

CEA Housing Policies

Students should be familiar with CEA's complete housing policies and CEA housing description and regulations below before confirming their housing application. CEA Housing policies can be found on our website: www.ceaStudyAbroad.com/docs/default-source/policy-library/CEA_Policies.

Homestay Overview

Students will be living with a homestay family in San José. We choose families based on their friendliness and helpfulness to past students. Staying with a family is a great way to complement classroom study, as students have the opportunity to practice their Spanish and learn about the Costa Rican culture. Keep in mind that while students may have a private room, there may be other students living in the house. Also, because students are guests in their host family's home, we encourage them to ask about rules and expectations before using some items in the house.

Most homestays are located within 10-15 minutes walking distance from Veritas University and 20-40 minutes bus ride from ULACIT.

Note: ULACIT Summer Service Learning students will be housed in hostels in San José for the first 5 days of the program and then homestays in Pejibaye de Cartago.

Rules & Guidelines

CEA Housing Agreements

1. I agree that I am a guest in my host country and am prepared to learn about and adapt to the cultural differences that I may encounter. I understand that the rules and etiquette in my assigned housing may be different than what I may be accustomed to at my home institution.
2. I agree to be respectful of my roommates and their personal items. I understand that part of my experience is learning to live with others and to respect and appreciate personal differences. I understand that if I am unable to resolve any conflict that may arise between my roommates and me within a reasonable timeframe, that CEA resident staff has the authority to intervene and take appropriate actions, which may include, but may not be limited to, a change of housing. I further understand that I will be responsible for any costs incurred as a result of such an event.
3. I agree to be respectful of all residential and building property. This includes all items within my room, shared common areas, and the building. This also includes keeping my room clean throughout the duration of my program.
4. I agree to be respectful of my neighbors, both within my building and in the surrounding areas. This includes keeping noise levels down and being discreet and quiet in the surrounding streets when coming home late. In this country, it is against the law to make excessive noise after 10 pm.
5. I understand that as a representative of CEA, my home University, and the US, I am expected to conduct myself in a considerate and respectful manner while in my housing.
6. I agree not to consume alcohol or any illegal substance in my housing.
7. I agree to thoroughly read the guidelines included below, and I understand that I will be held responsible for adhering to them for the duration of my program.

Meals

Students will enjoy daily breakfast and dinner with their Homestays. Students are reminded to please ask before taking any food outside of meal times, since they are guests in someone's home. You may buy and keep some food. However you must ask your host mom if she can make some room for your things in the kitchen.

Phone and Internet

There will be a phone in each home stay available for incoming calls. Students will be responsible for any outgoing calls by using a local/international calling card. Students must make sure they know the proper use of the phone cards, in order to avoid any charges made to the phone. Do not to block the family phone for too long. Internet is provided in home stays.

Linens

Students will be provided with all bed linens, including pillows, sheets and a comforter. Students should bring their own bath/beach towels.

Laundry

Students while living in the homestay will have their laundry done.

Amenities

Each student's room is fully furnished including a bed, a closet/dresser and a locked drawer for students to keep their valuables safe. Students will share a bathroom and living area with their home stay family. As a guest in someone's home, students should always ask before using items in the home.

Guests

CEA students are responsible for the conduct of their guests while in CEA housing. Students should always ask before bringing someone to the house. Overnight guests are NOT permitted in any housing assignment.

Curfew

Students have no curfew. It is a law in Costa Rica however, to not make noise after 10 pm. Please respect the quiet time of your roommates and neighbors.

Drugs and Alcohol Use

Alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances are ABSOLUTLY PROHIBITED in all CEA Housing. Furthermore, students who consume alcohol or illegal substances in their housing and/or come home while intoxicated will be subject to disciplinary actions. Such disciplinary actions may include written reports, expulsion from the housing and expulsion from the CEA program without the right to reimbursement.

Keys & Security

Each student will be issued keys to their housing upon check-in. Under no circumstances may students make a copy of their keys, or give their keys to anyone. In the event that keys are lost during the program or that students don't follow CEA regulations, students will be responsible for the cost of replacement. A minimum fee of \$50 will be deducted from the program damage deposit for each set of keys not returned upon completion of the program. Students are required to follow any additional security procedures.

Check-in

Students will be given a full set of keys and will be explained the rules of their specific housing assignment.

Housing Checks

CEA reserves the right to:

- a. Allow entry by authorized personnel for inspection and repair;
- b. Allow entry by authorized personnel for disciplinary purposes upon reasonable cause to suspect violations of CEA conduct regulations, in an emergency, or for any other appropriate reason.

Check-out

CEA will monitor student housing check-out at the end of the program. You must adhere to the proper check-out procedures when vacating CEA housing, which include turning in keys, removing personal items, waste and debris, and leaving the room in an acceptable, clean condition.

The CEA Onsite Staff will make every effort to inform students of any fees that will be withheld from the program deposit prior to departure; however, CEA reserves the right to inspect housing after students' departure.

Housing Problems

CEA commits to providing suitable student housing. Once housing is assigned by CEA, there are only limited or special circumstances in which CEA will make changes to a student's housing assignment. Such changes will be made at CEA's discretion and will require payment of \$300 (Change of Housing Fee) and any additional fees incurred as a result of the change. All changes are subject to availability.

If the student is asked to leave the housing assignment due to his or her misconduct (as determined by the host family, landlord, dormitory director or CEA; see CEA Code of Conduct for further details), and is allowed to remain on the program at the discretion of CEA, the student will not be issued a new CEA housing assignment, and no refunds will be available. In addition, CEA staff will not assist students in finding new independent housing. Please note misconduct may result in immediate expulsion from CEA housing and/or the CEA program.

Utilities

CEA will cover all reasonable utility expenses. Students who incur utility charges above and beyond what is deemed reasonable by CEA will be responsible for paying the excessive charges. Please note that water, electricity and telephone charges are very expensive in countries outside the US. Students are expected to be mindful of this when using these services in their host country, and to be more conservative than they might otherwise be accustomed to.

Damages

All students must respect all furniture, property, and other items provided. All damage, even unintentional, will be billed to the student responsible. If responsibility cannot be determined, the cost will be split equally among all residents. Please note, if excessive cleaning and/or trash removal is required at the end of the program, students will be responsible for all additional costs incurred. In addition, CEA will, without liability, dispose of any personal items left in CEA housing at the end of this contract term. If the program damage deposit does not cover all charges, the student will be billed accordingly. CEA reserves the right to withhold academic transcripts for any outstanding balance on student accounts.