

RHODES COLLEGE RESIDENCE LIFE OFFICE

Learn. Engage. Challenge. Grow.

Frequently Asked Questions: International Students

Q. What comes in a room?

A. Residence Hall rooms come standard with the following for each resident: bed, dresser, closet or wardrobe, desk and desk chair. In addition, all rooms come with wireless internet, cable television (you must provide your own TV) and local phone service with voicemail.

Q. What size are the beds? Do I need to buy special sized sheets?

A. All mattresses in the residence halls are extra long (39"x80"). You can purchase sheets through our linen program or at most major department and bedding stores.

Q. What should I bring from overseas?

A. Bed linens and a pillow, towels, toiletries and something to carry them in, clothes, computer (though remember that US voltage will be different), laundry bag, umbrella, posters for your wall.

Q. What should I plan to purchase when I get here?

A. Clothes hamper, computer (maybe), laundry detergent, alarm clock, desk lamp, U.L. Approved power strips with surge protectors, telephone, coffee maker, dry erase board. We encourage you to communicate with your roommate(s) about providing larger items such as TV's, a microwave, an ironing board, a carpet, stereo, and a refrigerator.

Q. What appliances are allowed in a residence hall room? Not allowed?

A. Allowed: Refrigerators (no larger than 33" high or 19" wide), microwaves, coffee makers, blenders. Not allowed: Appliances with open flames or burners (hot plates, George Forman grills, electric skillets, toasters, toaster ovens, woks, etc.), multi-outlet expanders, extension cords, neon signs, candle warmers. These are not exhaustive lists.

Q. Do I need to bring carpet?

A. If you live in Williford you do not need to bring carpet as these rooms are carpeted. If you live in Glassell, Townsend, or Robinson, Blount or Trezevant you may want to bring carpet as these rooms have tile floors.

Q. Can I smoke in my room?

A. Smoking is not permitted in the residence halls. Student who do smoke are encouraged to smoke away from entrances and windows. Benches and ashtrays are provided near most buildings.

Q. Do I need property insurance?

A: The College does not provide coverage for personal belongings or automobiles. Your Accident and Health Insurance will not cover personal property. You should determine whether your parents' insurance covers these belongings, even when you are studying in the US, and then make any arrangements necessary for the insurance coverage. If you wish to purchase insurance, one company from which you may do so is National Student Services, Inc. Their website is <http://nssinc.com>.

Q. Can I pick my roommate?

A. Yes. We need to hear from both students that each would like to be roommates (phone: 843-3241 or email: lutherm@rhodes.edu). The deadline to request a roommate is July 17th.

Q. How are new students assigned to roommates and to rooms?

A. All new and transfer students are asked to complete the Housing Information Form available on-line. Information provided on the Housing Information Form is used in roommate matching. Therefore, it is important that the student fill out the form honestly. Roommates are matched together based on commonalities and interest in theme housing or learning communities. Occupancy for first year students may be in doubles, triples or quads.

Q. Can I pick my residence hall?

A. We do not allow first year students to choose their residence hall. We provide living-learning communities and house those in different areas. That allows us to place students where we feel they will be most successful. We do allow students to self-select into "theme" area housing. We offer substance-free housing, which means that you agree to live free from substances including alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Q. When do I get my housing and roommate assignment?

A. We wait until all sessions of Open Rhodes have been completed before we make the final housing assignments for first year students, so that all students have a chance to preference roommates. We will make housing and roommate assignments during the end of July. We will mail and email these assignments to students on or around July 24th.

Q. How do students change their room assignments if the roommate match isn't working out?

A. We ask all students to try to make their room assignment work for the first two week of school. If a problem persists, the following are steps to take towards reconciliation or a change, if necessary:

1. Communicate your concerns, frustrations, etc. with your roommate(s)
2. Speak with your RA about completing a roommate agreement and meeting for conflict resolution
3. If neither steps 1 or 2 work out, then have your RA refer you to an Assistant or Associate Director of Residence Life. These individuals will be able to discuss other options with you.

