

EZRA STILES

RISING-SOPHOMORE HOUSING

SPRING 2021

Congrats Moose of **2024!** You are almost through your first year! This means that you can now begin the exciting process of picking your suitemates for next year. Please read this info sheet carefully because the housing process has several steps and important deadlines. (Note that these rules are for students who matriculated in 2020. If you matriculated in 2019 and were originally a member of the Class of 2023—even if you took one or two terms off—you should consult the Rising Junior housing handout. All students who matriculated in 2020, even those who took a semester off, must house as rising sophomores.)

In Ezra Stiles, the dean is responsible for all housing assignments. Room allocation is implemented by the housing committee, which is composed of the dean and two permanent representatives from each class. Any housing concerns should be addressed to the committee, and they will respect confidential communications. Your class Housing Committee (HoCo) representatives are **Tiana Luo** and **Jake Wade**.

Ezra Stiles College housing is determined by a lottery system that acknowledges seniority. Rising sophomores are guaranteed housing for the sophomore year. All sophomores must share a bedroom with one other person, and the chosen roommate can be of any gender. Options for housing stock will appear in Vesta. The steps of the housing process are as follows:

Mandatory Housing Information Session – Wednesday, March 17, 8:00 p.m. EST

Optional Housing Info. Session and Mixer – Saturday, March 20 6:00–7:30 p.m. EST

[Intent Declaration](#)

[Group Formation](#)

[Pre-Draw](#) for oversubscribed suite types only

Groups eliminated from the pre-draw must disband and regroup into an available suite configuration.

[Lottery & Draw](#)

Immediately following the draw, suitemates choose rooms within the suite and **Group Leaders** assign rooms in Vesta.

I. INTENT

- a. During this time **all** rising sophomores must log into Vesta, the online housing system, and register intent to live on-campus before the deadline.
- b. Have questions? Bring them with you to the mandatory (for first-years) housing information session for your class with Dean T on **Wednesday, March 17, at 8:00 p.m. EST** (Zoom link tba).
- c. Have questions after that? Attend the optional-but-very-much-encouraged HoCo information session and first-year mixer on **Saturday, March 20, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. EST**.

- d. Special Accommodations: Students were advised to request accommodations for legitimate health or religious reasons by meeting with Student Accessibility Services (medical) or the Chaplain's Office (religious) to register by March 8. Note that if you were eligible for accommodations from previous years, eligibility does not "roll over" to future years, but instead must be documented each year with either Student Accessibility Services or the Chaplain's Office. If you missed this deadline, email your HoCo reps and Dean T.

II. GROUP FORMATION

- a. Appoint a Group Leader for your lottery-group, the group of students who will constitute your suite. The Group Leader will primarily be responsible for logging information into Vesta, including room assignments after the draw.
- b. **Group Leaders** create a lottery-group in Vesta and invite others in the group/suite to join. Group Leaders can select a group "size", which can be changed until the group is finalized. When a group is full and all members confirm their participation in the group, the leader can "finalize" it; once a group is finalized, it can no longer be modified.
- c. Use the time during group formation wisely to view the system for information that will be useful for you. Vesta is a tool you use to find roommates, see open groups, see the available housing stock, and the demand for suite types. Use all of these features to help inform your decisions.
 - i. **Pro tip:** Ask some important questions: is that suite-type you planned to go for oversubscribed? Should you disband and reconfigure into a suite-type that has less demand? If a group doesn't seem to have sufficient students, should you join them?
 - ii. **Pro tip #2:** Have honest conversations with your suitemates about any concerns you may have going into an oversubscribed group. For instance, if being in a single-gender suite is a priority to you, you may not wish to risk a pre-draw. Respect those concerns when voiced by others and work together to find acceptable alternatives.
- d. Students can ask to join a given group that is not yet full and can withdraw if they so choose before the group is finalized.
- e. **Group Finalization:**
 - i. All participants must be in a group before the Pre-Draw (if necessary), Lottery, and Draw can proceed. For this reason, the deadline for groups to form and finalize is a hard deadline. Those who do not adhere to this deadline will be automatically removed from pre-draw or draw, placed at the bottom of the lottery [not a fun place to be], or assigned an available suitemate or to an available group at the Dean's discretion.

