


A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several modern skyscrapers against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The buildings are covered in glass and steel, reflecting the warm orange and pink light of the low sun. The perspective creates a sense of height and scale. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by the warm tones of the sunset and the cool blues and greys of the buildings.

Where2Live-CE College Edition

*LET THE DATA HELP YOU CHOOSE
THE NEIGHBORHOOD*



Second to choosing a college or university, where to live “off campus” can be the most stressful decision students and parents must make.



My proposed business challenge is to provide a solution to aid parents and students in making that decision using a data-driven process.

Where2Live-CE The Proposal

- ▶ To aid residential decision-making, Where2Live will provide critical safety information by:
 - ▶ Plotting university residential neighborhoods on a map
 - ▶ Deriving neighborhood crime statistics
 - ▶ Visually displaying density of crimes with choropleth maps
- ▶ Where2Live will additionally survey neighborhood venues and services using FourSquare to tip the scales to what our students most desire in the surrounding area – such as: bars, coffee shops, bakeries/grocery stores, parks, and gyms.
- ▶ Where2Live-CE would aim to cover universities in major cities where data is readily available, starting with Columbia University, NYC.

Columbia University

New York City, New York



MIA & MPA Admissions Blog

[HOME](#)[ABOUT THIS BLOG](#)[IMPORTANT LINKS](#)[TOP 10 TIPS](#)[SUBMIT AN IDEA](#)[APPLY NOW](#)

JUN
26

Where to Live in New York

POSTED BY [GREGORY JOY](#)

When it comes to making the big move to the Big Apple, finding a place to live can be confusing for an incoming student. Online searching can easily bring you great prices on places but you may also be an hour away from class. Or there may be somewhere close to school but the space is limited and it's far away from the vibrant downtown life you may be looking for. Here is a guide on where to live in New York as an incoming SIPA Student and finding the neighborhood that is perfect for YOU!

Morningside Heights

Morningside Heights is the neighborhood in which Columbia University resides in. It spans from west of Morningside Park to Riverside Drive and from 110th to 125th. Some of the landmarks in Morningside Heights include Morningside Park, Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Mt. Sinai Hospital, and Riverside Church.

Pros: This neighborhood is great for anyone who is trying to live close to school. With everything from grocery stores to bars to classes being within a 15 minute walking distance, you're close to the academic action, school happy hours, and classmate study sessions.

Cons: You may feel that you're trapped within the Columbia bubble when living so close to school. Downtown can easily take 40-50 minutes to get to. It's also quite an expensive area. You won't get much size for your buck in this neighborhood, the grocery stores can be fairly expensive and an average meal at a local restaurant will cost you upward of \$15.

Harlem

Office Working Remotely

Please note, due to COVID-19, the SIPA Admissions and Financial Aid office are working remotely starting March 16, 2020, until further notice.

We will continue to respond to emails as promptly as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Important Dates

September 7, 2020: U.S. Labor Day (University Holiday)

September 8, 2020: Columbia Classes Begin

October 15, 2020: MIA/MPA/MPA-DP Spring Application Deadline

November 1, 2020: MIA/MPA/MPA-DP Fall Application Early Action Deadline

November 3, 2020: U.S. Election Day

Recent Posts

Summer Stories: Saiful Salihudin MIA '21 at the United Nations, Princeton, and with AOC

School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) blog publishes a guide for incoming students on where to live. This was used for neighborhood selection.



Morningside Heights

Morningside Heights is the neighborhood in which Columbia University resides in.

Pros: This neighborhood is great for anyone who is trying to live close to school.

Cons: Downtown can easily take 40-50 minutes to get to. It's also quite an expensive area.

Harlem

Harlem, while contested where it actually begins and ends, is generally considered the large neighborhood east of Morningside Park. Its major landmarks include the Apollo Theater, Sylvia's Soul Food, El Museo Del Barrio, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Pros: The neighborhood has a wide range to accommodate wallets of every size.

Cons: The only way to get to Columbia from Harlem is to ride the bus or to walk up the hundred stairs of Morningside Heights

Hamilton Heights/Manhattanville

I'm bringing these two neighborhoods together into the same synopsis because they offer very similar vibes and blend together. Manhattanville and Hamilton Heights are the neighborhoods between 125th Street and 155th Street, bordering Harlem to the East and Riverside to the West.

Pros: Hamilton Heights and Manhattanville are within spitting distance of Columbia University. Just take a few stops down the 1 track and you're at the campus. run around \$3000-\$3300/month with many rent-stabilized options available.

Cons: The neighborhood is very lively on the streets which can lead to a lot of noise. Compared to its surrounding neighborhoods. Some may find it boring.

Neighborhood Overview Data

More details available
on the [SIPA blog](#)

Upper West Side

Upper West Side is the Neighborhood between 59th and 110th and west of Central Park.