Q. When can I move in? When do the Residence Halls open?

A. First year international students can move in as early as August 17th at 10am. Halls close for winter break on December 17th at 10am. For the spring semester, residence halls open on January 10th and close on May 10th at 10am for undergrads and May 16th at noon for seniors.

Q. Do I clean my own room or is there housekeeping?

A. All students are responsible for cleaning their own rooms. The common areas (hallways, stairwells, bathrooms, social rooms etc.) are cleaned by housekeeping staff.

Q. Where will my mail go?

A. You will be assigned a campus mailbox. The mailboxes are located in the Briggs Student Center. Students receive their mailbox assignment along with their room assignment. Your proper address is:

Your Name
Rhodes College
Box # XXX
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690
USA

Q. Where do I eat?

A. All students who live on campus are required to have a meal plan. The main dining hall is located on the west side of campus. Students also have meal equivalency at the Lynx Lair grill located in the Bryan Campus Life Center. Students can choose from a 15 meal per week plan or a 21 meal plan.

Q. Where do I do laundry?

A. Laundry facilities are located in each residential building or connected building. There is no additional cost for laundry as it is included in your housing costs. You will need to bring your own soap. Students are asked to be mindful of collecting laundry items in a timely manner.

Q. What are Rhodes policies about alcohol?

A. Rhodes College upholds state law regarding alcohol use. The legal drinking age in the US is 21 years old. Students under the legal drinking age are prohibited from purchasing, processing, or consuming alcohol beverages on campus or at school sponsored events. Students above the legal drinking age may consume alcohol in a responsible manner within guidelines. Students who violate policy are held accountable for their behavior.

Q. Can I stay in my room during breaks?

A. The College closes the residence halls during 4 breaks: Thanksgiving, Winter Holiday, Spring Break, and the summer. We offer "break housing" in designated buildings only during Thanksgiving Break (November) and Spring Break (March.) If you do not currently live in one of the designated buildings, then you will need to find a resident in one of the designated buildings who will let you stay in their room. You will also have to sign up for "break housing" via an online form about two weeks prior to the break. For the Winter Holiday, we close all buildings on campus for about a month. You are encouraged to make alternative housing plans for the days between December 17 and January 10.

Q. Can I stay on campus during the summer?

A. Rhodes College does offer continual housing from the spring semester through the summer. You will need to sign up for summer housing at the beginning of April. Summer Housing costs will be published at that time. Keep in mind that the College does not offer continual food service during the summer. You will need to make arrangements for your meals on your own.

Q. Is there food service during breaks?

A. No. When the College closes for a break, then your meal plan stops and the dining halls close. If you choose to remain on campus [when housing is available], then you will be responsible for providing your own meals during those breaks. Breaks include: Fall Break (October), Thanksgiving Break (November), Winter Break (December-January), Spring Break (March) and Easter Break (March or April.)

Q. If there are no meals served over breaks, how can students get to the store to buy food, since most international students don't have cars and the other students aren't on campus?

A. Some residence halls are equipped with kitchens. Students without reliable transportation are encouraged to connect with current students who might be able to drive them to grocery stores to purchase groceries prior to the breaks. Most breaks are only a few days in length. International students are also encouraged to connect with students who are from the Memphis area. This might enable you to have access to transportation during the break.

Q. Can I store my things on campus for the summer when I leave?

A. No. Rhodes College does not offer personal storage space for students. We will provide a list of reliable storage units that students have previously used to students in April.

Q. How do I get around Memphis?

A. International and Multi-cultural Programs will connect international students with SOS Mentors. These Mentors (current students) will be great individuals in helping you to get acquainted with Memphis. Also, Rhodes College has a Bike Shop, where students can "rent" (for free) bikes for two week intervals. The Bike Shop is located in Robinson Hall. When in Downtown Memphis, the Trolley system is a great and cheap way to get around. Lastly, making friends on campus will be a great resource for getting off campus and exploring Memphis.

Please let us know if you have other questions!

Marianne Luther

Director, Residence Life

lutherm@rhodes.edu

901.843.3241

Regina Simmons

Associate Director, Residence Life

simmonsr@rhodes.edu

901.843.3241