

Roommate Agreement

Welcome to Nipissing University Residence: Your NU Home! The key to successfully navigating roommate relationships is good communication. The purpose of the Roommate Agreement is to facilitate communication between roommates and mutually establish guidelines for living together.

Where to start? The best way to determine how you want to live with roommates is by thinking about your expectations. What do you expect the year ahead to look like? What is important to you when living with others? What makes a good roommate? What are your likes, dislikes, needs and habits in a living arrangement?

Creating your Roommate Agreement: Roommates are asked to spend quality time discussing each section, being as straightforward and honest with their opinions as possible. You will find this discussion most useful if you are completely honest about your needs and habits. The best Roommate Agreements come from open, honest communication!

Suite/House Number: _____

Residence Complex: _____

Roommate Names:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Communication:

Communicating your needs clearly and respectfully is an important part of establishing positive roommate relationships.

How do you want to be communicated with regarding regular day-to-day conversation? (Group chats, texting, Snapchat, DMs, Facebook Messenger, phone calls, face-to-face)

What communication method will you use should a conflict and/or issue arise? It is strongly recommended that you communicate any and all issues face-to-face. (Face-to-face, texting, etc.)

Behaviour/Habits:

Roommates who make attempts to respect and understand each other's differences and embrace diversity help foster positive and successful roommate relationships!

Do you have any particular likes or dislikes your roommates should know about? (Loud music, food preparation, locking doors, social activities, etc.)

What are some habits you think your roommates should know about? (Showers/baths, napping, musical instruments, loud talker, sleep walking, cleanliness, etc.)

Guests:

Residents are more than welcome to host guests throughout the year. Guests include individuals who do not live in your complex, and in the Roommate Agreement should also include anyone visiting your suite/house. Please refer to the Residence Handbook for more information about hosting guests.

How far in advance should we know a guest is visiting? Does this change based on your relationship to the guest(s) (i.e.: significant others vs. parents vs. mutual friends vs. friends not known by all roommates).

How long are guests allowed to stay? (Day vs. night, week vs. weekend) Please note that guests are permitted to stay for no more than ___ consecutive nights for a total of 6 nights per month.

When will we not have guests? Please note that residents are not permitted to host guests past 11:59pm during Orientation Week, Frosh Week, and April and December exam periods.

What do we define as an 'issue' with a guest(s)? (ie: frequency of visits, behaviour, noise, etc.) We will refer to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement when addressing issues related to guests.

Noise and Sleep:

How late is too late for noise? For reference, residence quiet hours are 11:00pm – 10:00am Sunday through Thursday, and 1:00am – 10:00am Friday and Saturday. If there are issues with noise, we will refer back to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement.

When do you like to sleep? (weekdays vs. weekends)

Study Habits:

*If you prefer studying in your suite, where will you be studying? (Kitchen table, bedroom, living room).
What time(s) do you like to study? (Morning vs. afternoon vs. evening vs. night)*

What is your preferred noise level for studying?

Parties:

Residents are welcome to host parties and socials in their suite/house. Please review the Residence Community Living Standards (RCLS) found in the Residence Handbook for specifics on topics related to parties.

What constitutes a party vs. "hanging out" vs. having friends over? (Number of people, environment, noise level, social activities involved). Please note that any guests who do not live in your complex must be signed in at the front desk on Fridays and Saturdays after 9:00pm.

How often do we like to host parties? Will we host parties? We will refer to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement to address issues regarding parties (guests, certain social activities, noise level, time frame/time of day or night, etc.)

Alcohol:

This section of the roommate agreement pertains to residents who are over the age of 19. Residents who are 19 and older may consume alcohol responsibly within their suite/house and bedroom should they choose. Please review the RCLS for information regarding alcohol in residence.

How do we feel about drinking alcohol in the suite/house? Where in the suite is it acceptable to consume alcohol? (bedroom vs. common spaces) We will refer to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement when addressing issues related to alcohol use in our suite/house.

How do we feel about guests drinking alcohol in our suite/house?

Safety & Security:

Every resident has the right to feel safe in their suite/house, and the responsibility to ensure that their actions do not detract from the safety and security of themselves and others.

How will we remember to bring our keys with us when we leave our suite/house? Please note that residents must bring their suite/house keys and fob with them whenever they leave their suite/house.

When will you be locking the suite/house door?

- When all of us are home When other roommates are home When none of us are home
- Every time we leave the suite/house regardless of who is home

Food, Shopping & Personal vs. Shared Items:

How will we share cupboard, fridge, and freezer space? Will you label what belongs to you?

Will we be sharing food/groceries? (Items to consider: butter, milk, eggs, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, Tupperware, etc.) If you are unwilling to share certain items, how will you ensure that your roommates know that they belong to you? (Labelling, keeping them in your bedroom, etc.)

How will you split costs if you are grocery shopping for shared items? (Buying on a rotational schedule, splitting costs equally, etc.)

How do you feel about lending personal items? (Clothing, musical instruments, video games, makeup, etc.)? How will we ask to borrow items?

What items can be shared in the common spaces? (Items to consider include: microwave, toaster, coffee makers, television and video gaming consoles, musical instruments, etc.) Common spaces include: living room and loft, bathroom(s), kitchen, storage room(s) and connective hallways.

Cleanliness & Cleaning Responsibilities:

Roommates are responsible for ensuring that their suite/house is kept clean and in good condition. Use the questions below to determine how you will be sharing cleaning responsibilities in common spaces. Please review the RCLS for specific information regarding cleanliness.

How neat should the common living spaces be? (Living room, kitchen, storage space/loft, hallway(s) inside the suite/house)

- Spotless with everything in its place all the time
- Everything in its place most of the time
- Everything in its place occasionally

How will we divide shared cleaning tasks? If your suite/house would like a cleaning schedule or chore chart, please visit the residence website for downloadable, printable options.

How often will we do our dishes? Will we be responsible for doing our own dishes? Are dishes allowed to stay in the drying rack or sink? If so, how long? We will refer to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement to address issues related to dishes.

How often will specific cleaning tasks be completed? (Vacuuming, mopping, cleaning the oven and countertops, cleaning the fridge, cleaning the toilets and shower stalls/tubs, garbage and recycling, etc.) It is recommended that roommates remove garbage and recycling minimally once a week. If there are issues with cleaning responsibilities, we will refer to the communication section of our Roommate Agreement.

Bathrooms:

The suite/house bathrooms are considered common or "shared" spaces.

What time of day do you prefer to shower and/or bathe? Will you use a shower schedule?

How will we share bathroom cleaning responsibilities? (Will roommates living in A/B or 1/2/3/ bedrooms only be responsible for the A/B or 1/2/3 bathroom? Will we use a cleaning schedule?)

Additional Expectations:

Are there any other living expectations that are important to you?

We understand that we may negotiate and/or review this agreement at any time during the year either on our own as a roommate group, or by contacting our Residence Don. We understand that we should review our Roommate Agreement in September, after both Reading Weeks (October and February), and after Winter Break (January) and report any changes to our Residence Don. By signing our Roommate Agreement, we are agreeing that we have discussed every item openly and honestly, that we agree to the terms and values that we have included, and will do our best to communicate and learn from each other as roommates.

Roommate Signatures:

_____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____
_____	Date: _____

Residence Don Signature:

_____	Date: _____
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