



# 2022 Dunster Lottery Handbook

## I. Eligibility

If you're a Dunster **Rising Junior (current Sophomore)** or **Rising Senior (current Junior)** living in residence now and have not cancelled your housing for fall 2022, you automatically have a housing reservation for next year and are eligible to participate in the Lottery!

**Students who will be returning from a leave of absence, study abroad, or off-campus housing** in fall 2022 are only eligible for housing if they completed a Returning Student Application (RSA) by the DSO's February 7th deadline. If they missed the DSO deadline, they can fill out the RSA form now in order to be added to the space available waitlist, but they are not guaranteed on-campus housing and are unable to participate in the Lottery.

**Off-Cycle Students:** If you took a Leave of Absence from the College at some point, you may choose to be housed as if you were a member of your original social class. For example, if you took a Leave for one or two semesters and your classmates are now Rising Seniors, you can enter the Lottery as a Rising Senior this year. However, you can only enter the Lottery as a Rising Senior once. In future lotteries you will enter as a Rising Junior. This option is only available to students who have taken time off. (Studying abroad or moving off-campus does not qualify as taking a Leave from the College.)

**Students with Advanced Standing:** If you have advanced standing and will be in your third and final year in fall 2022, you may enter the Senior Lottery. You can only exercise this option if you are on the official list of students with advanced standing (**please check your academic status** with Diana at [hovsep@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hovsep@fas.harvard.edu)). You may only enter the Senior Lottery once. If you choose to stay an additional year, you will enter the Junior Lottery.

If you have either **taken a leave of absence** or you have **advanced standing** and would like to enter the **Senior Lottery this year**, you must complete [this google form](#) by **Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon**.

If you have neither taken a leave of absence from the College nor have advanced standing, **the number of terms completed as of the end of May 2022 determines whether you are defined as a Rising Senior or Rising Junior in the Lottery**.

As in prior years, **Rising Sophomores** (current First-Years) who have not taken a Leave of Absence will be housed as part of a housing placement process over the summer.

**Rising Sophomores who have taken a leave of absence** and are interested in participating in the Junior Lottery with members of their original class year, please email me by **Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon**.

## II. Lottery Dates, Registration, & Rooming Groups

The **Lottery & Registration Dates** are as follows:

**April 12:** Senior & Mixed Senior-Junior Lottery Registration, *1:00-2:30 p.m. Dining Hall*

**April 14:** Senior Lottery & Mixed Senior-Junior Lottery, *6:00 p.m. Junior Common Room*

**April 19:** Junior Lottery Registration, *1:00-2:30 p.m. Dining Hall*

**April 21:** Junior Lottery, *6:00 p.m., Junior Common Room*

You **must submit a registration form by the appropriate deadline**, either as an **individual** or as part of a **rooming group**, to participate in the Lottery. (Registration forms are available on the Lottery Website.)

**To register**, stop by the Dining Hall between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. on registration day to submit a **signed registration form and draw a single lottery number** (1 number per group). Only 1 member of the group needs to attend but all are welcome. We will have more lottery numbers than needed, as we won't know ahead of time how many groups/individuals intend to register, and not all numbers may be chosen. For example, if numbers 1 and 3 are drawn by different groups at random but 2 is not, it will be skipped during the Lottery. Later that afternoon I will release a summary of all the chosen numbers and the Lottery order.

**Individuals** are only eligible to select hallway singles in the Lottery.

**Rooming groups can be between 2 and 8 people** and can choose any combination of suites where the total bed count matches the group size. For example, a 6-person rooming group might choose six singles, or two triples, or a quad and a double, etc. as long as those spaces are available by the time your lottery number is called. As your choice of housing depends on space availability, it is beneficial to enter as a group as opposed to an individual. Even if you desire a single, this gives you the flexibility to choose a suite of your choice, with another student of your choice, if there are no singles available by the time your number is called. Correspondingly, forming a rooming group enables you to select rooms at the same time, but does not guarantee that the rooms chosen will be near one another. You can choose to live in suites with each other, near each other, or at completely opposite ends of the House.

Communicate with your rooming group members early and often to prepare for contingencies in case your preferred housing choices are not available by the time your lottery number is called. The Lottery moves quickly and **there will not be time to make these group decisions on the spot**. Have these discussions early and make sure all members are in agreement about your plans.

### **Rooming Groups With Students Who Are On-Leave, Studying Abroad, or Off-Campus**

A rooming group may include students who are currently on a Leave of Absence, off-campus, or studying abroad **only** if they have filled out the RSA by the DSO deadline, guaranteeing them fall housing (see page 1).

**These students must register for the Lottery** either as an individual or as part of a rooming group by completing a google form by the registration deadline. (I will email them the form.) Rooming groups that include these students should include their names on the registration form with a note that they'll be registering electronically.

