as a rising junior this year. If you lotteried as a senior in a previous year but then took a leave of absence for one or two semesters the following academic year, you may enter again as a rising senior.

Students with Advanced Standing: If you have advanced standing and will be in your third year starting in the fall you may enter the lottery as a rising senior. You can only exercise this option if you are on the official list of students with advanced standing. You may only enter the lottery as a rising senior once. If you choose to stay an additional year, you will enter as a rising junior in the next lottery.

If you choose to use senior standing in the lottery because you are an off-cycle student, are a returning senior, or have advanced standing, you must email Rachel to confirm eligibility **by noon on Thursday, April 6**.

If you have neither taken time off nor have advanced standing your class year determines whether you are defined as a rising senior (current junior) or a rising junior (current sophomore) in the lottery.

Inter-House Transfers: If you were successful in transferring to Dunster in the first IHT round for fall 2017, you are eligible to participate in the housing lottery.

II. Rooming Groups

Rooming Groups:

Rooming groups consist of two or more students who would like to choose their housing at the same time in the lottery, increasing their chances of selecting rooms close to one another. Forming a rooming group enables you to select rooms at the same time, but it does not guarantee that the rooms chosen will be near one another.

There are no blocking groups in the lottery. One way of thinking about a rooming group is to view it as your blocking group, 2.0. These are the people you want to live near, but not necessarily with in the same suite. For example, a rooming group of 6 might choose three 1-bed suites and one 3-bed suite, while a different group of 6 might choose two 3-bed suites. Please note that these arrangements are dependent on space availability.

In the Specialized Housing Lottery, rooming groups are limited to between 5 and 8 students. In the General

Housing Lottery, rooming groups are limited to between 2 and 8 students. (See Sections IV and V) Students can choose to be part of a rooming group, or they may participate in the General Housing Lottery as an individual. In either case, all students must **sign and submit their registration forms** by the appropriate deadline.

Rooming With Returning Students

A rooming group may include a student who is on a leave of absence or studying abroad **only if** he/she has filled out the **Returning Student Application** by the OSL deadline, guaranteeing him/her housing for the fall semester. If you are a returning student who is eligible to participate in the lottery, you should have received an email from Rachel. Returning students **must also request to be part of their desired rooming group** by emailing Rachel by the registration deadline so she can verify that the request is mutual.

Groups of students studying abroad or on a leave of absence may form their own rooming groups and enter the lottery by proxy under these same rules.

Compatibility:

The Harvard Houses are typically filled to capacity. Please think carefully about what which students you want to live with before forming a rooming group. Make sure you are fully committed to living in a variety of rooming arrangements with the students in your group in case your preferred choices are not available in the lottery.

Co-ed Rooming Groups:

Students of different genders are welcome to join the same rooming group as long as they separate into same-gender suites during the lottery. If you are not planning to live in the same suite(s), you are not required to register for co-ed housing.

However, please note that you must select a housing configuration in which the number of people in your rooming group matches the number of available bed-spaces in the suite(s). If you are in a mixed-gender rooming group that has not registered for co-ed housing ahead of time, and a combination that allows you to separate into same-gender suites is not available, you will be unable to make a selection in the lottery. We would hate for you and your group to become floaters because you did not prepare for this scenario!

Mixed-gender groups will receive no special status in the lottery.

Co-ed Housing:

If members of different genders would like to live in the same suite(s) they may do so as long as they have met the following Harvard College requirements:

1. All members of the **rising senior or mixed rising senior-junior co-ed group** must attend the **Co-ed Housing Orientation Session** on Tuesday, April 4, at 5:30 pm in the Junior Common Room. (If a member of your rooming group cannot attend the information session due to an academic conflict, he/she is welcome to email Rachel by Wednesday, April 5, at noon to request an individual meeting time.)
2. All members must **sign and submit the [Harvard College Co-ed Housing Agreement](#)** along with their lottery registration form.

