



Frequently Asked Questions

Eastgate Transition | Spring 2020

Introduction

This document seeks to address frequently asked questions about the closing of Eastgate Apartments and the opening of the new Graduate Tower at Site 4 (Building E37). This information is updated frequently, and the most recently added questions are marked with an asterisk (*).

RESOURCES FOR EASTGATE RESIDENTS

1. Who can help me navigate graduate housing options for next year?*

HRS is committed to working with members of the Eastgate community to provide residents with the support they need in transitioning to a new housing situation for the next academic year. HRS staff are available in person, via e-mail or by phone. HRS is also prepared to set up individual consultations to talk with you, identify needs, and to develop customized plans that will work for each Eastgate resident's individual situation. Please contact HRS by emailing GraduateHousing@mit.edu or calling (617) 253-2811.

2. In what ways is MIT supporting Eastgate residents who want to move into Site 4?

In addition to the 15% rent discount, HRS and Student Financial Services (SFS) asked residents to apply for an Eastgate Resident Transition Subsidy to help determine what additional financial support was needed by Eastgate graduate students. SFS received applications, and financial aid counselors considered individual financial circumstances such as stipend levels and assets, spouses' employment, number of dependents, and healthcare costs. This assessment enabled counselors to gain a better understanding of applicants' monthly income and expense levels and led SFS to approve significant transition subsidies for the majority of applicants.

We took these steps because this is an exceptional circumstance; Eastgate residents did not make their current housing choice with the benefit of knowing what Site 4 rents would be, and their current residence is closing. We appreciate that, we value their community and we want to work with Eastgate residents on a path forward. In addition to the rental discount and transition subsidy, the new Grant for Graduate Students with Children is available to eligible Eastgate residents (see Question 4).

3. Will the 15% rate discount for Site 4 extend past the 2020–2021 academic year?*

The 15% discount on all Site 4 unit types will automatically renew for all current Eastgate graduate student residents who remain at Site 4 for the duration of their MIT academic program.

4. Do I qualify for the new Grant for Graduate Students with Children being offered next academic year?

The MIT [Grant for Graduate Students with Children](#) is a need-blind pilot the Office of the Vice Chancellor is launching for the 2020–2021 academic year. All Ph.D. students whose children live with them are eligible for this grant. In addition, Master's students enrolled in most programs that award the Master of Science, and also programs awarding the Master of Architecture and Master in City Planning, are also eligible if their



children live with them. The grant may be used flexibly to cover expenses such as child care, health care, and housing. While it does not cover the bulk of child care expenses, the grant is intended to help alleviate some of the financial hardship our student parents face while allowing them flexibility to tailor child care to their needs, and is in addition to [the very favorable medical insurance rates available for graduate students with children at MIT](#).

Grant amounts for the 2020–2021 academic year are:

- \$2,000 for one dependent child
- \$3,000 for two dependent children
- \$4,000 for three or more dependent children

Additional details about the grant's parameters and application process will be available soon.

HOUSING TIMELINES & PROCESSES

1. When will Eastgate Apartments close?

HRS has previously communicated to the Eastgate community that the residence is projected to close at the end of August 2020. In Spring 2020, HRS will communicate detailed information regarding the timeline for emptying and closing the building. Eastgate residents should anticipate moving out no later than July 31, 2020. However, for those Eastgate residents moving to the new Graduate Tower at Site 4, the move-out/move-in period may enter August to accommodate the transition into the new building.

2. Is it true that Eastgate residents only have two weeks to make a housing decision for 2020–2021?*

No. Eastgate residents have from February–April to make a decision. Eastgate graduate student residents **will receive priority** in the three 2020–2021 graduate housing processes that run during this period based upon the housing availability within the desired residence. Site 4 will be a housing option available during all three housing processes, but the February–March Site 4 selection process was designed exclusively for Eastgate residents so that they would have priority access to units in the Graduate Tower.

3. Will Eastgate residents have priority for moving into Site 4?*

Yes. Eastgate residents will be able to participate in an early selection process unique to Eastgate residents for Site 4 apartments from February 24–March 1, 2020. Information on Eastgate resident selection times for Site 4 is outlined below.