### **Attending the Lottery & Participating By Proxy**

Only **one** person from a rooming group is required to attend the Lottery (but all are welcome!). Students who do not attend room selection give the attending member(s) of their registered rooming group the authority to pick their housing in their absence. It is the responsibility of all the members of a rooming group to jointly discuss, and come to an agreement, regarding housing preferences in advance of the Lottery.

**If no one in the rooming group can attend**, the group must **designate a proxy**. The proxy can be another student, or you can request I proxy for you. You must email me the name of your proxy **by noon the day of the Lottery**. Copy all group members and the proxy on the email. The student or group must agree to provide the proxy a long list of ranked housing preferences to aid in room selection.

Groups of students who are studying abroad or on a Leave may form their own rooming groups and enter the Lottery by proxy under these same guidelines.

## **Mixed Rising Senior-Junior Groups**

Rising Seniors and Rising Juniors are welcome to form rooming groups together. These groups will Lottery immediately after the Senior Lottery. The ratio of Rising Seniors to Rising Juniors within the group does not have an impact on the lottery number, which is drawn at random. Participating in the Mixed Senior-Junior Lottery as a Rising Junior does not have an impact on your Lottery standing. The following year you're welcome to participate in the Senior Lottery.

### **Compatibility:**

Dunster will be filled to capacity in fall 2022. **Please think carefully** about which students you want to live with before forming a rooming group. Also make sure you are fully committed to living in a variety of rooming arrangements with the students in your group in case your preferred housing choices are not available.

Below are a few topics I would strongly recommend all students discuss in advance of forming a rooming group. It is important to have these conversations honestly and openly with all group members, so you can make the best possible decisions about your future housing accommodations.

1. How will you share the space? Does your desired suite have a shared common room? Shared bedrooms? A shared bathroom? What if you're not able to secure an en suite bathroom or individual bedrooms in the Lottery? Discuss these different housing scenarios, each person's comfort level, daily habits, and individual approach to occupying different living spaces.
2. Is anyone in the rooming group dating? If so, is everyone in the rooming group aware? Please remember that housing is extremely limited, and it is unlikely we would be able to offer an alternative space in Dunster if your relationship ends while you're living together.
3. While your housing selection is completely your own, if you anticipate concerns or questions from family members who will be travelling with you back to campus, please address these matters prior to move-in day. (Note: I'm always happy to help brainstorm ways to approach these conversations. Please don't hesitate to reach out!)

Students of any gender identity are welcome to form rooming groups and participate in the Lottery under the same policies as same-gender-identity groups.

## **IV. Free Agents & Finding Roommates**

As mentioned above, students are welcome to participate in the Lottery as individuals. However, please keep in mind **there are a limited number of stand-alone singles, and housing selections are dependent on space availability.** If you are a "Free Agent" hoping to find a compatible roommate with whom you can form a rooming group, please visit this [google sheet](#) where you can share information with other students. This sheet can also be used by groups who are looking to find additional members in advance of registration.

HoCo will also be hosting a **Free Agent Study Break** on April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Small Dining Room from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for all students. Please take advantage of this opportunity to connect with other folks looking for roommates!

## **V. Dunster Proper & 20 DeWolfe St: Important Facts**

### **Room Type:**

Dunster student housing is available in Dunster Proper and at 20 DeWolfe Street. The floor plans and a list of available rooms for next year are posted on the Lottery Website. **You can click the header of each column to**

**sort the information** according to room type, the number of en suite bathrooms or common rooms, whether there are dormers, and whether there is adapted furniture in the space. **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. The depth and size of the dormers vary from one room to another. To make as informed a decision as possible, we recommend visiting these spaces (with the current occupant's permission) to get a sense of how the dormers impact the living space.

### **Restrooms:**

The majority of suites in Dunster Proper do not have en suite bathrooms, however single- and multi-stall hallway restrooms are available on each floor and are indicated on the floorplans in blue.

The designations of the **hallway restrooms in Dunster Proper change from year-to-year based** on the gender-identity ratio in the surrounding area. We do the best we can to balance the needs of the students in each area based on the gender distribution, but please **do not** select your room solely based on the current designation of a nearby bathroom.

**All hallway multi-stall and single-stall restrooms on the floor are meant to serve all residents**, regardless of whether it has an "ACC" designation on the floorplans.

### **Tutor Pets:**

There are a select number of Tutor suites that currently house cats. Please note that the Tutor suites that contain pets can change from year to year. If you're allergic to animals and choose a bedspace in an entryway with a Tutor pet, please reach out to that Tutor at the start of the semester to let them know, and to ask if they can explore alternative spaces to host entryway meetings/events.

