

A blue circular logo with the text "ARCADIA ABROAD" in white, serif font. The word "ARCADIA" is on the top line and "ABROAD" is on the bottom line, both centered.

ARCADIA  
ABROAD



# Housing Policies & Practices

2026-2027

# Introduction to Housing with Arcadia Abroad

Your housing experience is an important part of your time abroad. Whether you're living in a residence hall, a shared apartment, or with a host family, this is more than just a place to sleep—it's where you'll settle in, build community, and experience day-to-day life in a new cultural context.

This document outlines the key housing policies designed to support comfort, safety, and mutual respect in your living space. **Please read it carefully.** Understanding these policies will help you navigate your housing arrangement, communicate effectively with roommates or hosts, and know what to expect if questions or concerns arise.

Our goal is to make your transition as smooth as possible and to ensure a positive living environment for everyone.

## Table of Contents

Arcadia Abroad Housing Philosophy	3
Types of Housing	4
Housing Selection & Assignments	4
Supplemental Fees	6
Housing Contracts & Standards of Behavior	6
Program Housing Considerations	6
Gender Inclusive Housing	7
Housing Preferences Forms	8
Disability, Medical, & Religious Requests	8
Roommate Requests	10
Opting Out of Program Housing	11

# Arcadia Abroad Housing Philosophy

With Arcadia Abroad, learning extends beyond classroom academics and is experiential in nature. This extends to your housing and the relationships you will develop within your residence. With these components in mind, Arcadia Abroad promotes housing and the subsequent housing experience to be more than four walls and a bed.

## **Housing is/as Residence:**

The primary objective of your study abroad housing is to provide you with a residence. This includes the basic requirements of a clean and secure location to sleep, to store and utilize personal belongings, and to study. At a minimum, your residence will include a bedroom, bathroom, and access to meals – by way of a kitchen where you provide your own meals or a catered accommodation where meals are provided. Our staff, in collaboration with local accommodation teams, will help you feel comfortable in your new living environment. During orientation, you'll have the opportunity to acclimate to your new neighborhood, make sense of cultural differences in student housing, and identify where to find support if you have concerns with your housing.

## **Housing is/as Community:**

In alignment with our [hallmarks](#), we aim to provide housing that fosters a sense of community, encourages opportunities to explore new things, and inspires personal growth. Whether you're living with other study abroad students or living with local students, you will have opportunities to connect with and engage with other students. We encourage you to challenge yourself to interact with your neighbors and strive to learn from others. We hope that you will also learn new things about yourself.

To build community, we aim, where possible, to offer housing options, either sourced by Arcadia Abroad or offered by one of our partner universities, that are inclusive and accepting of all cultures, religions, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, and differences in political and socio-economic backgrounds. We expect you to show empathy for others in your community and to be respectful and accepting of difference, and in return exercise tolerance and understanding.

## Housing is/as Education:

Your housing environment is an important part of your learning experience abroad. We aim to provide housing options that are conducive to studying and the open exchange of ideas. Your housing should provide you with opportunities to hone critical life skills. We aim to provide housing that fosters skills related to resilience, conflict management, multitasking, and more. We aim to provide housing that promotes a deeper cultural understanding about how residents in your host country live their lives. This may mean relying on public transportation to get to class or shopping and cooking your own meals in smaller kitchens or sharing a gender inclusive living space for the first time. We hope that you lean into these differences and embrace that 'difference' is not always 'wrong' and can even be 'better'.

## Types of Housing

Housing options will vary by program. This means that there will be different types of housing (apartments, homestays, traditional residence halls, purpose built student accommodation, etc.) based on the program that you choose. Each program's housing options will have a variety of amenities and accessibility features. If housing is something central to your study abroad program choice, we encourage you to review your program's housing page to ensure that the housing options available meet your needs. You should not assume that your program housing will mirror options available to you at your homeschool. For example, there may or may not be: accessible housing, single bedrooms, private bathrooms, or the ability to select a roommate. If these are important to you, please do your research and ask a Program Advisor before you apply. [Program Advisors](#) are assigned by country and program and if you're undecided, please email [auabroad@arcadia.edu](mailto:auabroad@arcadia.edu).

## Housing Selection & Assignments

Arcadia Abroad guarantees that all students will have housing as long as students apply by stated deadlines. With that, each program's housing will differ. For the purposes of housing selection, we categorize housing into three groups:

1. **Arcadia-managed:** On programs where housing is Arcadia-managed, your housing is fully managed by Arcadia Abroad. This means that we are responsible for placing you in your

room and responding to your maintenance requests. Your placement will be based on information you provide on your housing preferences form.

