

ROOMMATE CONNECTIONS

Living with someone requires a balance of mutual respect,
cooperation, and consideration.



上海纽约大学
NYU SHANGHAI

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Proactive Communication

Proactive communication is the foundation of successful roommate relationships and an important interpersonal skill

Topics to Talk About

- Where are you from?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- What classes will you be taking?
- What activities or classes will you join?
- Will you be working a job this semester?

Discuss Expectations

- Study habits (music, silence)
- Sleeping schedules
- Lighting preferences
- Daily routines
- Personal pet peeves
- Frustrating situations

If you already know each other, take time to reconnect. Living together is different from simply being friends, so discuss expectations before problems arise.

Roommate Agreement

Write down the expectations
you both agree on

A Roommate Agreement
provides

a reference you can refer to if
disagreements arise later.

Two handwritten signatures in purple ink, one in a cursive style and the other in a more stylized, blocky style, positioned over a horizontal line.

While it's wonderful if roommates become close friends, that shouldn't be the expectation. The goal is to build a respectful, cooperative living relationship where everyone feels comfortable in their shared space.

Be Friendly, Be Kind
Be Respectful

Living Together

Shared living spaces require teamwork. Soon after moving in, discuss how you would like to manage your room together.

Room Arrangements

Consider discussing:

- Cleaning shared appliances such as refrigerator, kettle, or microwave.
- Trash responsibilities
- Laundry routines
- Cleaning schedules
- Bathroom cleanliness
- Personal hygiene expectations

Beware of Hazards

Poor room maintenance can lead to:

- Insects or pests attracted by food or garbage
- Fire hazards caused by accumulated trash
- Clutter that blocks emergency exits or emergency personnel during an evacuation

Keeping your room

clean isn't just about appearance :

It helps create a safer living environment

Schedules & Guests

Small compromises such as using headphones late at night or preparing breakfast elsewhere, can make a big difference.

A guest is anyone who is not assigned to your room, including other students.



Topics to discuss include:

- Wake-up times
- Bedtimes
- Morning routines
- Quiet hours
- Study hours
- Shared bathroom schedules

Remember:

- Check with your roommate before inviting guests
- No overnight guests (including other students)
- Never leave guests alone in your room
- Respect your roommate's need for privacy and personal space

Consideration

Shared Respect

Using Shared Supplies

Before assuming your roommate is comfortable sharing supplies, have a conversation.

Some roommates prefer to purchase everything separately, while others enjoy sharing after discussing responsibilities.

If purchasing larger shared items together, decide in advance what will happen to them at the end of the year.

Borrowing Belongings

Always ask permission before borrowing something that belongs to your roommate.

If your roommate agrees:

Return it promptly.

Replace consumable items.

Return belongings to where they belong.

Remember that some belongings may have sentimental value or financial importance. Don't take it personally if your roommate prefers not to share

Handling Loss or Breakage

If you accidentally lose or damage your roommate's belongings:
Apologize.

Replace the item or reimburse them as soon as possible.

Safety

Campus Safety (24/7 hotline)

+86 21 2059 5500

Room E118, 567 West Yangsi Road,

Pudong New District, Shanghai

All roommate agreements must comply with university policies and uphold the safety of the residential community.

Examples include:

Not sharing the keycode with others

Locking the room door

Bringing unfamiliar people into the residence

Keeping prohibited items

Ignoring university housing policies

Safety should never be compromised.

Establish Comfort Levels

If something in the room makes you uncomfortable, speak up early.

If a roommate wishes to keep a prohibited item, remember that all roommates may be held responsible for policy violations.

If necessary, contact Residential Education and Housing staff for assistance.



Living with Different People

Your roommate may come from a very different background than your own. This can be an opportunity to learn about different cultures, religions, traditions, and lifestyles.

For example:

- International students may need to call home during late hours because of time zone differences.
- A roommate may need quiet time for prayer or other personal practices.

Respect each other's needs and work together to find solutions that allow everyone to feel comfortable.

Looking Out for Each Other

College can be stressful, and roommates are often the first people to notice when something isn't right.

Signs someone may be struggling include:

- Frequently missing class or work
- Sudden changes in appearance
- Withdrawing from friends or activities
- Significant weight changes
- Talking about death or suicide
- Sleeping too much or too little

If you notice these signs, encourage your roommate to seek help.