III. Floaters

As mentioned above, students are welcome to participate in the General Housing Lottery as individuals. Please keep in mind, however, that there are a limited number of stand-alone singles, and housing selections are dependent on space availability. If you are a floater who is hoping to find a compatible roommate, please complete

[this google form](#) by noon on **April 10** for rising seniors and noon on **April 18** for rising juniors, and Rachel will add you to a google sheet where you can share information with other students to see if you are a good match.

IV. Dunster Proper and 10 DeWolfe St: Some Important Facts

Room Type:

Dunster student housing is available in Dunster Proper and at 10 DeWolfe Street. The floor plans and a list of available rooms for next year are posted on the [lottery page](#) of the Dunster website. You can sort according to room type, the number of in-suite bathrooms, or the number of in-suite common rooms by clicking the titles at the top of each column. **Suites**, which are color-coded on the floor plans according to room type, are defined as rooms that are arranged together behind a locked door.

Dormers:

Please keep in mind that there are dormers on sections of the third, fourth, and fifth floors of Dunster Proper. In these spaces the ceiling slopes downward to compensate for the architecture of the building. You can sort for rooms with dormers on the lottery page. The depth and size of the dormers vary from one room to another. To make as informed a decision as possible in the housing lottery, we recommend visiting these spaces (with the current occupant's permission) to get a sense of how the dormers in these rooms affect the living space.

Bathrooms:

The majority of suites in Dunster proper do not have in-suite bathrooms. (You can sort for rooms with in-suite bathrooms on the lottery page). Single- and multi-stall hallway bathrooms are available on each floor, and are indicated on the floorplans in blue. The gender assignments of multi-stall bathrooms will change from year-to-year based on the male to female ratio in the surrounding area.

Floor Plan Changes:

Please note that space designations can change from year to year. Be sure to review the current floor plans and room list on the lottery page, instead of relying solely on your knowledge of the House.

Dunster Proper

- ✓ Dunster Proper hosts a variety of different room types, from stand-alone singles through an octuple suite.
- ✓ The majority of suites do not have in-suite bathrooms.
- ✓ Some of the suites are duplexes, meaning that the common room is on a separate floor from the bedrooms, which are accessible via an in-suite staircase. The suite number and suite entrance align with the floor on which the common room is located.
- ✓ Dormers appear in certain third, fourth, and fifth floor rooms.
- ✓ There are elevators in Dunster Proper.
- ✓ There are no a/c units in student rooms.
- ✓ There are no kitchens or kitchenettes in student rooms.
- ✓ The suites have wood flooring. The hallways and bathrooms have tile flooring.

10 DeWolfe Street

- ✓ The 4-person suites available at 10 DeWolfe St. consist of 2, 2-person bedrooms and a common room.
- ✓ There are no duplex suites.

- ✓ There is an elevator in DeWolfe.
- ✓ There is a bathroom in each suite.
- ✓ There are a/c units in each suite.
- ✓ There are kitchens or kitchenettes in each suite.
- ✓ The suites are carpeted.

Offline Suites

There are certain rooms/suites that will not be available in the lottery. These can be offline for a number of reasons, including because they are Tutor spaces, emergency College housing, AEO rooms, or spaces in need of maintenance. Please see the lottery page for a list of these suites.

Study the floor plans, study the floor plans, study the floor plans!

V. The Lottery Process: Rising Seniors and Mixed Groups

The Specialized Housing Lottery

Dunster Proper has a select number of quintuple, sextuple, septuple, and octuple suites. (Please see the lottery page for the number of suites in each category.) This will be your **only opportunity** to select these suites as they will not be available in the General Housing Lottery. If any of these spaces are still available after the Senior Specialized Lottery, they will be offered in the Rising Junior Specialized Lottery.

Please note that all of the suites in the Specialized Lottery are comprised of single bedrooms, with the exception of the sextuple suites, some of which are comprised of single-bedrooms and some of which are comprised of double-bedrooms. You can register for one of these two types, as they will be lotteried separately (please see the [Specialized Lottery Registration Form](#)).