4. What are the dates for the three housing processes available to Eastgate residents?

OPTION #1

Eastgate graduate student residents may enter the Graduate Tower at Site 4 Self-Selection process through the 'myhousing' portal. The selection option will be activated starting on the resident's assigned priority date. Please note, self-selection is a first-come, first-served process.

Tuesday, February 18 – Sunday, February 23, 2020

Eastgate housing process for Site 4 begins. Eastgate residents may enter the self-selection website and preview available units and floor plans.



Monday, February 24, 2020 – Sunday, March 1, 2020

Eastgate residents who wish to relocate to Site 4 will have priority in selecting apartments in the Graduate Tower at Site 4.

Selection Times & Priorities

Time Periods Begin at 9am EST Each Day

Dates	Priority
February 18 – 23	Preview Week
Monday, February 24	Current and Past Officers
Tuesday, February 25	Families with children
Wednesday, February 26	Transition Team Members
Thursday, February 27	Group 1 – with longest years of residency
Friday, February 28	Group 2 – remaining residents

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Site 4 selection process closes at 11:59pm EST.

Monday, March 2, 2020

Deadline to sign license agreement is 3pm EST.

Friday, March 6, 2020

Eastgate residents will receive their exact move date.

OPTION #2

Eastgate graduate student residents, and all graduate students living on- or off-campus, may apply through the 'myhousing' portal to live in the Graduate Tower at Site 4. Eastgate graduate student residents **will have priority** in this process. Please find the relevant dates for this process below:

Monday, March 9, 2020 – Friday, March 13, 2020

Building switch applications for the Graduate Tower at Site 4 allocation may be submitted through the 'myhousing' portal. Applications must be received by March 13, 2020 at 11:59pm EST.

Monday, March 16, 2020

Building switch results for the Graduate Tower at Site 4 allocation are released.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Deadline to sign license agreement is 3pm EST.

OPTION #3

Eastgate graduate student residents who would like to move to ANY available graduate housing option for which they are eligible may follow the General Housing Allocation process. This includes the Graduate Tower at Site 4 (for those who did not participate in the earlier processes). Eastgate graduate student residents **will have priority** for available units.



Graduate Housing Allocation Process	
March 25–April 26	Applications open
May 8	Allocation results are released with move dates
May 13	Deadline to sign license agreement

5. What if Eastgate residents do not want to move to Site 4?*

If Eastgate residents (who are academically eligible for fall 2020 graduate housing) decide that they do not want to move to Site 4, HRS will work with them to find other on-campus available graduate housing options through the General Housing Allocation process described above. MIT’s graduate student housing stock has a [variety of options](#) at different price points. In some cases, these are lower than the current Eastgate prices. Eastgate residents will receive priority for available spaces. HRS will also cover the costs of moving belongings to new on-campus residences.

HRS can connect Eastgate residents with [off-campus housing resources](#) if they prefer to move off campus. Eligible Eastgate residents will be prioritized in the graduate housing allocation process for couple/family housing units that are available elsewhere on campus.

6. If Eastgate residents find alternate housing options prior to August 2020, can license agreements be adjusted?*

Per the Eastgate license for the 2019-2020 academic year, Eastgate residents who wish to terminate their current Eastgate housing may move out at any time with a minimum of five (5) business days written notice and will not be charged any termination fees. A termination form is [available online](#) and is the only means of notification accepted by HRS.

7. After selecting 2020-2021 on-campus housing and signing a license agreement, can Eastgate residents cancel their housing assignment without facing a penalty?*

There will be no cancellation penalty for Eastgate residents who apply for 2020-2021 on-campus housing (and sign a license agreement) and subsequently cancel their on-campus housing prior to 30 days of their assigned move-in date. For cancellations within the 30-day period, the standard [cancellation policy](#) will apply.

8. If I’m a postdoctoral resident or student visitor living in Eastgate, will I have the opportunity to apply for housing in Site 4?

