



2023 Dunster Lottery Handbook

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I. Lottery Dates

April 11: Senior Standing Application (Off-cycle & Advanced Standing Students Only)

April 13: Senior & Mixed Senior-Junior Lottery Registration, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Dining Hall

April 17: Senior Lottery & Mixed Senior-Junior Lottery, 6:00 p.m., Junior Common Room

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

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

II. Eligibility

If you're a **Rising Junior (Current Sophomore)** or **Rising Senior (Current Junior)** living in Dunster/DeWolfe and have not cancelled housing, you're eligible to participate in the Lottery!

Students who are returning from a leave of absence, study abroad, or off-campus housing in fall 2023 are only eligible if they completed a Returning Student Application (RSA) by the DSO's deadline. If they missed the deadline, they could fill out the RSA form now and will be added to a space available waitlist, but they are not guaranteed on-campus housing and therefore cannot 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 as a Sophomore and your classmates are now Juniors who are participating in the Senior Lottery, you can enter the Senior Lottery with them. 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 of Absence from the College.)

Students with Advanced Standing: If you have Advanced Standing and will be in your third and final year in fall 2023, 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 confirm your academic status** with Diana at 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 lottery as a Senior this year, you must complete **THIS FORM** by **Tuesday, April 11th**.

If you have **neither taken a Leave of Absence nor have advanced standing**, the number of terms completed as of the end of May 2023 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 during the summer months.

III. Registration & Rooming Groups

You **must submit a signed registration form**, either as an **individual** or as part of a **rooming group**, to participate in the Lottery.

To register, submit your signed form and draw a single lottery number (1 number per group) during the registration period. You can come anytime during that hour. Only 1 member of the group needs to attend but all are welcome. We will have more lottery numbers than needed, 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. I will release a summary of the chosen numbers and the Lottery order after registration.

Individuals: You can register as an individual and choose a hallway single in the Lottery (pending space availability).

Rooming groups: You can form a group of **up to 8 people** and can choose any combination of suites in which 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 your choice of housing depends on space availability, it is beneficial to enter as a group as opposed to an individual. Even if you're hoping for 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 by the time your lottery number is called.

Forming a rooming group enables you to select rooms at the same time but does not guarantee or require that the rooms will be near one another. You can choose to live in suites with each other, near each other, or at opposite ends of the House.

Communicate with your rooming group early and often to prepare for contingencies in case your preferred housing choices are not available when 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.

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.

Students On-Leave, Studying Abroad, or Off-Campus: A rooming group may include students who are 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 by completing THIS FORM by the registration deadline.

Participating by Proxy: Only 1 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 that I proxy for you.

If you have a proxy email me that person's name by noon the day of the Lottery. Copy all group members and the proxy on the email. You 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 Senior-Junior Groups: Rising Seniors and Rising Juniors are welcome to form rooming groups together. The Mixed Lottery will take place immediately following the Senior Lottery. Participating in the Mixed Lottery as a Rising Junior does not have an impact on your Lottery standing. The following year you can participate in the Senior Lottery.

The ratio within the mixed group must be at least 50% Rising Seniors (Current Juniors). 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.

IV. Free Agents & Finding Roommates

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.

V. Dunster Proper & 20 DeWolfe: 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 sort the list according to room type, the number of 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:

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 varies 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 dormer impacts 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 floor plans in blue.

The **hallway restroom designations in Dunster Proper change from year-to-year based** on the composition of the students in the surrounding area. We do the best we can to balance the needs of the students in each area, 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 they have an “ACC” designation on the floorplans.

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 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. Elevator 1 (ELEV 1) and Elevator 3 (ELEV 3) reach the 4th floor, Elevator 2 (ELEV2) reaches the 5th floor.

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 majority of suites are carpeted.

Floor Plans & Offline Suites:

The square footages on the floorplans are provided by House Renewal and are accurate to the best of our knowledge. Please use this information as a general 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.

As space designations can change from year to year, review the current floor plans and [room list](#) on the [Lottery Website](#) instead of relying solely on your knowledge of the House. **Please also note the following for 2023:**

- ✓ W-310/W-311 is a 6-person suite on the floorplans. W-310 will be offline and W-311 will be a quad.
- ✓ W-408/W-409 is a 6-person suite on the floorplans. W-408 will be offline and W-409 will be a quad.

