

# Investing in the Student Residential Experience

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**Brown's first major student residential projects in three decades aim to address on-campus housing needs, lessen neighborhood impact and enhance learning.**

Brown is creating new campus housing opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and medical students that offer desirable and modern residential options and strengthen the community-centered learning experience.

With the construction of two undergraduate dormitories — one recently opened and the other expected to open in Fall 2023 — and the purchase of a two-year-old Providence apartment community that will transition to graduate student housing, the University is adding its first new residence halls in 30 years, since Vartan Gregorian Quadrangle welcomed students in 1991.

Students come to Brown primarily for the academics, "but so much learning happens outside the classroom, and residential living is an essential piece of that," says Russell Carey, executive vice president for planning and policy.

"These three projects will enhance students' educational experience for decades to come."

The new construction will add over 500 units total, enabling Brown to accommodate its enrollment growth and house at least 80% of undergraduates on campus, notes Carey. Another goal is to offset the challenges that can arise from having students living off campus, including the effect on affordable housing in local neighborhoods.

The new residence halls are designed to encourage undergraduates to learn from each other — whether in hallways, study nooks or shared kitchens or on digital bulletin boards, according to Koren Bakkegard, associate vice president for campus life and dean of students. "We want the residential experience to be deeply enriching and for students to feel a strong sense of belonging to their community," she says.



INTERIOR (LEFT) AND EXTERIOR (ABOVE) VIEW OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER AND RESIDENCE HALL. PHOTO CREDIT: OUC/DENTAMARO

## Sternlicht Commons / Brown University Health & Wellness Center

Upper-division students interested in sustaining healthful lifestyles may apply to live in Brown's newest residence hall. The 162-bed facility, at 450 Brook St. near Pembroke Field, features singles and suites and an open design filled with natural light. Residents' wellness practices range from yoga to journaling to cooking to exploring their identity. The state-of-the-art building also houses University Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, Brown Emergency Medical Services and BWell Health Promotion.

Generous financial support in the form of two lead gifts, from the family of the late Duncan MacMillan '53 and from Barry Sternlicht '82 and Mimi Reichert Sternlicht '83, enabled this innovative project to move forward to completion.

## Brook Street Residence Hall

Near the southern end of College Hill, on Brook Street between Charlesfield and Power streets, Brown plans to erect a two-building residence for about 355 juniors and seniors that offers singles, suites and flexible community spaces. The planning and design process has involved extensive community feedback, and construction is expected to take about two years.

## Graduate Student Housing

Brown has purchased River House, a 174-unit building in the Jewelry District, to provide affordable, convenient, quality housing for graduate and medical students. The 2019 complex, acquired through a Brown subsidiary to ensure no disruption in tax revenue to the City of Providence, will house up to 270 students in studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments.

The purchase addresses longstanding needs and signals graduate students' key role in advancing Brown's academic mission. Brown currently houses only a fraction (roughly 2.5%) of its estimated 3,100 graduate and medical student population. Campus housing especially benefits international students and new doctoral and master's degree candidates, notes Vanessa Ryan, associate dean of student development for the Graduate School. It also fosters connections with peers, activities and resources.

"Housing creates an opportunity," Ryan says, "to build a full, rich campus experience for undergraduate and graduate students alike."



INTERIOR (ABOVE) AND EXTERIOR (BELOW) VIEW OF RIVER HOUSE PHOTO CREDIT: GMH COMMUNITIES

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