

I hope this message finds everyone well and enjoying their summer. In our continued efforts to update and inform students, I am writing today to address issues of residential engagement and responsibility.

Much has changed in the last six months and we recognize that our residential policies must take into account a new series of health considerations and a shared responsibility for the health and wellness of our students and staff.

With this message, I hope to provide you with an overview of our guidelines for responsible living in Florence and to help frame your expectations for residential life in Florence.

We intend to continue offering shared residential living in Florence. Most students will be placed in apartments with double occupancy bedrooms and shared kitchen, living and bathroom space. We contract apartments in the city center of Florence and students may therefore have local neighbors who live above, below or alongside the apartment we have contracted for student housing.

Apartments vary in typology: some are suitable for a total of only two students but most are suitable for four to eight students to share the space. A limited number of single rooms are available upon request for documented medical reasons that necessitate a private sleeping space.

We also will have a limited number of single apartments available in case we need to isolate a student due to illness.

Students will still complete a housing roommate request questionnaire and may still request one roommate. Our goal is for our students to be part of a supportive community and for this reason, we will prioritize your rooming request, but in the current environment, it is impossible for us to guarantee a specific location or a specific roommate.

Program Assistants will continue to live independently in housing locations near students and will be available to assist them with the transition to residence life in Italy. They will also be available to help troubleshoot problems and issues as they arise.

Through our policies, procedures and preparation, we intend to provide a safe community for all but we will need your help to ensure that the living environment is a healthy one. Some of the new features of residential engagement and responsible living include the following:

- All housemates will be considered a family unit. To protect the health and safety of all student residents, no fellow students, friends, family members, relatives or people met locally will be allowed in student residences.
- A register will be kept in each apartment unit in order to account for any individuals that enter the housing. While guests will not be present, from time to time, program staff, the landlord or maintenance workers may need to access the apartments. When they do so, they will sign the register so we keep a careful account of all persons who enter the unit.
- Students will be provided a basic cleaning kit at move in and will be responsible for maintaining such cleaning supplies throughout their stay. Students will be responsible for maintaining a clean living environment by wiping down surfaces after use and for cleaning their apartment on a weekly basis.

- Students will wear masks when in the kitchen together with other housemates and in all cases when a safe distance of 1 meter cannot be guaranteed.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in program apartments and students will be expected to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the apartment.
- Students will be expected to report symptoms including cough, fever, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, to program staff and the local health authorities and to self isolate in case of symptoms.
- If one housemate has symptoms of illness but has not been diagnosed with COVID 19, out of extreme caution, and in accordance with local health regulations, all members of the household will be required to quarantine together for 14 days. Arrangements will be made for the continuation of academic work and for meal delivery. Remote support will be provided for the physical and mental wellbeing of the students.
- In the event of a diagnosed case of COVID 19, the sick student is required to isolate from others. In this scenario, the student will be placed in alternative accommodations that may be provided by the school or by the local department of health. Arrangements will be made for the continuation of academic work and for meal delivery. Remote support will be provided for the physical and mental wellbeing of the students.

The policies and procedures that relate to conduct, inspections, shared and individual responsibility for damages remain unchanged. Program staff will share information related to housing regulations shortly before students' departure for Florence and students will sign a copy of the housing regulations as part of our in person orientation.

I have attached a brief infographic that seeks to illustrate some of the shared responsibilities and expectations for residential life in Florence.

We look forward to discussing this and other issues at our next zoom meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Please check your email for the zoom invite early next week.

Sincerely,

Joanne Maddux