### **Dunster Proper**

- ✓ Dunster Proper consists of a variety of different room types, from stand-alone singles to an 8-person suite.
- ✓ The majority of suites do not have en 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 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.
- ✓ There are three elevators in Dunster Proper. They do not all reach the top floors:
  - Elevator 1 (West side) reaches the 4<sup>th</sup> floor (ELEV 1)
  - Elevator 2 (West side) reaches the 5<sup>th</sup> floor (ELEV 2)
  - Elevator 3 (East side) reaches the 4<sup>th</sup> floor (ELEV 3)

## **20 DeWolfe (DW) Street**

- ✓ The 2- and 4-person suites consist of 2-person bedrooms and a common room.
- ✓ There are no duplex suites.
- ✓ There is an elevator that reaches all floors.
- ✓ 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.

### **Floor Plans:**

Please note that the square footages on the floorplans provided by House Renewal are accurate to the best of our knowledge. Please use this information as a rough guide when selecting your rooms. We also recommend visiting the suites (with the current occupant's permission) to best review the layout of the space.

Space designations can change from year to year. Be sure to review the current floor plans and [room list](#) on the Lottery Website, instead of relying solely on your knowledge of the House.

- **Note:** Although W310 is colored as part of a 6-person suite along with W311 on the floorplans, it will be an offline, stand-alone double this year. W311 will be lotteried as a quad.

### **Adapted Furniture:** E506, E511, W306, W404, W505

Due to the layout of the five singles listed above, they contain a combination of standard and adapted furniture to provide a more comfortable living environment. The standard furniture includes a bed, two stackable dressers, filing cabinet, and a floor lamp. The adapted furniture includes a desk, floor bookcase, and smaller wardrobe in order to appropriately fit the space. If you have specific questions about the size and type of the furniture in these spaces, please contact the [Building Manager Jorge Mendoza](#) at [Jorge\\_mendoza@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:Jorge_mendoza@fas.harvard.edu).

### **Offline Suites**

**There are certain rooms/suites that are not available in the lottery.** These can be offline for a number of reasons, including but not limited to, because they are Residential Staff spaces or emergency College housing. **Please see [the Lottery page](#) for a list of these suites** and note them in advance of the Lottery.

**Review the floor plans carefully in advance of the Lottery!**

## **VI. The Lottery Event**

- ✓ Lottery numbers will be called in ascending order (#1, #3...) for room selection.
- ✓ **Remember! You must select the same number of beds in a suite/combination of suites as there are members of your group. Beds, not rooms.** For example, a group of 2 students will not be able to 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.
- ✓ The suites chosen by a rooming group do not have to be adjacent to one another.

- ✓ Students **cannot take longer than a few minutes** to make their selection, so everyone should come prepared with multiple contingencies in the event their preferred choices are not available.
- ✓ Because rooms are linked to specific keys, students **must indicate who will be living in each bedroom within the suite** during the Lottery. Groups will have up to 2 weeks to email me with requested changes to in-suite bedroom assignments. You will need to copy all suitemates on the email so I can confirm the request is mutual.
- ✓ **Mixed Senior-Junior Groups** will select housing via this same process immediately following the Seniors.
- ✓ **Rising Juniors!** This process will work exactly the same for the Junior Lottery but you should also:
  - ✓ Review the **remaining housing stock** after the Senior lottery (a google sheet will be provided).
  - ✓ If there are available stand-alone singles after the Senior and Mixed Lotteries, Rising Juniors may register 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 would be best to carefully consider which students you could form a rooming group with**. This would still enable you to select singles (if available) but would also allow you to select other housing arrangements if necessary.

**IMPORTANT: YOU CANNOT CHANGE ROOMS AFTER MAKING YOU SELECTION.  
LOTTERY SELECTIONS ARE FINAL.**

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

## **VIII. After the Lottery**

- 🐾 If you were unable to select housing in the Lottery because your group size was too small for any of the available spaces, email me and I'll be in touch with a questionnaire that will enable me to place you in the best possible housing situation.
- 🐾 All Rising Sophomores, Second Round Inter-House Transfers, and students who did not complete the registration form on-time will be assigned housing during the summer months as part of a placement process.
- 🐾 **If a member of your rooming group cancels their housing for any reason after the Lottery**, the House will place a Free Agent in the bedspace so we can accommodate all students in need of housing.
- 🐾 **The House reserves the right to change students' room assignments at any time to accommodate occupancy limitations.** This is rare, and we'll always try to avoid doing this if possible.
- 🐾 If a group selects more than its fair share of bedspace, either a Free Agent will be assigned to the suite during the summer months, or the group members will be reassigned to different bedspaces. Misrepresentation on the part of any member in a rooming group during the Lottery will result in the chosen housing unit being forfeited and a new assignment being made over summer.

## **IX. Frequently Asked Questions**

### **🐾 WHAT'S 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 suitemates. Your relationship with your group is more important than a few extra square feet.

