

**T**he Shea House provides approximately 75 students at the University of Virginia the unique opportunity to live for an academic year in an environment of total language immersion in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, Persian or Italian. Modeled after similar houses for other languages, the Shea House serves as the cultural and linguistic center at UVA for five of the richest and most widely spoken languages of Asia and for Italian. Each year a number of exciting cultural events take place at the Shea House in collaboration with faculty from the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (AMELC) and from the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. Whether joking with friends, sharing meals, keeping a journal, discussing films, or debating politics, students living at the Shea House have one of the finest opportunities available at a North American university to deepen their experience of these vital languages and cultures.

**T**he Shea House is located at the corner of Jefferson Park Avenue and Monroe Lane, across from the Student Health Center. Along with the already existing Casa Bolívar and La Maison Française, the Shea House is one of the foundations of the “Language Precinct” at UVA, and it is a convenient five-minute walk from Central Grounds and The Lawn.

**T**his state of the art building consists of six residential areas divided among four floors; one each for Arabic, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Italian, Japanese, and Persian. Each area also houses a native or near-native-speaking Language Assistant (LA) who helps organize a weekly language table as well as other cultural events. Other staff members include a Language House Advisor, a Coordinator of Programs and a faculty resident Director. Entry to the building is on the first floor, and there is an elevator for the students’ convenience. There are both single-occupancy and double-occupancy rooms, and the cost per bed is similar to that for other focused-housing on Grounds: approximately \$2,900 for double occupancy and \$3,380 for a single room. Dining costs and a \$50 activity fee are excluded.

A satellite dish allows direct access to the relevant languages’ TV programming. Students living in the Shea House are provided with full laundry facilities, central heating and air conditioning, high-speed Ethernet connections in each room, and spacious common areas. Food is provided by ARAMARK and is available through one of the University’s meal plans. On special occasions, the Shea House cook also provides cuisine from all the cultures represented there, and an in-house kitchen allows students to cook for themselves. In addition to the House’s ground-floor dining area, there is also a terrace located between the Shea House and Casa Bolívar that may be used for patio dining.