Pros: This neighborhood is known for its excellent food scene, proximity to Central Park, and nighttime quietness.

Cons: Upper West side brings a new definition of expensive, especially if you're living below 100th street.

Midtown

Midtown is truly the heart of New York, with neighborhoods like Times Square, Hell's Kitchen, and Turtle Bay. Midtown is the entire area of Manhattan between 34th and 59th street.

Pros: In Midtown, there is quite literally everything to do. It's a vibrant part of the city with endless options of fun.

Cons: The area is tourist central so expect it to be incredibly packed and people stopping every few feet to take pictures.

Data Sources

Where2Live-College Edition



New York City data containing the neighborhoods and boroughs, latitudes, and longitudes for mapping locations are obtained from the data source:

- https://cocl.us/new_york_dataset

```
] #View dataframe to confirm reduced neighborhoods
NY_df
```

```
Out[193]:
```

	Borough	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude
4	Manhattan	Hamilton Heights	40.823604	-73.949688
5	Manhattan	Manhattanville	40.816934	-73.957385
6	Manhattan	Central Harlem	40.815976	-73.943211
7	Manhattan	East Harlem	40.792249	-73.944182
12	Manhattan	Upper West Side	40.787658	-73.977059
15	Manhattan	Midtown	40.754691	-73.981669
26	Manhattan	Morningside Heights	40.808000	-73.963896

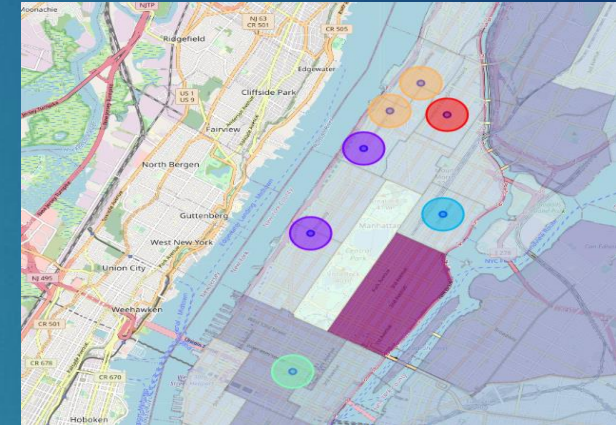
NYC Crime data to assess safety will be obtained from the following data set:

- <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Public-Safety/NYPD-Complaint-Data-Current-Year-To-Date-/5uac-w243>

	Precinct Number	Borough	Occurrence Year	MCI	Lat	Long	Coordinates
0	5	MANHATTAN	2019	SEX CRIMES	40.716196	-73.997491	(40.716195914000025, -73.99749074599998)
1	23	MANHATTAN	2019	OFF. AGNST PUB ORD SENSBLTY &	40.799665	-73.947200	(40.799665264000055, -73.94719977999995)
2	5	MANHATTAN	2019	RAPE	40.716196	-73.997491	(40.716195914000025, -73.99749074599998)
3	5	MANHATTAN	2019	PETIT LARCENY	40.714431	-74.006101	(40.714430898000046, -74.00610127799997)
4	9	MANHATTAN	2019	DANGEROUS DRUGS	40.722397	-73.978536	(40.722397099000003, -73.97853584199999)
5	18	MANHATTAN	2019	THEFT-FRAUD	40.770827	-73.992611	(40.770827222000044, -73.99261118899994)
6	14	MANHATTAN	2019	GRAND LARCENY	40.747881	-73.991040	(40.747881047000008, -73.99104019099997)
7	19	MANHATTAN	2019	GRAND LARCENY	40.775773	-73.954750	(40.775772829000006, -73.95475034499998)
8	30	MANHATTAN	2019	PETIT LARCENY	40.824602	-73.950114	(40.824602366000008, -73.95011391699995)
9	19	MANHATTAN	2019	OFF. AGNST PUB ORD SENSBLTY &	40.767336	-73.954875	(40.767335547000007, -73.95487521099994)
10	34	MANHATTAN	2019	PETIT LARCENY	40.853725	-73.926802	(40.853725030000008, -73.926801992)
11	19	MANHATTAN	2019	THEFT-FRAUD	40.781199	-73.947778	(40.781198970000005, -73.94777714999997)

Police Precincts for creating Choropleth reported in geojson in the following file:


- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/dwillis/nyc-maps/master/police_precincts.geojson



Foursquare Developers Access to venue data for surveying services:

- <https://foursquare.com/>

	Location	African Restaurant	American Restaurant	Arepa Restaurant	Art Gallery	Art Museum	Arts & Crafts Store
0	Central Harlem	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
1	East Harlem	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
2	Hamilton Heights	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Manhattanville	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
4	Midtown	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
5	Morningside Heights	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Upper West Side	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01



Our customers, students and parents desperate for residential guidance, should come away more confident in their decision where to live after letting the data help them choose *Where2Live*.