III. PRE-DRAW (Only for Oversubscribed Groups)

- a. Groups who are in oversubscribed suite configurations will be automatically entered in a pre-draw. For instance, if there are 5 groups of 8 students vying for the 4 available octets, the pre-draw will decide which group will not get an octet. The group that is eliminated will need to look at the system online, see which suite types are not oversubscribed, and reconfigure themselves. The goal is to have every group know their suite-type before the final draw.
- b. The Dean will use the Pre-draw function in Vesta to randomly sort out oversubscribed groups.
 - i. If your group gets eliminated at the pre-draw stage, then you will need to log into Vesta, review the *available* housing stock that's *not* oversubscribed, and reconfigure your group to fit the available suite sizes. There is only one pre-draw.

- ii. Any group eliminated as a result of the pre-draw must immediately disband and elect another available (i.e., not over-subscribed) suite-type. Bottom line: have a plan B or C if you are vying for a suite-type that is in high demand.
- c. At the end of the pre-draw process, everyone in your class will know what *type* of suite they will live in next year.

Pro-tip: Assess your level of risk. Stay away from oversubscribed groups if you do not want the uncertainty of disbanding and reconfiguring yourselves last minute to fit available housing stock and/or matching with classmates (regardless of gender and whom you may or may not know well) who find themselves in a similar situation.

IV. LOTTERY AND DRAW

- a. **Lottery:** During this phase, the Housing Committee will conduct the lottery and Vesta will randomly assign lottery numbers to each group. The lottery numbers will define the order in which groups choose specific suites within your suite-type. All numbers established during this lottery are final.
- a. **Draw:** Immediately following the lottery, each group, based on their lottery number, picks the suite they want. If a particular student cannot attend the room draw, they will need to designate a proxy ahead of time who will then participate in the event. Please alert your class HoCo reps if you are appointing a proxy.
- b. **Room Selection:** Immediately after a suite is chosen, group members will confer and choose rooms within the suite. Group leaders will then enter the room selections by assigning suitemates to their rooms in Vesta.
- c. **Housing Contracts:** As soon as suites are chosen, each member of the group is assumed to have contracted for housing. This is binding. Unless otherwise announced by the University, students contracting for housing are responsible for room charges for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - i. Once the draw closes, room changes will need to be made in writing to the Dean's office (see "[Room Switching](#)" below).

EZRA STILES COLLEGE HOUSING RULES

General Rules

1. **Deadlines are firm.** Housing deadlines are very carefully planned, and it is critical that they be observed by all participants throughout the housing process to ensure it runs smoothly. Failure to adhere to housing deadlines may result in students being placed at the bottom of the lottery list or being assigned to an available group/suite/room at the Dean's discretion.
2. **All questions in writing.** If you have any questions or concerns about housing rules in Stiles that are not explained in this document, you must submit them in writing (this includes e-mail) to your class's housing reps, who will bring them before the committee.

Before the Housing Draw

1. **Class Definitions: Sophomore/Junior/Senior.** For purposes of the housing rules, a student is a member of the class they will enter in the upcoming fall. A current first-year student will be defined as

a sophomore in these rules, a current sophomore as a junior, and a current junior as a senior. (See Rule 2 on acceleration.)

2. **Acceleration, Leaves, and Withdrawals.** Acceleration does not affect class status for purposes of housing. Students participate in the lottery of their current class. Students who matriculated in 2019 and were originally members of the Class of 2023—even if they took one or two terms off—are required to house as rising Juniors. All students who matriculated in 2020, even those who took a semester off, must house as rising Sophomores. No student who is currently withdrawn from Yale may participate in a lottery, even if they anticipate reinstatement in the upcoming fall term.
3. **Students Currently Abroad or on Leave.** Students who are currently taking a term abroad or a semester off may be included in the lottery only if they intend to be enrolled in Yale this coming fall. To participate in the housing draw, these students must declare their intent using Vesta and adhere to all the same deadlines as currently enrolled students.
4. **Students Planning a Fall Term Abroad.** Students who applied for and received confirmation for acceptance into a Fall term study abroad program should not participate in the Housing draw or contract for housing and should therefore declare intent to live off-campus, even if they plan to live on-campus in the spring term. Students attempting to secure on-campus housing they do not intend to use during the Fall term may be subject to the [charges outlined in Financial Services](#).
5. **Housing for Spring Term Only.** Students who will be studying abroad or on a Leave of Absence in the Fall and therefore want housing for the Spring term only must not participate in the Vesta process. See Section #4 above. Requests for second-semester housing for students who will be abroad or on leave in the Fall must be submitted by November 30. Every attempt will be made to accommodate returning students seeking second-semester housing but cannot be guaranteed.
6. **Mixed-Year Housing Within Stiles.** Any requests to live with members of another year within the college will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are granted only on an exceptional basis. For mixed-year housing, class is determined by the lowest year. This means that the upper-level student(s) in the group will enter the lower-level student's draw. This does not apply to students housing with their original class year.
7. **Co-ed Housing.** Rising seniors, juniors and sophomores are allowed to live in mixed-gender rooms and mixed-gender suites. In fact, unless specifically designated by the dean, all floors will also be mixed-gender.
8. **Special Needs or Housing Concerns.** The dean cannot guarantee any special arrangements unless such requests are accompanied by authorization from Student Accessibility Services (health-related) or the Chaplain's Office (faith-based). **Please note: students who received an extraordinary waiver last year, note that waiver will not apply/carry over to future years. Students must apply or register with the above-mentioned offices each year and notify the dean and McKenzie of your plan as soon as possible.**
9. **Ghosting.** Ghosting occurs when a student submits their name into the online system indicating intent to live on-campus, knowing that they do not plan to live on campus but does so as a "back-up," or an extension of the intent period. A student who does this and withdraws before the draw is also considered to be ghosting. The dean and the housing committee regard ghosting as disrespectful and inconsiderate behavior. Should this occur, one of two things may happen: (1) the group will be allowed

