Suggestions for Website Redesign
Student Housing, Student Activities
Web Redesign Meeting, June 25, 2009
by Gail Lu, Coordinator of Student Services

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**Student Housing**

Current website:

![Image of Campus Resources](image)

**STUDENT HOUSING**

Good to Know:

- Monterey Institute does not have dormitories or on-campus housing.
- About half of our students live in rental units where they go to class by walking, biking, or going a short distance by bus/car.
- 90% of new students find housing within 3-5 days after arriving.
- We provide exclusive short-term & long-term rental databases.
- To access the database: must be admitted to the MA program and/or Summer Language Program and pay the deposit.

Types of Housing:

- Dorms in private homes
- House shared with other students
- Shared apartments
- Private apartments with one or more bedrooms or with one all-purpose room (studio)
- Furnished & unfurnished housing is available

Watch Our Helpful Video

![YouTube Video Player](image)

The Student Affairs Housing Database

The Student Affairs Office maintains a long-term and short-term housing database for Monterey Institute students and confirmed, incoming students (individuals who have been admitted and have paid their tuition deposit). Access to this protected database is obtained only through the Student Affairs Office. Please contact us for the link: email: [student-affairs@miis.edu](mailto:student-affairs@miis.edu) Tel: 831-647-4128

Other Web-Based Housing Resources:

- Virtual International Homestay: [Web Link](http://www.miis.edu)
- Monterey Peninsula Rental Service: [Web Link](http://www.montereyparkapartments.com)
- Monterey County Rental List: [Web Link](http://www.miis.edu)
- Craigslist Housing: [Web Link](http://www.miis.edu)

Additional Housing Information & Resources:

- Property Management Company: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- Tips for Securing Housing: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- Setting up Utilities: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- Housing Frequently Asked Questions: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- California Renters Rights: [Web Link](http://www.miis.edu)
- Temporary Accommodations: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- Inventory Checklist: [Acrobat PDF](http://www.miis.edu)
- Temporary Housing Furniture Rental: [Web Link](http://www.miis.edu)

Contact Information:

- Ashley Ferr Arrocha
  Director of Student Services
  Monterey Institute of International Studies
Suggestions for website redesign: Housing and Student Activities

Suggested changes to Student Housing website:

Housing
(Click on the blue text for more information)

The Monterey Institute does not have dormitories or on-campus housing. Many of our students live in rental units where they go to class by walking, biking or going a short distance by bus/car.

Types of housing vary from rooms in private homes, houses shared with other students, and apartments and more. Learn more by checking out our Tips for Securing Housing and Frequently Asked Questions about Housing. To begin your housing search, you can start by arranging Temporary Accommodations for when you arrive.

After you've found a rental

Setting up Utilities is a must. Also, check your California Tenant’s Rights if you have any questions about being a tenant. If you need to rent furniture temporarily, Brooks Furniture Rental Co. can be of assistance.

Hear more advice from Student Services...

Begin your search

Monterey Craigslist, Monterey Herald, Local Property Management Companies, Monterey County Rental List and Monterey Apartments and Rentals.com can be used to search for rentals. Our Monterey Institute private housing database is available for confirmed, incoming students who have paid their tuition deposits. For access to the private housing database, contact us.

If you will be with us for a short time only, please check out our Hints for Short Term Housing.

Notes: Blue text indicates web links to pages, pdf documents and other housing portals. Peach colored text is used to draw attention highlighted text. Instead of listing the contact information, the text links for “contact us” and “ask the Office of Student Services” should go to one page that lists our contact info. The contact info page should include hyperlinks for emailing Student Services and possibly a chat with a student services representative box if we can do online chat boxes on the new website.

One concern that I have is that housing portal links to Craigslist and others need to be included on the page but will send the viewer off site. Also, I was not sure how (or if I should) instruct people on how to access the links behind the blue text, so I included it under the header in smaller font for now. Also, per a conversation with Patricia, it would be great to make this page even more “international student friendly.” Please give me lots of suggestions about this!

Links on page include: Tips for Securing Housing, Frequently Asked Questions about Housing, Temporary Accommodations, Monterey Craigslist, Monterey Herald, Local Property Management Companies, Monterey County Rental List, Monterey Apartments and Rentals.com, Setting up Utilities, California Tenant’s Rights, Brooks Furniture Rental Co. and “Ask the Office of Student Services”. Proposed: New page or PDF titled “Hints for Short Term Housing”.

2 Suggestions for website redesign: Housing and Student Activities
Student Activities

Current website:

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Annual Events | Clubs/Organizations | Things To Do | Student Government

ANNUAL EVENTS

Follies Talent Show

Each year the Follies, a long-standing tradition at the Institute, amazes its audience with the wide range of talent, imagination and stage presence in the student body. Each new member of the student body is urged to bring musical instruments, dancing shoes, music, costumes and whatever it takes to participate.

International Bazaar

Another annual tradition is the widely-anticipated Monterey Institute International Bazaar. This is the Institute’s opportunity to celebrate the diversity of its campus with international food, exhibits, entertainment and costumes. Because each new member of the community contributes to the Institute a diverse background and an array of experience, each new student is considered a cultural ambassador and sharing is not just encouraged; it is expected.

So far my experience here has been rewarding, insightful and challenging, as most of the classes taking involve a lot of group work and real business cases analysis (over 50 in this first semester). This is helping me define more clearly what changes or improvements I need to implement in my company when I return to Kosovo.

Luan Delipi
MBA 2007
Pristina, Kosovo

Read More
Suggested Changes to Student Activities Website

Separate out “Things to Do” and put in section “Life in Monterey” (see current page). Integrate links into text on a “Things to Do” page instead of listing the links as we do now. Keep info about events on RSS Feed of Student Affairs blog updates rather than static on page. Include mini Calendar of Events link in sidebar among other links.

**Notes:** Change Student Activities to Student Organizations. RSS feeds for blogs are based upon mockups done by White Whale. I think these feeds would be appropriate for this page as it gives current and prospective students a page that is constantly updated with student activities occurring on campus. They can use it as a way to begin to navigate events on campus. Also, it keeps the page dynamic.

On the right is a menu bar to subpages. Subpages can include:
- Clubs (Include list of clubs, info for how to reserve space for events and start up a club)
- Student Government (Featuring annual events description and including photos and video of annual events. Include spotlights of student government members as well)
- Calendar of Events (Link sends user to main MIIS calendar of events)

We should avoid duplicating info on the site, i.e. calendar of events links to main calendar on website.