If you are interested in living in one of the specialized suites make sure to comply with the following:

- ✓ Group sizes for the Specialized Housing Lottery range **only from 5 to 8 students**.
- ✓ You may only register for **one room type**. The number of students in your rooming group must match the number of **bed spaces** in your desired suite type. For example, if you are a group of 5 students, you may register for the quintuple lottery only.
- ✓ The Co-ed Rooming Group and Co-ed Housing Rules apply. (See Section II)
- ✓ As each bedroom is linked to a specific key, you must indicate **who will be living in which bedroom within the suite** during the lottery, so come prepared!
- ✓ **Drop-Down System:**

If your group is unable to select housing because there are more groups than available suites in your lottery, you may “drop-down” to another suites lottery. For example, if you register for the octuple lottery and are unsuccessful, members of your group may then participate in the septuple lottery, the sextuple lottery, or the quintuple lottery. This is **only an option** for groups that register for the specialized lottery and are unsuccessful due to a lack of housing stock.

If you are interested in “dropping down” please think carefully and consult with your group members about your plans. Make sure all members are clear about how you will reorganize for the next lottery. The specialized suites lottery happens quickly, with one suites lottery immediately following another, so **you will not have time to make these important decisions on the spot!**

As there is a drop-down system, please be aware that the number of groups that register for a certain suite-type may not match the number of total participating groups.

Steps to the Specialized Housing Lottery

- ✓ The Registration deadline for the Specialized Lottery is Thursday, April 6, at noon. No registration changes can be made after this time.
- ✓ Rachel will email each **group a registration number**. This does not represent the lottery order. At this time she will also communicate the total number of registered groups for each suites lottery. (Remember this may change if groups choose to drop-down during the lottery.)
- ✓ Only **one** person from each rooming group is required to attend room selection on **Friday, April 7, at 6:00 pm** in the JCR (but all are welcome!). Students who do not attend room selection give the attending member(s) of their rooming group the authority to pick their housing in their absence. It is the responsibility of all members of a rooming group to jointly discuss, and to come to an agreement, regarding housing preferences.
- ✓ If no one in the group can attend room selection, the group must designate a proxy by emailing Rachel no later than Thursday, April 6, at noon. This proxy can be a fellow student or Rachel herself. The rooming group must provide the proxy multiple preferences to aid in room selection.
- ✓ The lottery numbers will be pulled from a hat by a member of each group. If your group member pulls #1 in the septuple lottery, for example, you choose first in that suite lottery!
- ✓ Students cannot take longer than **3 minutes** to make their selection, so you must come prepared with multiple contingencies in the event that your first choice is not available. Remember, you must indicate who plans to live in each bedroom at the time of your selection.
- ✓ **These selections are required and they are binding.** Decide carefully whether you wish to enter the Specialized Housing Lottery, as you **must choose a suite if your group number is called even if your preferred suites are not available**. For example, if you register for the quintuple lottery, you should be comfortable living in all quintuples before deciding to enter this lottery. The only event in which you will not choose a quintuple suite is if there are none available by the time your group number is called. **If you drop out after the specialized lottery has begun, you will be placed last in the general lottery.**
- ✓ If you are unsuccessful in choosing a suite in the specialized lottery due to a lack of housing stock, you will have a chance to regroup for the **General Housing Lottery**.
- ✓ **This process will work exactly the same for Mixed Rising Senior-Junior Groups, however these groups will select housing immediately following the Senior Groups** (those comprised only of rising seniors), provided housing is still available. **Priority will not be given to groups with higher ratios of seniors.**

The General Housing Lottery:

- ✓ Rooming groups are comprised of **between 2 and 8 students**.

- ✓ **Rising seniors may also enter the general lottery as individuals** if they are interested in selecting a stand-alone single. Keep in mind, there are a limited number of stand-alone singles and housing selections are dependent on space availability.
- ✓ **You must select the same number of beds in a suite (or in multiple suites) as there are members of your group. Beds, not rooms.** For example, a group of 2 students cannot select a triple. Pay careful attention to the floor plans, as some doubles may be 2 bedrooms plus a common room, while others are one large room. Be sure to study the floor plans and prioritize your choices.
- ✓ The Co-ed Rooming Group and Co-Ed Housing Rules Apply. (See Section II) **Remember**, if students of different genders have not applied for co-ed housing ahead of time and a housing arrangement that allows them to separate into same-gender suites is not available, they will be unable to make a selection in the lottery. We would hate for students to become floaters because they did not prepare for this scenario!
- ✓ The suites chosen do not have to be adjacent to one another.
- ✓ The Lottery order is not based on group size.
- ✓ Rooming groups will receive a single lottery number.