to keep the room, but the Dean and Housing Committee may place someone to fill the vacated spot without consulting the other group members, or (2) the group will forfeit their right to the room and may be forced to disperse. In addition, the individual who engaged in ghosting will be at the bottom list of the draw for all subsequent draws.

The Housing Draw

1. **Lottery Groups.** If any of the people in your lottery group (i.e., group of students who will form your suite) change or drop out after the group formation deadline, the Housing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action (e.g., assigning students to the room or giving the suite last pick in the draw.) Groups who fail to form by the group-formation deadlines automatically get last pick in their respective lotteries.
2. **Lotteries.** Lotteries determine the order in which students pick their rooms. Everyone is welcome to observe this process in the name of transparency. There are separate lotteries for the sophomore, junior, and senior classes.
3. **Decisions are Final.** Any and all decisions made at the draw are final.
4. **Best Behavior.** The Committee reserves the right to expel from the room draw proceedings anyone who causes a disturbance or who otherwise disrupts the room draw. The Committee will represent those expelled for the remainder of the draw.
5. **Housing Contracts.** At the time students choose a room, or are assigned a room by their appointed group leader, they are understood to have contracted for that room.

After the Housing Draw

1. **Room Switching.** If two suites or individuals wish to exchange rooms after the draw, they must do so by contacting the Dean's Office. All members of both suites must agree to any and all switches in writing (see McKenzie for instructions). **A student may not switch rooms without permission from the dean. If it is discovered that a student has done so without permission, they may have to move to their assigned room and will automatically be placed at the bottom of the following year's housing draw.**
 - a. Room keys will only be issued in the Fall for the corresponding room of record.
 - b. Unofficial key swaps are not permitted.
2. **Relinquishing Housing.** Prior to the 2020-2021 academic year, anyone who participated in room draw and then decided to relinquish their housing in order to live off-campus or to take a leave of absence was subject to a fine of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fall term room rate, per the Yale College Undergraduate Regulations. Policies pertaining to relinquishing housing for the 2021-2022 academic year have not yet been announced.
3. **Doubles are Doubles.** Should your roommate take a leave of absence or for any other reason surrender their on-campus housing, the Dean may fill that empty bed according to the needs of the college. The same applies for singles within a suite.

- 4. **Smoking.** Smoking is forbidden everywhere on campus. If a student is discovered to have smoked in the college, the student will be placed at the bottom of the housing draw for the following year and may be subject to other disciplinary actions as determined by the Head of College and Dean.
- 5. **Pets.** Pets are not allowed to reside within the college. Students with questions about support animals on campus should contact Student Accessibility Services.

Elastic Clause. The Housing Committee reserves the right to modify the rules at any time if the situation warrants. In addition, suite assignments can be changed to ensure fairness and to make sure that everyone has a place to live. All decisions will be made at the discretion of the Housing Committee, the Dean, and the Head. All decisions are final.

STILES 2021 HOUSING COMMITTEE
STUDENT MEMBERS

Class of 2021
Jaeger Johnson

Class of 2022
Reta Behnam
Tony Leche

Class of 2023
Annie Gimán
Sam Vitale

Class of 2024
Tiana Luo
Jake Wade