



September 2020

Dear Students and Families:

Re: Important Information Regarding Living at the Beach

This letter contains important information regarding living off campus while a student at Fairfield University. Students who plan to request permission to live off campus during their senior year should read this letter closely, along with their parents/guardians, as it provides important information concerning the Off-Campus Boarder Lottery process and the signing of leases. We are sending this letter now because we want you to be aware of these factors well in advance of the lottery.

At Fairfield, full-time undergraduate students are required to live on campus during all four years, and in return Fairfield guarantees on-campus housing in one of the University's student residences for each of those years. During the first semester of a student's junior year, the Office of Residence Life conducts a random lottery for all eligible students who are requesting to be released to live off campus. Only seniors are permitted to live off campus and they must first be granted permission (i.e., released) by Fairfield University before they will be allowed to do so. The decision whether to grant or deny a request to live off campus rests entirely with Fairfield University, and could be contingent upon a student's academic standing or student conduct history, among other variables. If a student is not granted permission, they are required to live on campus and will be billed accordingly.

Please take the time to review the important points below about the Off-Campus Boarder Lottery and the signing of leases. I strongly encourage student and families to review this letter together.

- Students entering the Lottery are **not** automatically guaranteed a release to live off campus. In any given year, the number of requests to live off campus usually exceeds the number that can be released. The release is based largely on enrollment. Enrollment changes from year to year. Students should not assume that any two years will be the same in terms of the number of students released through the Lottery. Unless a student is formally released as part of the Lottery, the student is considered by Fairfield University to be an on-campus resident and will be held to the obligation to reside on campus as set forth in the Student Handbook.
- Students and families are advised **not** to sign a lease until the Lottery has been held and after the student's release from the University's four-year housing requirement has been confirmed.
- The University has no obligation to honor an off-campus lease signed by a student, or to otherwise accommodate any contractual residential relationships they enter into. In other words, students who sign leases prior to being released do so at their own risk.
- We urge students and families to also consider the uncertain environment created by the COVID-19 pandemic before signing leases. At any time, the University may need to modify its operations and/or transition to a remote learning experience for students. Students should consider how this uncertainty might affect their off-campus residential contract, to which the University is not a party and does not involve itself.

The information provided is offered solely for the benefit of students and their families, as the University wishes to avoid the difficult situation that sometimes can arise when students sign leases and/or otherwise engage in off-campus commitments, but then find out that they were not released to live off campus or otherwise comply with University requirements. Students and families are urged to call the Office of Residence Life before making any commitments regarding off-campus housing. The Office of Residence Life will contact all students during the fall semester regarding the Lottery process for on and off-campus living.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

William H. Johnson, PhD
Dean of Students