Students should come to housing selection with 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.

You should determine which suites you want to live in by looking at the floor plans and the [sortable room list](#) on the Lottery Website. If you have specific Building Management-related questions (e.g. furniture lay-outs), please reach out to the [Building Manager Jorge Mendoza](#).

Whatever your housing selection, you and your group are ultimately responsible for this decision. **Your choice is final**, so be sure to prepare!

### **WHAT IS MY LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING A SINGLE?**

The most frequent question I'm asked during Lottery season is how likely it is you will get a single (or single in suite). Dunster, I now hear this question in my dreams at night!

It is more likely you will be able to select a single as a Rising Senior than as a Rising Junior. That said, as much as I would love to be able to provide a specific percentage, it depends on a number of factors including the size of each class, the number of off-cycle students participating in the Senior Lottery, the number of students planning to take a leave or move off-campus, and how those who have lottery numbers before yours select their housing.

If you're able to select a single in the Lottery, that's great! However, as mentioned above, it's extremely important to have back-up plans. I recommend forming a rooming group and thinking through your preferred housing choices with your group members in advance, in the event singles are not available at the time of your Lottery selection. As mentioned earlier, this gives you the flexibility to select a suite of your choice, with other students of your choice, if there are no singles by the time your lottery number is called.

### **WHY CAN'T WE LEAVE BEDSPACES OPEN IN SUITES?**

The Harvard Houses will be filled to capacity. We therefore can't leave bedspaces vacant as it would mean denying housing to other students who need it. In turn, if rooming groups left empty bedspaces in their selected suites to be filled by “Free Agents”, it would result in many of the rooming groups with lower lottery numbers breaking up in order to fit in the remaining available spaces. Asking groups to fill up an entire suite leads to many more rooming groups living together.

### **WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE TO FORMING A LARGER GROUP?**

The advantage to is that it allows for a greater choice of housing. You do not lose anything by forming a larger group. As mentioned above, you can select any suite (or combination of suites) for which you have enough group members. This means if you are an 8-person group, you're able to select a 5, 6, 7, or 8-person suite, or any combination of suites that totals 8 bedspaces. The smaller your group size, the more limited your housing choices.

This is especially important for rising juniors to understand and prepare for, as there are generally many more quads and doubles available in the rising junior Lottery than triples or singles. If you're a rising junior who is part of an odd-numbered group, please consider forming an even numbered group. If you are a group of 3, for example, and there are no triples or singles left, **only two of you will be able to select a room space**. (Alternatively, all

three of you could choose to be “Free Agents” and I will place you in housing after the Lottery.)

**🐾 CAN I REGROUP AT ANY TIME?**

No. The only time you can form a rooming group is when registering for the Lottery.

**🐾 I’M PROBABLY TAKING A LEAVE 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 Free Agent. 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, I do my best with the available space to place you with compatible roommates.

**🐾 WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE IN OUR GROUP WHO ARE STUDYING ABROAD IN SPRING. WHAT HAPPENS 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 their housing needs to participate in the Lottery. The spaces these students leave in your suite(s) in the spring will be filled by students returning from leave/study abroad/off-campus housing that semester.

You need to decide whether you want to stay together and welcome others to your suite when your group members leave, or if you want to split up. Your group can also consider whether you know any students who will be studying abroad in fall 2022 whom you would like to live with when they return in the spring.

Similarly, if you will be studying abroad in fall 2022 and returning in spring 2023, and want to live with a particular rooming group, ask your friends to consider rooming with a student who intends to study abroad in the spring. This would result in an empty bedspace in your desired suite when you return, and I would place a high priority on your request to be assigned to that space.

**🐾 I’M AWAY FOR FALL 2022 BUT AM RETURNING IN SPRING 2023. HOW WILL I BE HOUSED MID-YEAR?**

Be sure to complete the Returning Student Application in the [Housing Portal](#) for the spring 2023 term, and I’ll be in touch in December with additional information. Spring assignments for mid-year returning students are finalized in early-to-mid January.

**🐾 IF I PARTICIPATED IN THE SENIOR LOTTERY BUT THEN CANCELED MY HOUSING BEFORE THE FALL, DO I ENTER THE JUNIOR LOTTERY IN FUTURE?**

No. If you cancel your housing prior to fall move-in, you can Lottery again as a Rising 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 SOPHMORE. CAN WE STILL ENTER THE JUNIOR 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 via email by [Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at noon](#).

**🐾 WHAT ABOUT THE YEAR AFTER? CAN WE LOTTERY AS RISING 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 friend can only participate as a Rising Senior once. They will enter as a Junior when you leave.

**🦋 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 other factors are important to you and your group about your housing. For example, is it more important to be close or far from certain facilities, or to have a specific room layout? **We are all here to help as resources as you think through these options so reach out!**