

Trinity College Global Programs Housing Policy Statement

The Trinity College Global Programs Housing Policy is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of students participating in study away programs. Recognizing the unique challenges and risks associated with international living, this policy outlines the requirements and guidelines for housing arrangements. All students are required to secure accommodations through approved program providers, as independent housing is strictly prohibited. This approach fosters a supportive environment, ensuring compliance with health and safety standards while enhancing students' educational experiences abroad.

Trinity College's restriction on independent housing for study away students is due to significant risks, including inadequate security measures that increase vulnerability to crime, unsanitary living conditions that can lead to health issues, and challenges in accessing emergency services. Legal concerns arise from unclear lease agreements, which can lead to misunderstandings and financial liabilities for damages. Furthermore, independent living can result in feelings of isolation, making it difficult for students to connect with peers and access community support.

Given these potential hazards, all housing arrangements for students studying abroad or off-campus must be arranged and overseen in advance by Trinity College or Trinity's Approved External Program providers. This ensures compliance with Trinity College's health and safety standards, ultimately safeguarding our students' well-being during their study away experience. Acceptable housing arrangements are those that are directly organized and arranged by the program including, in some instances, independent housing where a formal process exists by which the provider screens appropriate dwelling units, inspects them for appropriate safety conditions, and serves as a resource for resolving roommate and/or contractual issues.

Independent housing that is self-arranged without oversight, support and institutional accountability on the part of the program provider is not permitted. Exceptions can only be made in extraordinary circumstances where a medical condition or pre-existing SARC-documented accommodation necessitates an alternative residential arrangement. In such circumstances, students and their guardians or parents will sign a waiver acknowledging the risk and assuming all responsibility for the safety and quality of the housing.

Approval of an exception for independent housing does not constitute inspection of, endorsement of, or ongoing monitoring of the student's housing by Trinity College or the Global Engagement Office, nor does it create any obligation for the College to assess or ensure the safety, suitability, or legal compliance of such housing. Any approval of independent housing as an exception to this policy is expressly contingent upon the student's execution of Trinity College's Independent Housing Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability, and, where required, any accompanying parent or guardian acknowledgment.

The objective of this policy is to promote a safe and enriching study away experience. By implementing these measures and fostering a supportive environment, Trinity College can significantly enhance student safety and well-being.