At a big university like Penn State, it can be hard for students to build a strong educational network and personal community. In the College of Information Sciences and Technology, students can make a big university feel small by residing in the college’s Special Living Option (SLO).

Located in Thompson Hall in the West Housing Area, the College of IST’s SLO offers designated campus housing to IST students so they can live and learn with classmates who have similar interests.

The College of IST’s Special Living Option strives to create a unique living environment that fosters social and academic interaction between students. It aims to enhance the awareness of information and technology by bringing residents of common interests together and advocating for a greater appreciation for the future of technology.

Secure Your Spot

1. **Accept your admission offer**
   
   Login to your MyPennState account and accept your University admission offer by May 1.

2. **Accept your housing contract**
   
   After accepting your admission offer, you’ll receive a housing and food service contract. Login at eliving.psu.edu and accept your housing contract by May 1.

3. **Select the IST Special Living Option**
   
   Update your housing preferences at eliving.psu.edu by selecting the IST Special Living Option and checking “West Halls” as your first preference for housing by May 15.
The College of IST’s Special Living Option offers a great way to connect with other students, meet new people, and build a unique living and learning environment on campus. As a member of the IST SLO, students can attend special events such as floor dinners, movie nights, themed holiday parties, and academic workshops, and join intramural IST SLO sports teams.

**Here are a few more benefits to living in the IST Special Living Option:**

- **Location!** Thompson Hall is located across the street from the Westgate Building, the home of the College of Information Sciences and Technology where most of your IST courses will be located.

- **Friends!** Coming to a large place like Penn State can be intimidating, but students report that they were easily able to make new friends in the IST Special Living Option. They have classes together, share interests, and understand the challenges that come with being new to Penn State.

- **Guaranteed Housing!** Once you are a member of the IST Special Living Option, you are guaranteed housing with Penn State as an upperclassman, provided you remain an active member of the Special Living Option community. Students in other residence halls are added to a lottery to secure on-campus housing after their first year.

- **Networking!** There are plenty of upperclassmen living in the IST Special Living Option, so you will be able to ask them questions about your coursework, get help with planning your schedule, and learn tips on how to find internships from students who have already had these experiences.

- **More space!** The IST SLO also offers bigger rooms than other campus dorms, the ability to move furniture, single and double rooms, and separated male and female wings.