



## Residential Life Roommate Agreement

For many of you, this may be your first time living away from home and living with someone who is not a family member. Most students that live in campus housing report a greater level satisfaction with their college experience and many make lifelong friendships with the people that they live with. However, just like family members face natural conflicts, it's quite possible and even likely that you will face some form of roommate conflict over the next year. Because of this, it's important that you start out your living situation with a mutual understanding of what the norms will be in your apartment. We want to prepare you to think of some scenarios prior to move-in and be prepared to create a roommate contract once you move in this fall. Spend some time thinking and write some responses to the following questions:

### Guests

- When is it okay to have guests over?
- How much advance warning is needed?
- Will one roommate with a guest have exclusive rights to the apartment? If so, for how long? What happens if a guest damages property?
- What if both of you want to have guests at the same time?
- Are there different rules for same sex vs. opposite sex visitors?

### Personal Property

- What's okay to share? What's off limits?
- What happens if something is touched without permission?

### Cleanliness

- What's your idea of clean? What do you consider messy?
- What's necessary to keep your space livable? Whose responsibility is it?
- Where does dirty laundry go?
- How should the bathroom be kept? Kitchen? Bedroom? Common area?

### Study/Quiet Time

- What are your hours of study?
- Is it okay for your roommate to watch TV or listen to the radio while you study?
- Is it okay for your roommate to work on the computer while you sleep?
- When do you sleep/get up? How will you deal with alarm clocks? (Is hitting the snooze button going to cause problems for you or your roommate?)
- Are there different rules for the weekend?

### **Telephone/Mail**

- Where do you want your mail to go? Who is checking the mail box?
- Is it okay for your roommate to talk on the phone when you are sleeping or studying?
- Are there certain hours when friends should not call?

### **Shared Costs**

- Should you split costs on anything? If so, how will bills get paid (cash, check, credit card)? If you split food or laundry products, how do you decide what's fair?

### **Smoking/Alcohol**

- Will alcohol be allowed in your room? If so, under what conditions? (University policy states that you must be over 21 to consume alcohol and if guests are present in the apartment at the time there is alcohol being consumed, the guests must also be 21)
- Is anyone allergic to smoke? (University policy states that there is no smoking in the apartments or on any of balconies or landings)

### **Personal Space**

- How will your room be decorated?
- Are there any areas that should be off limits?
- What happens if someone puts up something offensive?

### **Disagreements**

- How will you handle disagreements?
- How will you handle updates to your contract?
- What if someone breaks the contract?
- What if someone breaks the law or the University Community Standards?

### **Other Issues**

- Is there anything else you need to know about each other to get along?
- What's the most important thing you each want respected?

“Discussing all these issues up-front prevents a lot of future hassles. You may think it's too much work or that you'll be able to deal with problems as they arise. But it's much harder once emotions cloud the issue” (Fee, 2009).