2. **Arcadia-placed:** On programs where housing is Arcadia-placed, you can expect Arcadia Abroad staff to place you in housing based on the information you provide on your housing preferences form.
3. **Partner-placed:** On programs where housing is partner-placed, the housing provider staff (not Arcadia Abroad) will arrange your housing. In these cases, Arcadia Abroad will either provide information from your housing preferences form to your housing provider or your housing provider will ask you directly for information to inform your placement.
4. **Student-selected:** On programs where housing is student-selected, you will receive email instructions from your Program Advisor on how to select your housing. Housing selection is time sensitive, so it's really important that you read that email and follow the instructions as outlined for you. Remember, for these programs, you will be responsible for selecting your own housing.

## Housing Assignments

As you might imagine, housing assignments are a giant puzzle with many moving pieces. We, and our partners, take great care in assigning your housing, so we ask that you trust us. Our Advising and Student Engagement team will help you navigate the housing process. With that, we ask that you not contact your program directly with questions about your housing assignment. If you do have questions, please email your Program Advisor and we will provide you with the best, most accurate information available at the time of your question.

On programs where housing is Arcadia-placed (Arcadia is responsible for assigning your housing), we aim to provide you with initial information about your placement two weeks prior to your program start date. The initial information may only include your building name or room type. Where possible, we will provide additional information as it is available and confirmed.

On programs where housing is partner-placed (our partner is responsible for placing you in housing) we do not control what information is shared in advance, nor do we control the timeline. You should expect to receive the details of your housing assignment upon arrival. If we are made aware of your housing details prior to your program start date, we will share the information with you as soon as it is received. We know this ambiguity can be really uncomfortable. We encourage you to lean into this discomfort and trust the process. Our partners care deeply about your

experience and do their best to create spaces where you can have a successful study abroad experience.

## Supplemental Fees

Given the variety of housing options provided, Arcadia Abroad has created a fee structure to represent this diversity. Each program has a standard housing option that is included as the 'base fee'. If you select or are placed in an option that has enhanced amenities, which may include room type or location in the building, being in a newer facility or being closer to classes, a supplemental housing fee may be added to your bill.

Please review your program's housing page and your program's housing guide for more information about which options are standard and which options will carry a supplemental fee. We do our best to be transparent about which options have a supplemental fee. Please ask questions about the cost if you are concerned.

## Housing Contracts & Standards of Behavior

While in program housing, it is important that you abide by the rules and standards for your accommodation. Arcadia Abroad expects that you will be a good member of the community that respects others and your physical housing property. Our expectations are outlined in the Standards of Behavior found in the [Arcadia Abroad Student Handbook](#). In addition to the Arcadia Abroad Standards of Behavior, your housing provider may ask you to sign a housing contract. If you are presented with a housing contract, it is your responsibility to read and understand what is expected of you in your housing. It is reasonable to expect that there will be some regulations about noise, cleanliness, safety, and utility usage. You should expect that these will align with local norms and may be different from what you are used to at your US university.

## Program Housing Considerations

The process of sourcing your housing is something that we take great care in doing because we know that it is such an important aspect of your experience. Housing options vary greatly by program, but here are some of the basic elements you can expect:

- Program housing will meet all local health and safety laws and standards related to building construction and amenities.
- Your housing will have functioning locks on exterior doors and at entrances to flats.
- Your bedroom will have a bed and clothes storage.
- You will have access to a functioning bathroom, including a toilet and shower.
- You will have access to a kitchen or your accommodation will have meals provided.
- You will have basic utilities, including electricity, water, heat (to local standards), and internet access.
- Your housing will be a reasonable commuting distance to classes as defined by the local standards.
- Your housing will promote your independence and self-reliance.
- You may contact a member of Arcadia Abroad staff 24/7 in the event of an emergency.

In addition, we strive to provide housing that meets the following standards:

- Where possible, we aim to source housing that provides gender inclusive options.
- Where possible, we aim to provide housing that is accessible.
- Where possible, we aim to provide housing in buildings that have 24/7 security.
- Where possible, we aim to provide housing that accommodates diverse religious needs.