Offline Suites: Each year there are also “offline” suites that are not available for selection in the lottery.

These can be offline for several reasons, including but not limited to, because they are Residential Staff spaces or emergency College housing. See the link below for a list of these suites and note them in advance of the Lottery.

[SEE THE OFFLINE ROOM LIST HERE.](#)

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 furniture in these spaces, please contact the Building Management Office at dusuper@fas.harvard.edu.

REVIEW THE FLOOR PLANS IN ADVANCE OF THE LOTTERY!

VI. The Lottery Process: Pick Your Room!

- ✓ Lottery numbers will be called in ascending order (#1, #3...) for room selection.
- ✓ **You must select the same number of beds in a suite or suites as there are members of your group. Beds, not rooms.** Two students will not be able to select a triple, for example. Pay attention to the floor plans, as some doubles are 2 bedrooms and common room, while others are one large room, etc.
- ✓ The suites chosen by a rooming group do not have to be adjacent to one another.
- ✓ Students **cannot take longer than 3 minutes** to make their selection, so everyone should come prepared with multiple contingencies in the event their preferred choices are not available.
- ✓ As bedrooms 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. Copy all suitemates on the email.
- ✓ **Rising Juniors:** If there are available stand-alone singles after the Senior & Mixed Lotteries, you can 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, **I would strongly encourage you to form an even-sized rooming group.** This would still enable you to select singles (if available) but would also allow you to select other housing arrangements, if necessary.

**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 because your group size was too small for any of the available spaces, I'll be in touch with a questionnaire to place you in the best possible housing situation.
- ✓ All Rising Sophomores, Second Round Fall Inter-House Transfers, and students who did not complete the registration form on-time will be assigned housing during the summer.

- ✓ **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 space 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 at all possible.
- ✓ Misrepresentation on the part of any student or member of a rooming group during registration or the Lottery will result in their chosen housing being forfeited and new assignments being made over summer.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE FOR HOUSING SELECTION?**

Make sure to 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'll 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 selections 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 questions about furniture, lay-outs, etc. please reach out to Building Management at dusuper@fas.harvard.edu.

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's more likely you'll 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 several 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 with higher lottery numbers select their housing.

If you're able to select a single in the Lottery, that's great! However, it's extremely important to have back-up plans. I strongly recommend forming a rooming group and thinking through your preferred housing choices in the event singles are not available at the time of your selection. 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?**

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

🐾 WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE TO FORMING A LARGER GROUP?

A larger group allows for a greater choice of housing. You do not lose anything by forming a larger group, and 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 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 key. 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 must therefore 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.

You need to decide whether you want to stay together and welcome others to your suite when your group members leave, or you want to split up. Your group can also consider whether you know any students who will be studying abroad in fall '23 whom you would like to live with when they return in the spring.

Similarly, if you'll be studying abroad in fall '23 and returning in spring '24, 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 '23, RETURNING SPRING '24. HOW WILL I BE HOUSED MID-YEAR?

Complete the Returning Student Application (RSA) in the [Housing Portal](#) for the spring '24 term, and I'll be in touch in December with additional information. Spring assignments for mid-year returning students are finalized in mid-January.

🐾 I PARTICIPATED IN THE SENIOR LOTTERY BUT THEN CANCELED MY HOUSING BEFORE THE START OF THE FALL TERM. DO I ENTER THE LOTTERY AS A JUNIOR?

No. If you canceled 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 AS A FIRST YEAR BUT THEN TOOK A LEAVE. NOW I'M A RISING JUNIOR BUT MY FRIEND IS A RISING SOPHMORE. CAN WE STILL ENTER THE JUNIOR LOTTERY TOGETHER AS A GROUP?

Yes! Since you both entered Harvard in the same class year, you can enter the Junior Lottery together this year. Please have your friend contact me via email by Friday, April 17th at noon and copy you.

🦌 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 long as they register for Senior Standing as an off-cycle student by the deadline.

🦌 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're also here to help as resources as you think through these options so don't hesitate to reach out!