

# HARVARD & HARDSHIP

THE PATH TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SHOULD NOT BE A SECRET

## Roommate Expectations

*\*Avoid the temptation to be vague! The awkwardness of discussing these items is minimal compared to the awkwardness of living in a tense house (that could have been avoided by having an expectation-setting conversation where expectations).*

*\*Be humble and speak kindly, but be honest about your expectations.*

### \_\_\_ **Guests**

\_\_\_ Opposite sex?

\_\_\_ Heads-up needed? Perhaps only when someone is sleeping over?

\_\_\_ Parties? Do you want to be notified about parties? What defines a “party”? 3 ppl? 4? 5+?

\_\_\_ Other considerations

### \_\_\_ **Cleaning Expectations**

\_\_\_ What is your tolerance for dirty dishes? (Must be washed within 24 hours? 48?)

\_\_\_ Dishwasher? Will we all use it? If so, is everyone responsible for loading their own dishes? Who removes them? How often? (a set day? Whoever sees that its done first? Someone’s assigned chore?)

\_\_\_ Delegate certain chores to certain roommate? Or will we have a rotation system?

\_\_\_ What is the rule for common areas? (Pick up after yourself?)

\_\_\_ Other considerations

### \_\_\_ **Cleaning Supplies**

\_\_\_ Will we all chip in to purchase household cleaning supplies? OR does everyone buy their own?

\_\_\_ Other considerations

### \_\_\_ **Personal Hygiene Products**

\_\_\_ Can we use each other’s soap, shower gel, shampoo, etc.? “Ask first policy”? OR Are we all responsible for our own?

\_\_\_ Other considerations

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## \_\_\_\_\_ **Food**

\_\_\_\_\_ How do you feel about sharing food? (*Go for it!*, OR *Ask first at all times*, OR *Only ask if there's a little bit left.*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ **Fridge/Freezer/Pantry**

\_\_\_\_\_ How will we organize the fridge, freezer, and pantry? Who has what section?

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ **Kitchen Gadgets**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I need to ask to use appliances (i.e. blender, waffle maker, coffee maker, etc.) I did not purchase?

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ **Ideal Temperature**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you a perpetually warm (or cold) person? Where will we compromise on the AC/heat settings? Is there a health condition I should be aware of? Either way, compromise is necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ **Bills**

\_\_\_\_\_ How will the bills be split. Evenly (i.e.  $\frac{1}{2}$  for 2 roommates,  $\frac{1}{3}$  for 3 roommates, and so forth...)? OR is there some other arrangement?

\_\_\_\_\_ Who is responsible for creating an account with each utility company to ensure the bills are paid on time? Will each person be responsible for collecting money from the roommates to pay a certain account?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you expect to review receipts each month? (Hint – yes!)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

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## \_\_\_\_\_ Privacy

\_\_\_\_\_ Can others enter when you're not in your room? What about to deliver a package or drop off mail? Is it ok as long as they call/text you first? OR Would you prefer they leave it outside your door?

## \_\_\_\_\_ Bathroom Expectations

\_\_\_\_\_ Cleaning expectations: Who will clean the toilet? The shower? The sink? How often? Rotation system, or does each person receive a dedicated chore?

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ Noise Level

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you study in your room? Often? Will we just communicate when we are studying for a major test, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do we want to set a time to be considerate? Perhaps no music or hanging out in the common areas on weeknights after 10pm?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you prefer if everyone listens to music in their headphones, or if they don't use headphones, to play music quietly?

\_\_\_\_\_ Other considerations

## \_\_\_\_\_ Open Door Policy

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree to have an open door policy, where you all can discuss issues (or perhaps even a change of heart) *as they arise*.