

Faculty in Residence FAQs

Questions for Residence Life and Student Housing

Does it cost anything to live in the RC's?

No. The Faculty in Residence (FIR) apartment is provided to the faculty member and his or her family at no cost to the faculty member. This includes free basic cable, utilities, internet, and land-line phone services.

What are the requirements of a FIR?

The FIR serves as the intellectual leader of his or her residential commons and works together with the Residential Community Director (RCD) in cultivating and engaging community. Additionally, FIRs are asked to build individual relationships with students, be visible in their communities, and host events for their residents. Each FIR accomplishes this goal in different ways. For a full job description, [click here](#).

What's the parking situation?

Residence Life and Student Housing (RLSH) pays for each FIR to have two designated parking spots near his or her on-campus apartment. FIRs are welcome to purchase an additional parking pass near their academic homes.

Does the housing accommodation count as taxable income?

Because FIRs are required to live on campus, according to the IRS tax code the housing accommodation is not considered taxable income.

What schools would children attend? Is there bus service for children going to school? (local bus stop?)

All of the FIR residences are in the Highland Park ISD (HPISD). A district map can be found [here](#). While HPISD does not have a bus system, both Armstrong Elementary and the middle/intermediate school are a walkable distance from campus (less than one mile). HPISD requires proof of residency. Since the FIRs do not have a lease, RLSH provides a letter of residency for each FIR with children in HPISD.

Can my family and/or partner live with me? Pets?

Yes! As live-on members of the SMU family, it is important that your apartment feel like home. As such, if you have children, partners, or other family members who wish to live with you in your home, they may live with you.

Live-on staff and faculty are allowed one dog or one cat weighing less than 25 pounds.

Can we continue to live in halls during breaks? Do we have any responsibilities during breaks?

Live-on faculty are welcome to continue living in the halls during breaks. While there are often FIR related events (Residence Hall Opening, Common Reading, and training) in the few weeks leading up to a semester, there are no responsibilities during the bulk of the break.

What is the apartment like?

All FIR apartments have a full kitchen, dining space, and living area, along with two or three bedrooms with 2.5 baths. The current opening includes a three bedroom, 2.5 bathroom apartment.