

Housemate Hunting

Are they “the one”?

Unlike reality TV, in the real world of off-campus living you can't vote out a housemate who suddenly doesn't suit you. Living off campus with a group of peers, without the moderating influence of a supportive Don, is hard work. Experience tells those who work in Student Affairs that a good outcome in your off campus living situation depends on good preparation. Get your group of potential housemates together and take this survey to see if you share harmonious expectations for the business and interpersonal workings of your house.

Upper-year student says:

“Housemates will make or break your off-campus living experience. You might be the best of friends in residence, but you can soon find yourself in a fight with a housemate over whether the thermometer should be set at 18 or 21 degrees. Dishes and garbage fuel the fire and before you know it someone wants to move out of your house. Choose wisely; compatibility is key.”

Fill out the questions below and then compare your answers with those of your potential housemates.

I am prepared to spend the following on rent.

I expect that shared costs such as utilities, phone, cable, and internet will cost \$.

My general philosophy on paying bills is

My greatest contribution to a shared living situation will be my

I think all our housemates should share the following three characteristics:

In my personal belief structure, the following three things are most important:

Which, if any, of the following statements are personal priorities to you?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-house laundry | <input type="checkbox"/> At my budget price | <input type="checkbox"/> Good soundproofing between rooms and units |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal sized bedrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple bathrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Atmosphere conducive to quiet study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Campus | <input type="checkbox"/> Stand-alone house (not an apartment or divided house) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large common areas | <input type="checkbox"/> In the student district | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to outside space (not all leases allow for use lawns and parties) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> A basement apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed student/family neighborhood |

If you selected "other" in the previous question, kindly provide an explanation below.

Which, if any, of the following statements applies to you?

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I am comfortable with smoking in our house | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I expect limitations on how often guests stay over | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I want to share grocery shopping and meal preparation duties | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I am considering getting a pet | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I want to sublet my/our space over the summer to reduce costs | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I expect our house to be the social center for all our friends | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |
| I can tolerate living in a dirty house | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Maybe |

Compare your results with those of your potential housemates. If there is too great a difference, it's time to either start again with different people or start negotiating and formalizing your expectations into a workable housemate contract.