

Testimony from Yunhui Bai

As an international student, I rely solely on my salary as a graduate assistant at UMD to survive. The whole area is extremely expensive. Most of the rentals require that I make 2.5x the rent. Since I'm only receiving less than \$2500 per month (for 9.5 months!), I can't rent anywhere more expensive than \$1000/month. However, given this area is so expensive, it is extremely difficult to find a rental under that price even when I am willing to have one or two roommates. The student apartments around campus are also very expensive. A room in a 4-bedroom apartment is easily more than \$1000/month. I think the cost of living expectations the university have on us don't align with the reality of this area. It is true that TA is a part time job, but I live my life full time on that salary.