Steps to the General Housing Lottery

- ✓ All rooming groups and individuals must submit signed lottery registration forms to Rachel's office by **April 11 at 12:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **Individuals and rooming groups will be assigned lottery numbers via a randomized process.** The lottery order will be released via email. Again, the order is not based on group size. It's up to chance!
- ✓ **Rising Seniors** will come to the JCR on **Thursday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m.** for room selection.
- ✓ Only **one** person from your group is required to attend room selection (but all are welcome!). Students who do not attend room selection give the attending member(s) of their rooming group the authority to pick their housing in their absence. It is the responsibility of all the members in a rooming group to jointly discuss, and to come to an agreement, regarding housing preferences.
- ✓ If no one in the group can attend room selection, the group must designate a proxy by emailing Rachel no later than **Tuesday, April 11, at noon.** This proxy can be a student or Rachel herself. The student or group must agree to provide the proxy multiple preferences to aid in room selection.
- ✓ Students cannot take longer than **3 minutes** to make their selection, so you should come prepared with multiple contingencies in the event that your preferred choices are not available.
- ✓ Because rooms are now linked to specific keys, you **must indicate who will be living in each bedroom within the suite** during the lottery.
- ✓ **Mixed Rising Senior-Junior Groups** will select housing via this same process immediately following the rising senior-only groups.

VI. The Lottery Process: Rising Juniors

The Specialized Housing Lottery

- ✓ If any of the quintuples, sextuples, septuples, or the octuple remains after the Rising Senior and Mixed

Rising Senior-Junior Specialized lottery, we will hold a Specialized Lottery for Rising Junior Groups.

- ✓ This will be your **only opportunity** to select these suites.
- ✓ Registration forms for the Specialized Lottery will be due on **Friday, April 14, at 12:00 p.m.**
- ✓ The Specialized Housing Lottery will take place on **Monday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m.** in the JCR.
- ✓ The **rules and processes of the Rising Junior Specialized Lottery will remain exactly the same** as the Rising Senior Specialized Lottery. (See Section IV)

The General Housing Lottery

- ✓ If you were unable to select your housing in the Specialized Lottery due to a lack of housing stock, or you did not participate in the Specialized Lottery, you can participate in the **General Housing Lottery**.
- ✓ Quintuples, septuples, sextuples, and octuples **will not be available** in the General Lottery.
- ✓ Carefully review the **remaining housing stock** on the [lottery page](#) and decide who will be in your group.
- ✓ Rooming groups are comprised of between 2 and 8 students.
- ✓ If there are available stand-alone singles after the senior lottery, students may enter as individuals and select one of these spaces. Keep in mind, housing selections are dependent on space availability. If there are only a few stand-alone singles left, it may be best to carefully consider which students you could live with and form a rooming group. This would still enable you to select singles (if available), but would also allow you to select other housing arrangements.
- ✓ **You must select the same number of beds in a suite (or in multiple suites in the case of larger groups) as there are members of your group. Beds, not rooms.** An individual student cannot choose a double, for example. Pay careful attention to the floor plans, and prioritize your choices. Some 2-bed suites may be 2 bedrooms plus a living room, for example, while others are 1 large room.
- ✓ The Co-ed Rooming Group and Co-ed Housing Rules apply. (See Section II) **Remember**, if students of different genders have not applied for co-ed housing ahead of time and a housing arrangement that allows them to separate into same-gender suites is not available, they will be unable to make a selection in the lottery. We would hate for students to become floaters because they did not prepare for this scenario!
- ✓ The suites chosen do not have to be adjacent to one another.
- ✓ The lottery order is not based on group size.
- ✓ Rooming groups will receive a single lottery number.

