

Tips for sharing accommodation

Healthy Living Habits

To avoid conflict rising within your apartment it is important to begin healthy living habits from the very beginning. If you follow the tips below it will help stop small issues in the apartment from growing into larger ones.

- At the very beginning you and your roommates should create a roster of household chores that must be completed every week. Remember to rotate the chores so that you are responsible for different chores each week.
- Remember to empty your bin as soon as it gets close to full. Don't leave food piling up or full bin bags lying around as not only will they smell, but they can also attract unwanted vermin.
- While you are living here you are responsible for keeping the apartment clean, and this includes the carpets and floors! Carpet cleaner can be bought cheaply in the supermarket and vacuum bags are available for free from the Accommodation Office. Vacuum your apartment at least once a week to avoid dirt building up and staining the carpets as a charge for carpet cleaning could be taken from your deposit.
- It is very important to keep your bathroom clean, especially if you are sharing it with another person. It is a good idea to keep antibacterial wipes and toilet cleaner/bleach in the bathroom and to use these once a week. This will help to maintain a level of cleanliness and avoid germs building up.
- If you are cooking in the apartment remember to clean up after yourself so your roommates can use the saucepans etc. Don't leave your dirty plates and cutlery to build up as this can be frustrating for your housemates.
- If you decide to share the expenses of household items such as cleaning products, bin bags, toilet paper etc., then it is a good idea to organise a kitty and for each resident to put in 2 or 3 euro each week. This avoids some residents feeling out of pocket as it splits the costs evenly. Remember that light bulbs and vacuum bags are available from the Accommodation Office for free.
- One of the most important things to remember is to report any maintenance issues straight away- if we don't know about it, we can't fix it! We aim to have issues fixed in 24 to 48 hours but for more serious issues such as no hot water, electricity is tripped, toilet not flushing etc., then we will fix them as soon as possible. Outside of office hours you can contact Security who will be able to help you.

Conflict Resolution

Living with other people, especially strangers, is never as easy as it may seem. Some small sacrifices may need to be made on each side. Changing your apartment due to a disagreement or argument with your roommate may NOT be possible, however. Apartment changes are granted in a limited number of cases and are subject to the decision of the Accommodation Manager. We would suggest trying the tips below to see if you can reach a compromise or resolution with your roommate. If you feel the issue is beyond your control or if you would like some help please come to the Accommodation Office to give us the full details and we will see what we can do for you.

- If your roommate is doing something that bothers you (e.g not cleaning up after themselves, are noisy in the morning) try confronting them about it in a polite manner and let them know it is bothering you.
- If you and your roommate sleep and wake up at different times it is important for you to be considerate of one another and be as quiet as possible when the other is asleep. Avoid banging doors and turning on the main lights if possible.
- If you feel your roommates are not pulling their weight in the apartment or are not doing their fair share of cleaning, try calling a house meeting where you all sit down together and discuss the fairest way of organising it.
- If you feel uncomfortable or threatened by your roommate at any point, remove yourself from the situation and phone Security on 086 818 2370.
- In the unlikely event that you cannot resolve an issue through compromise and discussion please come to the Accommodation Office to report it.
- You can make a formal complaint to the office so that we can address the issue head on and bring in the relevant student/students in for a meeting.
- You can also make an anonyming complaint however this can take a lot longer as we need to gather evidence before we have a reason to bring them in for a meeting.