HRS is happy to accommodate postdocs and visiting students who are seeking on-campus housing for 2020–2021 based on space availability. The standard policy for postdoc and student visitor housing will apply to Site 4. If there are available units in the new building after the completion of the housing allocation process for MIT graduate students, eligible postdocs and visiting students may pursue a housing assignment in the building through the waiting list process, which opens June 1, 2020. A one-year 15% discount will be available to current post-doc and visiting residents who are eligible to return to housing for 2020-2021. After the first year, regularly published rates will apply. HRS is also able to connect postdocs and visiting students who are currently living in Eastgate with resources to find off-campus housing.

GRADUATE TOWER AT SITE 4 INFORMATION



1. When will the Graduate Tower at Site 4 open?

The targeted occupancy for Site 4 is scheduled for the week of July 20, 2020. HRS will communicate detailed dates and moving instructions during the spring as residents confirm their housing for fall 2020.

2. What types of apartments will be available in the new Graduate Tower? How do these apartments compare to the types in Eastgate Apartments?

Site 4 will have 248 efficiency apartments for single occupancy, 182 one-bedroom apartments and 24 two-bedroom apartments available for couples and families with children. This is the same number of one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments that exist within Eastgate Apartments.

3. Will there be parking for residents at Site 4?

Yes. There is a six-level underground parking garage with 1,200 parking spaces. While residents will not have assigned spaces, there will be 600 spaces designated for MIT. Similar to Eastgate, Campus Resident parking permits will be available for Site 4 residents through the MIT parking program.

4. How many elevators will Site 4 have? How will new residents move in?

There are four elevators in the Graduate Tower. One freight elevator will access the loading dock area, which will be helpful for moving in and out of the building. The Eastgate Transition Team is working to develop moving logistics plans. HRS will communicate details related to Eastgate move-out and Site 4 move-in during the Spring 2020 semester.

5. Will Site 4 feature a playground that can be used by residents with children?

Yes, there will be an exterior playground that, like the Eastgate Apartments playground, is shared with the onsite childcare facility.

6. Will Site 4 be air-conditioned?

Site 4 will feature valance heating and cooling units, which offer advantages over traditional heating and cooling systems without compromising performance or user comfort. Valance units operate more quietly and require fewer movable parts and filters, which reduce maintenance and repairs. They are also more sustainable, as they don't require fans.

7. What types of energy-saving measures were considered when building Site 4?

Creative design strategies and healthy material choices throughout the site help to achieve significant energy reduction. The [Capital Projects website](#) notes several details on [sustainable design elements](#).

8. How do in-unit amenities of Site 4 compare to the amenities in Eastgate?*

Residents in [Site 4](#) will enjoy a remarkable difference in the quality of fixtures, finishes, appliances, as well as other details, in comparison to the Eastgate Apartments building. It is important to note that, for sustainability reasons, kitchen sinks in the new Graduate Tower do not feature garbage disposals. This feature was eliminated to encourage composting. Additionally, residents should note that dishwashers are not installed in efficiency apartments, but they are installed in one- and two-bedroom apartments. In-building washer and dryer units located on the third floor are also available to Site 4 residents.



9. What else will be in the Site 4 building?

In addition to the student apartments and residential community spaces in the Graduate Tower, Site 4 will feature an MIT Forum assembly space, office space for some MIT DLCs (including MIT Admissions), a childcare facility, and retail space.

10. How long will construction be happening in Kendall Square?

Construction in Kendall Square is planned for several years after the opening of the Graduate Tower at Site 4. The Kendall Square Initiative includes Site 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Site 3 and 5 are closest to the Graduate Tower at Site 4; once construction is complete on Site 3 and 5, impacts to residents at Site 4 are anticipated to be reduced. The mitigation steps that have been put in place for Eastgate will not transfer to Site 4. Further information regarding construction projects will be included in the construction notification rider which accompanies the license agreement. Details are also available on the [Kendall Square Initiative website](#) and the MIT [Capital Projects website](#).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

HRS is prepared to help advise and support residents with navigating housing options. Please contact HRS by emailing GraduateHousing@MIT.edu or calling (617) 253-2811. Additional questions relative to financial resources can be directed to Student Financial Services by emailing sfs@mit.edu or calling (617) 258-8600, as well as the Office of Graduate Education by emailing odge@mit.edu or calling (617) 253-4860.