



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

# SHARE ACCOMMODATION

*Hints on making it work*

Sharing accommodation can be a good, cost-effective housing preference for students. It can also present new challenges with respect to ensuring the smooth running of a household. In order to avoid problems, it is useful to be clear about the house rules from the very beginning. It is also important to comply with landlord regulations.

## **There are things to consider and discuss when sharing accommodation.**

### **Rent**

- Does each person contribute equally to the rent and bond?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure that the rent is paid?
- When does your share of the rent have to be given to the person responsible for paying it?

### **Vacancy**

- When a room becomes vacant, what is the process for deciding on a new tenant?
- Compatibility is important. Can you live with a person's taste in friends, music? Can they be relied on to pay bills, rent?

### **Bills**

- Most households receive bills for water, electricity, gas, and internet. You need to be clear about how these bills are shared.
- Establish whose responsibility is it to ensure the bills are paid.
- Some record keeping may be needed.

## **Food**

- Will you have collective or individual buying, or a mix of both?
- If collective, how often and how much is each person's contribution?
- Who does the shopping? Should it be rostered?

## **Domestic Chores**

- What are they?
- How will they be shared?
- Consider cooking and cleaning up arrangements.
- Are rosters the way to go?

## **Living Environment**

- Have an agreement about appropriate noise levels, impromptu parties.
- Make decisions regarding smoking, alcohol, drugs.

## **House Meetings**

- Regular house meetings can be a useful way of making decisions which include all household members. These also reduce the potential for problems developing over time.
- Remember, be patient. It may take a few meetings before problems are ironed out.
- Be constructive in your comments and focus on solutions to the problem.

## **Dealing with conflict**

You will need to make an effort to manage conflict constructively. Remember to take time out from difficult conversations or interactions to reflect on how you can best manage the situation. It may be best to let some things go, some of the time.

Consider talking with friends you do not live with about difficulties. This may help decide what is most important; if the issue is worth discussion with housemates, or can be compromised. We all learn a lot about ourselves by living with others. There are vast differences between what we and others consider to be important. Try to see some incidents as opportunities to learn and grow. Try to frame behaviour you disagree with as being about differences, rather than focusing on who is right or wrong.

If you are having ongoing problems with another tenant that cannot be resolved, you may consider contacting:

- The University of Adelaide Managed Student Accommodation on 08 8313 5220 and <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/accommodation>
- The Residential Tenancies Tribunal of SA 08 8226 8989 <https://tenanthelp.com.au>

Counselling Support is available to assist students with personal difficulties that are affecting their study.

The service provides:

- Individual counselling by appointment
- Face to face, virtual and phone appointments
- Mental health emergency response

**Counselling Support**

**Ground Floor, Horace Lamb Building**

**The University of Adelaide**

**Ph: +61 8 8313 5663**

**After hours support: 1300 167 654 or sms 0488 884 197**