Some accommodations may have additional amenities, but they are not standard and should not be expected. Please also keep in mind that your housing will meet local standards, not the US standards. This may mean that spaces are smaller and more simple. Embracing your new environment and its differences is part of the learning experience!

## Gender Inclusive Housing

We are committed to providing you with a dynamic living environment that celebrates diversity, encourages individuality, and promotes cultural engagement. While housing type does vary across programs, our values remain constant. Where possible, Arcadia Abroad operates gender-inclusive housing as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering welcoming and inclusive communities. Our practice of gender-inclusive housing allows individuals to live together regardless of biological sex in a supportive environment where all students can feel safe in their housing assignment with respect to their gender identity and gender expression.

# Housing Preferences Forms

Your Housing Preferences Form is your opportunity to share with us more about yourself and what you're hoping to achieve in your housing abroad. While we cannot guarantee that any one building, room type, or location will be available for your study abroad term, our team will do our best to consider your preferences. Please keep an open mind and remain flexible. You can view more information about housing on your program's housing page on the Arcadia Abroad website and information about the specific housing options available during your semester in your Arcadia Abroad portal.

For priority consideration of your preferences, the Housing Preferences Form should be submitted within 10 days of your acceptance unless stated otherwise or is a pre-submission form on your application checklist. If you submit your form beyond this date, regardless of if you have been accepted or not, we may not be able to honor your preferences in the same way.

## Disability, Medical & Religious Requests

If you have a documented need for a housing accommodation or a request based on religious needs, please complete your Disability Request Form and disclose your needs.

It's important to know that the ability to satisfy these requests will vary greatly depending on your program and the local context. Accommodations that are provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may not be available to you while you are studying in another country. It is important that you disclose to us what you need in housing as early as possible. Making a request does not mean that it will be fulfilled. We, and our housing partners, aim to provide housing that can accommodate various needs, but we cannot make a guarantee.

- If your request can be accommodated, a member of our team will notify you as soon as it is confirmed. For programs with Arcadia-managed housing, you should expect confirmation after the supplemental documentation deadline. For all other programs, confirmations will be shared on a rolling basis. Please note that this notification will not include specifics regarding your room, roommates (if applicable), or building.
- If your request is something that we are uncertain about or cannot be accommodated, we will be in touch with you.

- For programs with partner-placed or student-selected housing, you will need to additionally make your needs known directly to your housing provider.
- Please also know that if your request requires something more than what is offered in standard housing, there will likely be a supplemental fee.

If you have questions about your needs and your program's housing, please contact your Program Advisor or Wellness Advisor.

## **Supporting Documentation**

If you are making a request for an accommodation in housing related to disability, medical conditions, or religion, you should be prepared to provide supplemental documentation. The documentation required will vary by program. At minimum, you should be prepared to provide:

- A letter from your home school's disability office documenting the accommodations you currently receive; and
- Appropriate supporting documentation from your licensed medical professional regarding your disability and/or the significance of your housing-related needs; or
- If your request is based on a sincerely held religious belief, a personal statement detailing your request

You may email your documentation and/or statement to [studentwellnessabroad@arcadia.edu](mailto:studentwellnessabroad@arcadia.edu). Upon receipt, our team will provide next steps. Next steps may include a meeting with a member of our team, sharing information directly with your housing provider, or requests for additional documentation.

It's best to submit documentation early to maximize your chances of having your request fulfilled. Please remember that requesting an accommodation in housing does not guarantee that it will be provided to you.

### **Arcadia-Placed Programs**

If your program is one where Arcadia places you in housing and your request is related to a medical condition or disability, you will be asked to provide supplemental documentation from your homeschool's disability office stating the accommodations you currently receive and supporting documentation from a treating doctor or physician. If your request is related to your religion, you may be asked to provide a statement or a letter from a religious leader.

Documentation should be submitted by the deadlines listed below to

[studentwellnessabroad@arcadia.edu](mailto:studentwellnessabroad@arcadia.edu). Please remember that requesting an accommodation in housing does not guarantee that it will be provided to you and that early disclosure is best.

### **Supplemental Documentation Deadlines for Arcadia-Managed Housing**

- [Fall Semester Programs](#) due July 1
- [Academic Year Programs](#) due July 1
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due November 1
- [Southern Hemisphere Academic Year Programs](#) due November 1
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due April 1

### **Supplemental Documentation Deadlines for Arcadia-Placed Housing**

- [Fall Semester Programs](#) due June 1, but earlier is best
- [Academic Year Programs](#) due June 1, but earlier is best
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due October 15, but earlier is best
- [Southern Hemisphere Academic Year Programs](#) due October 15, but earlier is best
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due April 1, but earlier is best

If you know you'll want or need a disability, medical, or religious accommodation in housing, please let us know as soon as possible. The earlier we know, the more likely it is for us to be able to fulfill your request.

