

CEA Housing Policies

Students should be familiar with CEA's complete housing policies. This information was provided to students as part of the application process and in their pre-departure materials and can also be found on our website: www.ceaStudyAbroad.com/docs/default-source/policy-library/CEA_Policies.

Description

There is probably no better way for students to be immersed in their host culture than by sharing everyday life with a host family. CEA carefully chooses host families to ensure the best possible living arrangements and experience for students. The homestay option allows students to continue practicing Italian outside the classroom and to learn firsthand about Italian and Florentine culture.

Typically, pairs of students are housed in one room in a host family's home, though some families may have room for only one student. Most host families have hosted American students often, and are sensitive to their needs. Program participants must remember that, while they will call the homestay "home" for a full semester, they are nonetheless guests in the home and are expected to adapt to the traditions and rules of their host family. Be aware that every family is different: students may find themselves living not in a traditional family unit, but with a single individual and one or more family members or direct kin.

Local Rules & Regulations

Meals

The host family will provide breakfast and dinner, 7 days per week. Families can also accommodate vegetarian and gluten free diets if requested in advance. (CEA strongly advises that students speak frankly with their host family regarding their diet at the beginning of the program.) Lunch is not provided but students may occasionally use the kitchen.

Students should keep in mind that meals in Italy are different from what they may be accustomed to in the US. Breakfast is typically very light, consisting of fruit or toast with jam and coffee. Dinner is usually eaten between 7 and 9pm. Students will be expected to eat at the times designated by their host family and typically will not have regular kitchen access. In addition, students are expected to notify their host family if they will be arriving late for or missing meals.

Do not help yourselves to any food in the fridge or cupboards without prior consent of the host family. Do not take anything away for your lunch, unless the family invites you to. Student room Students will typically be assigned to double rooms, to be shared with one other CEA student. The host family will clean the room once a week. Students should be sure to make their beds each morning and leave the room tidy at all times. This may otherwise cause problems for the weekly cleaning. Avoid habits that cause the most complaints from host



Housing Overview

Florence, Italy
Homestay

families: do not leave clothes lying on the floor; do not mix dirty and clean clothes; do not keep open food in the bedroom as it will attract vermin, etc.

Bathroom

Students typically share a bathroom with other host family members. It is advisable that students organize a bathroom schedule for showering, especially for the morning, and that you stick with it as much as possible. Students are advised not to take showers after 10pm as the noise of water can disturb the host family and neighboring apartments.

Linens

The host family will provide students with all bed linens and towels and will be responsible for regular changing.

Laundry

Students will be permitted to do at least one load of laundry per week. (CEA strongly advises that students ask about using the washing machine at beginning of the program.) If you need to do more laundry than one or two loads, or you require the use of a dryer, you should go to a Laundromat. If you need to iron clothes, be sure to ask your family their policy--they may prefer to iron for you!

Telephone

When living in a homestay, do not expect to use the house telephone unless you are given permission to do so. Students should plan to rent a cell phone to receive and make outgoing calls and to communicate with their family and friends. Please refer to our Onsite Policies for further information on cell phones: <http://www.ceastudyabroad.com/student-policy/cea-policies>

Internet access

Students will have wifi internet access in their homestay, though it is not guaranteed to have a signal as strong as students may be accustomed to.

Location and Transportation

Students placed in families within the historical center will be at walking distance to the school facilities, and the commute on foot will be no greater than 25 minutes. Some homestay families may be located beyond the historical center, and therefore in the greater Florence area. Those students will be well linked to the city center by public transportation, and their commute via bus and walking will typically not exceed 20 minutes. CEA will provide students living in homestays beyond the city center with several bus tickets for their first few days.

Smoking

Expect that smoking is not permitted in your homestay, but it may be permitted in on a balcony or patio of some homestays.



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Alcohol

While you may be invited to regularly enjoy a modest amount of wine with your homestay dinner, you are not permitted to bring alcohol into your room for consumption. It is absolutely forbidden to bring any illegal substances allowed into your homestay.

Amenities

All rooms are fully furnished including a bed, closet or armoire, shared bathroom, and a desk or study area. While your room will be considered your own during the program, you must ask permission before using any household items not kept in your room as a courtesy to your host family.

Guests

CEA students must ask permission of their host family in advance if they would like to bring a guest into the home and will be responsible for the conduct of their guests while in CEA housing. Overnight guests are not permitted in any housing assignment. Students must respect their homestay rules about guests. Students should also inform homestay about any out of town trips and times when students may expect to arrive home late, in case of an emergency.

Curfew

There is no curfew in any homestay. However, students should be respectful of their family when coming home late.

Keys & Security

Each student will be issued keys to their housing upon check-in, and should take care to never keep their keys in the same place as their home address. Under no circumstances may students make a copy of their keys. In the event that keys are lost during the program, students will be responsible for the cost of replacement.

Utilities

Students should respect host family expectations with regard to the use of electricity, hot water and shower. 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 electricity is very expensive in countries outside the US. Students are expected to be mindful of this when using electricity in their host country, and to be conservative in their use. CEA and your host family will give you suggestions as to how to keep your utilities consumption at a minimum.

Check-in/Check-out

CEA will monitor student housing check-out at the end of the program. You must adhere to the proper checkout procedures when vacating CEA housing, which include turning in keys, removing personal items, waste and debris, and leaving the room/apartment 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. Please note that all housing must be vacated on the program end date no later than 12:00pm (noon).



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Housing problems

You should report any problems related to the maintenance of your homestay apartment directly to your host family. In case of other sorts housing problems, students are requested to speak with Florence staff as soon as possible to work out a resolution.

Damages

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 both students. 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.