

SU Madrid Roommate Agreement

Students will be living with a host family during their study abroad time in Madrid. Most students will be in a double room with twin beds, which will be occupied by a member of the SU Madrid program of the same sex. There will generally be two twin-size beds, a small closet, one or two bookshelves, a table, two chairs and a reading lamp. If there is no study desk inside the bedroom the host family will indicate where the study area is. The closet and the table in your room are to be shared by both students. Host families will clean your room at least once a week. It is recommended that, especially at the beginning, students keep their eyes open and observe what the family members do and do not do. Students should be polite and respectful to their family and their roommate. This experience allows you to assimilate quickly and immerse into the Spanish lifestyle, having breakfast and dinner with your Spanish hosts and participating in la sobremesa (discussion around the table), and other Spanish customs. Former students are nearly unanimous in their praise for their host families.

This agreement is designed to help roommates/suitemates get to know one another, open the lines of communication, and provide tips to build successful relationships. Before discussing ground rules, consider:

- You and your roommate are completely different, have different viewpoints, and come from different cultural backgrounds, lifestyles, etc. It is important to be respectful of these differences and learn from one another.
- One or both of you may have never shared a room with someone else.
- Even if you and your roommate are childhood best friends, it is still a good idea to think about what ways to support existing friendships throughout the year.

In order to help start the conversation on appropriate boundaries/expectations for your room, please take time to review and complete the sections below. It is suggested each of you review this agreement to consider your expectations prior to the meeting, take notes and come prepared to discuss with your roommate and the Housing Coordinator.

Communication:

How will you communicate with one another when a concern arises? (i.e., discuss the issue in person/text/call) How late is it okay for phone calls to be made? If there is a concern how should it be addressed? How do you expect the other person to react when any issues are addressed?

Study/Sleep Time:

Are you a morning/night person? When do you typically go to bed? Wake up? What type of environment helps you concentrate on your studies? What times of the day are reserved for studying? If one person is sleeping, what activities are acceptable in the room?

Noise Level & Quiet Hours:

What level of sound is appropriate from TVs, stereos, etc.? Around what time do you go to sleep during weekdays/weekend and when does everyone need to be quiet? What time do you typically wake up during the weekdays/weekend? What level of noise from talking, laughing, etc. is acceptable? What is the best way to let each other know if there is a noise issue?

Hygiene:

What will be the resolution if one of the roommate's hygiene becomes a concern? (This can be a difficult/uncomfortable thing to talk about, but it is often an issue and is best to discuss before it becomes a problem) How would you feel safest hearing this kind of news from your roommates/suitemates? How often will the room be picked up? How often will the bathroom be picked up? Shower in the morning or night?

Personal Possessions/Sharing:

Do you intend to share items with your roommate? If so, what kind of items are you willing to share? What are you not willing to share? In what condition do you expect your things to be returned in? How long is too long for your roommate to borrow something?

Self-Reflection:

Things that I can easily get frustrated with that my roommate should know of ("pet peeves"):

Conflict:

How do you prefer to deal with conflict?

If conflict arises we should handle the situation the following way:

- ask me what is wrong
 - leave me alone
 - let me be and I will talk about the situation when I am ready
 - Talk to the Housing Coordinator
 - Other:
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If you wish to renegotiate any of the terms in this form or further discuss room/suite expectations, how should I bring that up? Should we have regular scheduled re-visitations of this document? If yes, when?
