# IPRCStay Web Project Report

## Project Title

**IPRCStay.com - Hostel Finder Platform for IPRC Students**

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## Introduction

Finding safe and affordable accommodation around IPRC campuses is a challenge for many students. To address this issue, **IPRCStay** was developed as a responsive web-based platform designed to provide easy access to hostel listings near IPRC institutions across Rwanda.

The platform offers a simple and intuitive user interface that allows students to view available hostels, get detailed information, and easily make contact with property owners. Hostel owners can also use the platform to promote their properties to a wider student audience.

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## Objectives

- Provide IPRC students with a digital platform to locate hostels near their campuses.
- Improve student safety and comfort by increasing access to verified hostel information.
- Create an opportunity for hostel managers to advertise rooms online.
- Build a responsive, mobile-first web application for seamless access.

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## Target Audience

- IPRC students (Kigali, Huye, Tumba, Karongi, etc.)
- Parents and guardians of students seeking accommodation options
- Hostel owners or managers near IPRC campuses

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## Technologies Used

- **HTML5**: For structuring content on the web pages
- **CSS3**: For styling and layout, with responsiveness in mind
- **Bootstrap 5**: For faster, mobile-first development using a responsive grid, UI components, and utilities

- **JavaScript (future phase)**: For interactivity and dynamic data rendering (planned)

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# Project Features

### 1. Hero Section

- The homepage includes a large visual banner or hero section.
- This section is 50% of the viewport height (`50vh`) and features a prominent background image overlaid with a welcoming message and tagline.

### 2. Hostel Listing Cards

- Below the hero section, hostel cards are displayed in a grid layout.
- Each card includes the hostel's image, name, location, brief description, and pricing.
- Cards are responsive and stack nicely on mobile devices.

### 3. Footer with Contact Form

- The footer is divided into three main sections:
    - Useful links to important pages
    - Additional navigation categories
    - Contact form for user inquiries
- The form includes fields for name, email, and message, and a styled submit button.

### 4. Responsive Design

- The layout adjusts across different screen sizes using Bootstrap's grid system.
- Media queries ensure that margins, font sizes, and image dimensions' scale appropriately.

### 5. Clean and Modern UI

- Bootstrap ensures consistency across elements like buttons, input fields, and layout sections.
- The project uses a neutral color palette and strong green/blue call-to-action accents.

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# Page Structure

`index.html`

- Contains the homepage structure: hero section, hostel cards, and footer.

**style.css**

- Custom styles to enhance the default Bootstrap look (e.g., hero height, overlay effects, card shadows).

**/images/**

- Directory for storing hostel photos, hero banners, and logos.

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# How It Works (User Journey)

1. **Homepage Visit**: User lands on the homepage and sees a large welcoming banner.
2. **View Hostels**: Scrolls down to browse hostel cards with brief descriptions.
3. **Contact**: User can either visit the contact form in the footer or click on specific hostel links (planned for future phase).

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# Project Justification: Why This Project Is Ongoing

Rwanda's rapid growth in vocational and technical education, especially through IPRCs, has created a demand for secure, nearby, and affordable student housing. However, many students face difficulties finding verified accommodation. Traditional word-of-mouth methods are inefficient and risky.

**IPRCStay** addresses this gap by:

- Creating a centralized digital space for hostel discovery
- Enabling transparent access to housing options
- Supporting Rwanda's digital transformation agenda in the education sector

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# Future Improvements

- Filter system by campus, price, amenities
- Login portal for hostel managers to post and edit listings
- Integration with SMS or WhatsApp for direct communication
- Hosting with dynamic backend for real-time updates (e.g., Firebase or Laravel)

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# Conclusion

The IPRCStay project offers an important service to students and hostel owners, increasing accessibility and digital inclusion. It is a scalable and impactful solution that contributes directly to student well-being and convenience. With room for future development, IPRCStay sets a foundation for a national-level accommodation search system in Rwanda.

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