Steps to the General Housing Lottery

- ✓ Please note that the Rising Junior lottery dates are subject to change based on the results of the Rising Senior Specialized Lottery. If there is no Specialized Housing Lottery for Rising Juniors, the dates and deadlines for the General Housing Lottery will likely change. No Rising Junior deadlines will occur prior to Friday, April 14.
- ✓ Students must submit signed registration forms to Rachel's office by **April 19 at 5:00 pm.**

- ✓ Rachel will run a randomized process to assign all individuals and rooming groups lottery numbers. This information will be released to all students via email.
- ✓ **Rising Juniors** will attend room selection on **April 20 at 6:00 pm** in the JCR.
- ✓ Only **one** person from your group is required to attend room selection (but all are welcome!). Students who do not attend room selection give the attending member(s) of their rooming group the authority to pick their housing in their absence. It is the responsibility of all the members in a rooming group to jointly discuss, and to come to an agreement, regarding housing preferences.
- ✓ If no one in the group can attend room selection, the group must designate a proxy by emailing Rachel no later than **April 19 at 5:00 p.m.** This proxy can be a fellow student or Rachel herself. The student(s) must agree to provide the proxy multiple preferences to aid in room selection.
- ✓ Students cannot take longer than **3 minutes** to make their selection, so come prepared with multiple contingencies in the event that your preferred choices are not available.
- ✓ As each bedroom is linked to a specific key, you must indicate **who will be living in which bedroom within the suite** during the lottery.

IMPORTANT: IN ALL LOTTERIES, YOU CANNOT CHANGE ROOMS AFTER MAKING YOUR SELECTION. LOTTERY SELECTIONS ARE FINAL

Congratulations! You now have your rooms for next year! (Keep reading though.)

VII. After the Lottery

- 🐾 If you were unable to select housing in the lottery the available bed-spaces in a suite/room did not match your group size, the House Administrator will be in touch with a Housing Questionnaire to help place you in the best possible housing situation.
- 🐾 All rising sophomores, second round Inter-House Transfers, and students who did not complete the rooming group form on time will be assigned housing by Rachel during the summer months.
- 🐾 If a group selects more than its fair share of bed-space, a floater will be assigned to the suite during the summer months. Misrepresentation on the part of any member in a rooming group may result in the chosen housing unit being forfeited and a new assignment being made over summer.
- 🐾 **If a member of your rooming group cancels his/her housing** for any reason after the lottery, the House will place a floater in the space created so we can accommodate all students who need housing. **The House also reserves the right to change your room assignment in these cases.**

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions

🐾 **WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR HOUSING SELECTION?**

Make sure you discuss your expectations and priorities with your rooming group, and do your research! In 10 years, you probably won't remember your suite number, but you will remember your roommates. Your relationship with your rooming group is more important than a few extra square feet.

Students should come to housing selection with a list (a very long list) of ranked possibilities. Being prepared will save you a lot of stress and confusion. Having back-up plans are important—DO NOT just come with a few suites that represent your “dream” housing. Other students will be waiting to select their housing and time limits on selection are enforced to keep things moving. Know who is going to live in each bedroom within a suite as you will be asked to indicate this during the lottery.

You should determine which suites you want to live in by looking at the floor plans. If you have specific building management-related questions (e.g. furniture lay-outs), please email dusuper@fas.harvard.edu.

Whatever your housing selection, you and your group are ultimately responsible for this decision. **Your choice is final**, so make it a good one!

🐾 THERE ARE TWO OF US, CAN WE CHOOSE A TRIPLE AND ADD A FLOATER LATER?

No. You must choose a combination of rooms or a suite that has only 2 beds.

🐾 WE ARE A GROUP OF MOSTLY SENIORS, BUT ONE OF OUR ROOMMATES IS A RISING JUNIOR (OR LOTTERIED AS A SENIOR LAST YEAR). WE REALLY WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER. CAN WE ENTER THE SENIOR LOTTERY?

You will have to enter the Mixed Rising Senior-Junior Lottery.

