Interactive CAMPUS MAP  https://maps.uic.edu/

CAMPUS HOUSING:

UIC does have on-campus apartment-style housing – Single Student Residence (SSR Building) on the west side of campus. Robinson and Beckham Halls on the south campus (Halsted St.) are also apartment style, but the population is almost exclusively undergraduate. These apartments are fairly small, shared, and not particularly cheap. However, Wi-Fi and some utilities are included in the rent. Living in SSR takes your commute time down to very little if you’re an MCDB student, with most of your activities in MBRB (Molecular Biology Research Building on Ashland Ave). Dining and the Sports and Fitness Center are steps away. The downside is that the surrounding neighborhood is not particularly “walkable.” If you’re an EE or Neuro student spending most of your time on the east side, however, the commute is longer than you might expect given that it’s only a mile in between campuses.

You can find rates, budget comparisons with off-campus housing, sample floor plans at their site www.housing.uic.edu. Only academic year/9-month contracts are available. Campus housing is also available for 2 months of the summer, under a separate contract.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING:

The university's off-campus housing office has a searchable database for apartments and roommates. Students can also post ads. You log on with your university netID and the password you’ve set up for your university email. If you haven’t yet set that up, you can create a temporary id/password to view, but not post, ads.

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS:

Off-campus housing tends to offer much more variety and value. Many grads live in the campus neighborhood. Search using the term UIC on the various apartment websites. If you can walk around the neighborhood and see ‘For Rent’ signs, many students find housing that way. You can find some affordable housing but typically the rents are premium because of proximity to campus.

Most students live on the north side (eg: Roscoe Village, Lakeview, Andersonville, Edgewater, Rogers Park), near south side (Pilsen, Bridgeport, Chinatown), or near northwest side of Chicago (Wicker Park, Bucktown, Ukranian Village, Logan Square). Some live in the ‘collar’ suburbs like Berwyn, Oak Park, Forest Park (to the west) or Evanston (to the north). You will want to check distances to the CTA, “el” stops, for public transportation to campus.

Chicago neighborhood boundaries/names overlap and can be a subjective and slippery thing... the area around UIC is variously called Near West, Near South, Southwest Loop, or UIC/University Village. Greektown is just north of our east campus. Little Italy could cover east campus and west. UIC/Tri-Taylor is a bit more defined and is the western end of our west side
of campus. Here’s a page from the university’s web site that describes surrounding areas. And a Chicago neighborhood map with links to Wikipedia.

RESOURCES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS/OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING SEARCH:

Padmapper has been recommended by students. This is a program that gathers postings from craigslist and other housing resources and organizes them in a map format by address.

The Chicago Reader free weekly newspaper has a searchable database of apartment and roommate ads. Their web site is also good for events, restaurants, etc. However, these are more useful to find fun things in a neighborhood you’ve already chosen.

The university’s events page has ads for apartments and roommates (and furniture, household things, etc). Look under Classified ‘Roommate and Housing’ and ‘Buy Sell Want’. With your netID/email password you should be able to post ads as well.

Some apartments/roommate situations are never advertised on-line or in newspapers. It’s a good idea to just walk around any neighborhood you’re interested in once you get here. People will post flyers in apartment windows, in coffee bars, on light poles, grocery stores, etc. Also look on campus in high-traffic areas (library, computer center, campus buildings) for flyers posted by students.

You can circulate information you have about housing, ads for roommates, and questions by sending an email to me to post initially to the New Student Listserv or the Biograd Listserv once you have an ID card.

Students have used a local company Chicago Apartment Finders that will drive you around and show you a selection of apartments that meet your specs.

Students interested in living on the west side should check out this comment from a student:

“I live in this place called the Medical Center Apartments (MCA), opposite Cook County Hospital. It’s on Harrison near Ogden, just 2 blocks away from the MBRB building. It’s a decent place and includes some utilities in the rent like heat and water, There is also another one called the Medical District Apartments, which are right opposite to MBRB, 901 S. Ashland, (literally across the street from MBRB).”

The Chicago Tribune and SunTimes are the two major city papers. Both have search engines for their classified ads for city and suburbs. Please note that the search engines don’t always work reliably for targeting ads in specific neighborhoods.

Trulia or Zillow are real estate sites with some rental information.

Oak Park is a very nice suburb immediately west of Chicago where a large number of UIC faculty and staff live. Oak Park is serviced by the blue line train but it seems to work best if you
have a car, even with some of the village’s parking regulations. The Oak Park Regional Housing Center is a very useful resource. (Note: the website has general info on the organization, not the listings themselves.) The local paper does have classified ads for rentals.

Forest Park is also a nice suburb immediately west of Chicago; it tends to be more affordable than Oak Park. There is one stop on the blue line (the line that the UIC stop is on). Their local paper Forest Park Review does have classified ads for rentals.

Please note that virtually all Chicago renters (primary exception is tenants in owner-occupied buildings less than 6 units) are protected by the Chicago Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, or the Tenant Bill of Rights. You can find basic information on the TBR at the Metropolitan Tenants Organization. This organization has been helping tenants for over 30 years and has a hotline staffed at 773-292-4988 from 1-5 Monday through Friday.