If you believe they may harm themselves or others, **contact Campus Safety 20595500 immediately**. Remember: Supporting someone is about helping them access professional resources.

Not handling the situation alone.



Resolving Conflicts

Conflict is a normal part of living with another person. Addressing concerns respectfully and early is often the best way to prevent small problems from becoming larger ones.

Anonymous Complaints

Residence Life staff frequently receive requests to resolve roommate issues anonymously. However, anonymous complaints rarely allow staff to facilitate productive conversations. Conversations are an easy way to address minor issues that are easily solvable.

Residents should first discuss concerns directly with one another. If those conversations are unsuccessful, seek assistance from your RA or Residential Education and Housing staff.

Social Media

Avoid posting about roommate conflicts on social media. While it may feel easier to vent online, concerns should be discussed directly with your roommate whenever possible to maintain trust and respect.

Do's and Don'ts During Conversations

Do

Bring concerns up early.

Use "I" statements.

Be specific about your needs.

Stay respectful and solution-focused.

Don't

Drop hints.

Use words like "always" or "never."

Wait until multiple issues build up.

Argue through text messages or social media.

Sample Conversation

Instead of saying:

"You're always so rude!"

Try:

"I have a hard time sleeping with bright lights on. Could you please use your desk lamp after midnight instead of the ceiling light?"

Scenario

You're rushing to class, and your phone battery is almost dead. You can't find your charger, but your roommate has the same charger on their desk. They're still asleep. Is it okay to borrow it?

No. Residents should always obtain permission before borrowing a roommate's belongings, even during urgent situations. If your roommate is unavailable, think about alternative solutions instead of assuming permission.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can't I Just Switch Rooms?

Changing rooms may seem like the easiest solution, but roommate conflicts often follow if communication and conflict-resolution skills are not developed. Many students find that simply changing rooms does not solve the underlying problem.

Before requesting a room change, make a genuine effort to work through concerns with your roommate. If the situation does not improve, speak with Residential Education and Housing staff for guidance and support.

What if My Roommate Doesn't Want to Talk?

Give them some time and ask if there's a better time to have the conversation. Avoid confronting them when they're rushing to class or visibly stressed. If they continue to avoid discussing important concerns, reach out to your RA for guidance.

What if We Just Have Different Living Styles?

Different lifestyles don't necessarily mean you're incompatible roommates. The goal isn't to be exactly alike. It's to understand each other's needs and find compromises that allow everyone to live comfortably.

What if My Roommate Keeps Breaking Our Agreement?

Start by referring back to your Roommate Agreement and discussing the issue calmly. If repeated conversations don't help, involve your RA or Residential Education and Housing staff before the situation escalates.

What if My Roommate Uses My Things Without Asking?

Talk to your roommate directly and explain how it affects you. Clearly communicate what you're comfortable sharing and what you'd prefer to keep personal. Setting boundaries early helps prevent misunderstandings.

What if My Roommate is Too Loud?

Describe the specific behavior that's bothering you rather than labeling your roommate as "loud." For example, explain when the noise occurs and suggest possible solutions, such as using headphones or establishing quiet hours.

What if I Feel Uncomfortable with My Roommate's Guest?

You have the right to feel safe and comfortable in your own room. Speak with your roommate about your concerns and discuss guest expectations. If the issue involves safety or policy violations, contact Campus Safety at 20595500

What if My Roommate is Going Through a Difficult Time?

Offer support and encourage them to seek help, but don't try to handle serious situations on your own. If you're worried they may harm themselves or others, please call Campus Safety 20595500 or Wellness 20599999 immediately.

What if We Can't Reach an Agreement?

Not every disagreement has a perfect solution. The goal is to find a compromise that everyone can agree to live with. If you're unable to resolve the issue together, your RA can help facilitate a conversation.

Useful Contacts

Residential Education and Housing

W640, 567 West Yangsi Road, Pudong New District, Shanghai

Campus Safety (24/7 hotline)

+86 21 2059 5500

Room E118, 567 West Yangsi Road, Pudong New District, Shanghai

Wellness Exchange (24/7 hotline)

+86 21 2059 9999

+1 (212) 443-9999

Student Health Center - West Building 4th Floor

