

Cost of Living

The cost of living depends upon the number of people living in an apartment and the way rent and utilities are shared among the tenants. Below are four cases considering a two bedroom apartment and one house; usually graduate students prefer options I & II.

Case I: Two people having their own private rooms

Case II: Several people rent a home and share the cost among themselves

Case III: Some people prefer to have private room and in order to cut cost they rent out the living room too (Total 3 people). In this case rent is based on mutual agreement among the residents.

Case IV: You share the room with another person i.e. 4 people in the apartment. In this case everyone splits the cost equally among themselves.

Below are some rough estimates of what the typical person spends.

Housing rent:	Two bedroom \$1200 - \$1400, One bedroom \$800 - \$1000
Electricity bill:	\$35 - \$40
Internet bill:	\$55 - \$70
Phone bill:	Depends on the carrier you choose
Heat bill:	Often included in rent, so no extra cost. Otherwise, heating bill varies with use: gas is typically \$100-200 in the coldest winter months and electric heating adds about the same to electric bill
Water bill:	Typically included in rent, so no extra cost. Otherwise, \$20 - \$30
Grocery cost:	Varies person to person \$150 - \$200 /month
Public transport:	FREE (PVTA buses en route to university are free in Amherst)
Restaurant & Drinks:	Avg. cost \$15-\$18 /night