## **Emotional Support Animals**

We care about your well-being and want you to feel supported abroad. Because Emotional Support Animals are not recognized outside of the United States, you will not be able to bring an ESA on Arcadia Abroad programs. If you have any questions or would like support developing a personalized wellness plan for your time abroad, please contact your [Wellness Advisor](#).

## **Roommate Requests**

Our capacity to honor roommate requests will vary by program and housing option. Your program housing page will provide more detailed information on how roommate requests are managed. In any case, your roommate request must be mutual and is limited to one person. We will not accept or honor requests for large groups of people. If your program will consider roommate requests, you indicate your interest on your Housing Preferences Form.

Please note that your program housing has been designed to create an experience for you that is appropriate based on the housing context. At the discretion of our Arcadia staff or on-site program housing staff, and at the capacity of the housing location, you may be assigned housing with any combination of the following:

- Local/domestic students
- International students who are not affiliated with Arcadia Abroad
- Arcadia Abroad students
- Students from your homeschool
- Students from other homeschools

We know that housing is a really important part of your experience and that the unknown of who you'll be living with may make you really excited or really uncomfortable. Part of studying abroad is learning how to navigate ambiguity and this often begins while waiting to learn who you'll be living with during your time abroad.

## Opt Out of Program Housing

Your program has been designed with the intention that you will live in program housing and it is our expectation that you will live in this housing. However, we recognize that there are some unique circumstances under which alternate housing is more appropriate. As such, we will consider requests to independently secure housing if you meet one of the following criteria:

1. You have a family member within a reasonable commuting time of your program
2. You have a documented medical accommodation that cannot be met in program housing
3. You have a sincerely held religious belief with a related accommodation that cannot be met in program housing

Requests are considered on an individual basis and automatic approvals are not provided. Prior to your request being approved, you will need to provide evidence that your homeschool supports your request and you will need to complete an advising call with the Assistant Director of Student Life. You may be required to submit additional documentation at the discretion of the Assistant Director of Student Life.

**Arcadia Abroad will not consider requests from students studying in Italy, Spain, at the Burren College of Art in Ireland or the University of Manchester in England. At our discretion, we may add programs to this list at any time.**

To formally request to opt out of program housing, you must indicate your interest on your Housing Preferences Form. We will then email you instructions on your next steps. Please be mindful that there are strict deadlines for this process. These deadlines may be before you are formally accepted to your program. Any request received after the deadline will not be considered, regardless of reason. Deadlines are listed below. Failing to complete this process by the deadline will result in your placement in program housing or substantial financial impact. The details of this are found in the [Arcadia Abroad Refund and Withdrawal Policies](#).

## **Opt Out of Program Housing Deadlines**

### **Programs in Australia**

- [All Programs](#) due by the Arcadia Abroad application deadline. Application deadlines are published on the Arcadia Abroad website.

### **Programs in New Zealand**

- [Fall Semester & Academic Year Programs](#) due March 15
- [Spring Semester & Southern Hemisphere Academic Year Programs](#) due November 1

### **Programs in Scotland**

- [Fall Semester & Academic Year Programs](#) due May 1
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due by the Arcadia Abroad application deadline. Application deadlines are published on the Arcadia Abroad website.
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due by the Arcadia Abroad application deadline. Application deadlines are published on the Arcadia Abroad website.

### **Programs in England & Wales**

*Arcadia in London, City St. Georges, London Internship*

- [Fall Semester & Academic Year Programs](#) due May 15
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due October 15
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due March 30

*All Other Programs in England & Wales*

- [Fall Semester & Academic Year Programs](#) due May 31
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due October 31
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due March 30

### **Programs in Ireland & Northern Ireland**

- [Fall Semester & Academic Year Programs](#) due May 1
- [Spring Semester Programs](#) due October 25
- [Summer Term Programs](#) due March 30

### **Housing with Dependents**

Program housing is designed for enrolled students. If you are planning on travelling with dependents (children, spouses, etc.), please contact your Program Advisor for additional information as soon as possible.