

World Class Programs FAQ

Residence Housing

What are the residences like?

Usually, these are private apartments or college style dormitories. Please note that housing standards in foreign countries, especially college style dormitories, may significantly vary from those in the United States and fall short of American standards. Laundry, cooking, and bathing facilities will always be available, but air conditioning will usually not be. We will make every effort to select centrally located residences, but in all cases students should expect to walk for at least 20-25 minutes at a time to get around the host community (bear in mind that most historical European cities are oriented toward pedestrians and that on average Europeans walk much more than Americans). If you have rigid requirements as to housing conditions and standards of comfort, or if you have difficulty walking 20-25 minutes at a time, a student summer program in a foreign country may not be the best option for you. For more details, please refer to the web page of the specific Study Abroad program you are interested in.

How are the roommates chosen?

The World Class Program's office makes roommate placements by evaluating student applications. We consider student interests and personalities, as well as student requests. Students will only be placed with roommates and/or apartment-mates of the same gender and approximately the same grade level. Our Study Abroad programs attract students with a very diverse set of backgrounds and interests. An important component of any pre-college residential experience is to meet new people, learn from each other's differences, and hopefully to make many new friends. Almost every student enrolling in our programs indicates an interest in meeting new people and making new friends. It will be up to you to keep an open mind and a positive attitude in order to benefit from this type of experience.

Roommate requests?

Generally, about 80% of our students participate in the Study Abroad program without knowing anyone else prior to the trip. For those students who do participate with a friend or a sibling, you can request to room with a specific person (or persons). However, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be fulfilled. Most of the time, roommate requests can be fulfilled, but sometimes there are special circumstances that do not allow this. Specifically, we cannot promise to put two (or more) students together as roommates unless they each request, in writing, to room with each other -- these requests are made on each student's program application. All students should remember that one of the greatest benefits with World Class Programs is the opportunity to make new friends. While all of your preferences may not be fulfilled, you will definitely be among a group of peers all of whom are excited and eager to make new friends. We have seen over many years that the students who have the best experience are those who come with an open mind and an intention to meet new people!