

iHouse Action Plan First-Year Housing Assignments

iHouse First Year Action Plan:

1. We take into consideration everyone who ranked iHouse as one of their top 5 housing choices.
2. We conduct very informal and welcoming information sessions where we introduce iHouse and its values. Facts that will definitely be mentioned:
 - a. iHouse is MIT's only living-learning community for students who wish to contribute to equitable and sustainable progress on a global scale.
 - b. iHouse values:
 - i. learning about international development, social justice, public service, environmental sustainability, civic engagement, etc.
 - ii. diversity and inclusion
 - iii. being community-oriented
 - iv. creating sustainable social change
 - c. Stats and facts: 24 residents (plus social members). Events include weekly house meetings, retreat once/semester, dinner lectures, study breaks, freshman seminar.
 - d. We are a cook-for-yourself community and we expect everyone to clean up after themselves.
 - e. Mention all-gender bathrooms in NH.
 - f. Interviewer is encouraged to talk about why they live in iHouse and what they like most about iHouse.
3. At the information sessions, we'll also talk about iHouse's interests, like social justice and international development. Here are some questions we may ask to get the conversation started:
 - a. Why would you like to join iHouse? What does community mean to you, and what are you expecting out of a living community?
 - b. What do you do for fun?
 - c. Tell us more about your interest/experience in social justice, sustainability, international development.
 - d. Tell us about a time you made a mistake or realized you had a bias, and how you responded.
 - e. What are you passionate about, and what sort of impact would you like to make? How do you see iHouse contributing towards those goals?
4. There will be a small committee of current iHousers dedicated to conducting these information sessions. If there's too many candidates the choice of who gets a room will be completely random and based on how highly they ranked iHouse in the housing form. For example, we'll give a room to a person who ranked us 1st before we give a room to a

person who ranked us 2nd. Everyone who is not picked from the lottery will be put in a waitlist, and if people decline we'll pick randomly from the waitlist.

5. We email the candidate within a day or two of the information session and let them know if we are offering them a spot, and they have a day or two to think about and decide whether or not to accept.
6. We encourage first years to explore other housing options during REX so that they find their right fit, and we're also hoping to get more first years during REX! We'll give the same info sessions to them. If first years are overwhelmed about choosing a dorm we encourage them to either talk to one of the iHouse upperclassmen or to the iHouse resident peer mentor. These people can also direct them to other campus resources if needed.
7. This same procedure is done for upperclassmen moving into iHouse anytime during the semester.