

Housemate Quest



TIP FROM
AN UPPER
YEAR

"In first year I thought that living with friends from my floor would be easy. Immediately we had conflict over chores and one housemate changed the dynamics by having their partner over all the time. By the end of first term we couldn't stand each other. My next house was better because I took my time and moved in with people I knew less well but had more in common with."

Student Community Relations: We've got you covered

Living off campus with a group of peers is hard work. **Student Community Relations** helps resolve issues when housemate decisions go wrong. We know that a good outcome in your off-campus living situation depends on good preparation, so get potential housemates together and use this worksheet to see if you share expectations for moving off campus.

I hope to spend a maximum of \$ _____ on rent.

I hope to keep shared costs such as utilities & internet under \$ _____

When it comes to money, my best friend would say that I _____

My greatest contribution to a shared living situation will be my _____

I think all our housemates should share the following 3 characteristics

1.

2.

3.

In my worldview the following 3 things are most important:

1.

2.

3.

Yes or No:

- Y N I am comfortable with smoking in our house
- Y N I expect limitations on how often guests stay over
- Y N I want my housemates to be my primary social contacts
- Y N I want to bring/get a pet
- Y N I want to sublet my/our space over the summer to reduce costs
- Y N I expect our house to be the social center for all our friends
- Y N I can tolerate dirt when life gets busy

Too many differences? Start again with different people or negotiate a compromise, then put your expectations in writing using a housemate contract.

Rank of my Personal Priorities 1 - 15:

- Good soundproofing between rooms and units
- In-house laundry
- Equal sized bedrooms
- Parking
- Dishwasher
- Atmosphere conducive to quiet study
- At or under my budget price
- More than one bathroom
- Proximity to Campus
- Stand-alone house (not an apartment or divided house)
- Access to outside space (not all leases allow for use of lawns & porches)
- In an all-student neighborhood
- Large common areas - kitchen living/family room
- Mixed student/family neighborhood
- All living spaces above ground (not a basement apartment/no basement bedrooms)