



# Residents Charter

# Living Together

**YOUR** University accommodation will be your home for the next 9 or 12 months and we want you to enjoy living here. Sharing with housemates for the first time can often seem like a daunting prospect, but it can also provide you with a unique opportunity to make friends with people from around Ireland or even the world. It can be tough, but it can be fun, too. One of the most rewarding things about living in a shared household is the social side.

## **SOME tips to ensure that everything runs smoothly:**

- Don't just sit in your room – Talk to your Housemates, be social, get involved in our Res Life programme or join some college societies.
- Have regular meetings with fellow residents, and make a rota to share out the everyday household chores.
- Respect other people's belongings and listen to their concerns. What seems like reasonable behaviour to you could be a very annoying habit to others!
- Respect the personal space of others.
- Should a problem arise, try to talk it through and resolve the issue before it gets out of hand. No sarcastic notes. When everyone is busy it's common for housemates to start communicating via notes, and these often take on an unpleasant, critical tone. Try to use face-to-face communication where possible.
- If you really can't sort things out yourself, go and talk to your Residential Assistants (RAs) or the residence team in Merville.

**ONE** of the most contentious areas when living in a shared household has got to be cleanliness, or lack thereof. People have very different standards when it comes to cleaning so it's important to discuss this and agree on an approach which respects everyone's expectations.

- Please ensure that dishes, pots, counter surfaces, hob and other equipment are clean after use, so that everyone gets to use a clean area when cooking.
- Make a rota to arrange the cleaning of communal areas and removal of rubbish. Some people find these restrictive, but it's a fair system and if worked out well beforehand, can really pay off. It's up to you how you arrange it. A sample rota can be found on the Residential Services page of the residences website.
- Ensure that raw food is not left out on counters or uncovered in fridges. Liquids should always be in sealed containers to avoid spillages.

**Residential Assistants (RAs) on duty each evening and at weekends**

**Central Customer Care Office located in Merville open 24 hrs 7 days a week**

**Contact number:  
00 353 1 716 1008**

**SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN RESIDENCES**

## **TRY to anticipate problems before they arise, come to an agreement and stick with it. Here's how to deal with a few problem areas:**

- Always take the habits of others into consideration, e.g. playing loud music, not washing up immediately after a meal and whether you are a "morning" or "night" person.
- There is an overnight guest policy and residents should always check with their housemates before signing someone in. Please note all guests must be over 18 years of age. Overnight guests such as friends and boy/girlfriends are usually fine, but resentment can brew when one resident takes advantage of this by always having friends stay over, monopolizing the apartment's communal areas.
- Keep a kitty to share cost of things like cleaning products, bin bags, toilet roll or even staples like milk, tea coffee etc. Toilet roll gets used up quickly in a shared household, and so you should either have a rota whereby one person buys a supply of toilet roll before the other pack runs dry or each person has their own supply.
- If you haven't agreed to share food, Please don't help yourself to others' food belongings
- When you're listening to music or making Skype calls, be aware of the time, keep the volume down or use headphones – not everyone likes the same kind of music!