🐾 CAN I REGROUP AT ANY TIME?

The only students who have the ability to regroup are those who participate in the Specialized Housing Lottery but are unable to select a suite due to a lack of housing stock. These students may regroup and register for the general housing lottery.

🐾 I'M PROBABLY TAKING A LEAVE/STUDYING ABROAD IN THE FALL BUT AM UNSURE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Communication with your rooming group is crucial. If you participate in the lottery but then cancel your housing afterwards, there will be a space left in your suite that will be filled by a floater.

You therefore have to weigh the likelihood of your departure against the risk that if you do not go abroad, you will not have selected housing with your friends. In the latter case, the House Administrator does her best with the available space to place you with a compatible roommate.

🐾 WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE IN OUR ROOMING GROUP WHO WILL BE STUDYING ABROAD IN SPRING 2018. WHAT DO WE DO IF WE'RE MISSING PART OF OUR GROUP THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR?

The short answer is that any student who is going to be living on-campus in the fall and wants to select his/her housing needs to participate in the lottery.

The spaces these students leave in your suite(s) will be filled by students who are returning from leave/study abroad in the spring.

That means that you need to decide whether you want to stay together and welcome floaters to your suite when your group members leave, or if you want to split up so that the people studying abroad leave a completely open suite in which returning students can be placed. Your group may also want to consider whether you know any students who are studying abroad in fall 2017 whom you would like to live with when they return in the spring. I place a high priority on these requests.

🦌 I AM AWAY FOR FALL 2017 BUT AM RETURNING IN SPRING 2018. HOW WILL I BE HOUSED MID-YEAR?

If you've completed the RSA by the OSL deadline for spring 2018, I will be in touch with you in December with additional information. Spring assignments for mid-year returning students are finalized in early January.

🦌 IF MY ROOMMATE ENTERS THE LOTTERY AND THEN DECIDES TO TAKE THE FALL TERM OFF, WILL I BE ABLE TO KEEP THE WHOLE ROOM TO MYSELF?

Not likely. Any open bed-spaces will be filled by floaters, as space in Dunster is very limited.

🦌 IF I DECIDE TO TAKE TIME OFF AFTER THE LOTTERY, DO I SACRIFICE MY SENIOR STANDING?

No. If you cancel your housing for the fall after you lottery, you can lottery again as a senior the following year!

🦌 WE HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO DUNSTER BUT TOOK A YEAR OFF AFTER FRESHMAN YEAR. NOW I'M A RISING JUNIOR BUT MY FRIEND IS A RISING SOPHOMORE. CAN WE STILL ENTER THE LOTTERY TOGETHER?

Yes! Since you both entered Harvard in the same class year, you can lottery together this year. Please have your friend contact me as soon as possible.

🦌 WHAT ABOUT THE YEAR AFTER? CAN WE LOTTERY AS SENIORS?

Yes! Since you entered Harvard in the same class, you can lottery together the year after as well.

🦌 WHAT ABOUT THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN I'M GONE?

Your roommate can only take senior standing once. He/she will enter the junior lottery when you leave.

🦌 I'M A RISING SOPHOMORE WHO HASN'T TAKEN TIME OFF, BUT I HAVE ADVANCED STANDING. HOW WILL I BE HOUSED?

You'll be housed with the other rising sophomores during the summer months.

🦌 WHEN DOES STORAGE START AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Any questions regarding storage should be addressed to the Building Manager at dusuper@fas.harvard.edu. Please note that Dunster does not have on-site summer storage. The Building Manager's office will be emailing the House shortly with information about alternative storage options, such as Collegeboxes.

🦌 I'M A LITTLE INTIMIDATED BY ALL THIS. WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MY LOTTERY EXPERIENCE LESS STRESSFUL?

Study the floor plans, have open, honest conversations with your potential roommates, and come to the lottery with a prioritized list of the suites you're interested in selecting. Also, carefully consider what's important to you. For example, is it more important to be close or far from certain people or facilities, or to have the perfect room layout? **We are all here to help as resources as you think through these options. Please reach out!**