

Community Living & Learning

An Introduction to the Roommate Contract

Living on campus at Pratt may bring you a new experience. . . living and sharing a room with others. This is sometimes challenging, but also often rewarding. The goal of living with other people is to learn more about yourself and others. Your on-campus living experience is a part of your Pratt education.

The Resident Advisor

Each residence hall student has a Resident Advisor (RA). The RA is a student who has been hired and trained to deal with a variety of situations including assisting students with roommate relationships. The goal of the RA is to foster a healthy floor community in which all members of the floor can learn. The most basic element in this process is roommates learning from each other.

This learning can be based in educational pursuits (roommates having classes together or working on projects together) or personal experiences and backgrounds (roommates from different countries, locations in the US or religious and racial backgrounds). In making assignments, the Office of Residential Life and Housing attempts to create diverse communities within the residence hall.

The Office makes all attempts to meet the requests made by students; however, this does not guarantee roommates will always get along. Even when all requests are met, students' lives change and a perfect match in September may become a mismatch by October. When conflict begins, it is vital that both students speak to each other about the problems they are experiencing. The RA should be contacted to assist students in coming to a resolution of their differences.

Remember

You are a key player in determining the fate of your residential experience. Resources are available to help when problems arise, but you are expected to participate in the process. If you have any questions, please contact the Pratt Institute Office of Residential Life and Housing at (718) 399-4550 or reslife@pratt.edu

The Contract

To help students set priorities and begin establishing open communication, all students are required to participate in a Roommate Contract process at the beginning of the semester.

This process helps each roommate to understand the needs and expectations of living together. It also allows each individual to express his or her needs in maintaining a positive living environment. If problems arise, the Contract will be used as a tool for resolution.

To help you formulate your own ideas of living communally, take the time to answer the questions to the right. These will be helpful in setting up a positive outlook for a healthy living experience and formulating your Roommate Contract when you arrive on-campus.

Sample Roommate Questions

Visitation

- Are there times when you would prefer that friends not be invited to visit the room?
- If your visitors are bothering your roommate, how would you like to be confronted?
- How do you feel about your roommate's friends using your belongings?
- How do you feel about having people in the room when you are working or studying?

Study Time

- When do you prefer to study/work?
- Do you generally prepare in advance or cram?
- Can you study/work with noise, such as the TV or stereo?

Personal Property

- Which items can be shared and which may not?
- Do you mind if people use your stereo/TV/computer?
- Do you want to be asked before things are borrowed?
- How will the refrigerator space be shared?