

Good Questions to Ask of Your Potential Roommates

1. What kind of a relationship do you want in a roommate?

- a. Do everything together
- b. To be friends
- c. To be respectful and peacefully coexist

Residents should recognize whether they are looking for just a roommate or a potential friend in their roommate to better start the relationship. Some students become lifelong friends from being roommates while others just simply live together respectfully.

2. Which statement best describes you?

- a. I am a morning person and prefer to live with a morning person.
- b. I am a morning person and can live with a night person.
- c. I am a night person and prefer to live with a night person.
- d. I am a night person but can live with a morning person.

This is to ensure you are living with someone who has similar habits and if they don't, you're able to start the conversation of sleeping, studying and social habits.

3. How would you describe your sleeping habits?

- a. Light sleeper
- b. Moderate sleeper
- c. Heavy sleeper

This is to prevent conflict in accordance to study habits, social life. If you accidentally bump into something or drop something in the middle of the night, will that wake your roommate? Do you snore or do they? It's important to start this conversation so both roommates are aware of each other's sleeping patterns.

4. What time do you prefer to go to bed?

- a. 8 pm - 10 pm
- b. 10 pm - 12 am
- c. 12 am – 2 am
- d. After 2 am

Does your potential roommate like to stay up reading all night or are they someone who likes to go to bed right after their favorite TV show? How does that mesh with your lifestyle habits?

5. What time do you prefer to wake up?

- a. Before 7 am
- b. 7 am – 9 am
- c. 9am – 11am
- d. I sleep as long as possible

This can begin conversations on what each morning should look like and accordingly plan bathroom use schedules.

6. Do you like to study in your room?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Depends on the noise or time of day

Expectations can be set on which times work for both parties to study in the room in accordance to sleeping habits along with brainstorming a back-up location for studying.

- 7. Which statement best describes your preference of study environment in your room?**
- a. I prefer a study environment that is very quiet.
 - b. I prefer a study environment with some noise (e.g., music, TV, etc.) in the background.
 - c. I am able to study regardless of the noise level.
 - d. I must have some level of noise in order to study.

Some environments work better for others when it comes to studying. This could be one of the most important questions you ask, as not all people study well in environments with background noise or in a quiet environment.

- 8. How do you feel about your roommate's significant other frequently spending time in your room?**
- a. I would usually be comfortable in this situation.
 - b. I would usually agree if I didn't plan to be there.
 - c. Only if my roommate asked and I agreed.
 - d. I would agree if the significant other was not spending the night.
 - e. I would not be comfortable in this situation.

While our policies do not allow cohabitation, your roommate may want his or her girlfriend or boyfriend to come over for a movie or study date. How much is too much? How would you feel being around while they are there?

- 9. How do you feel about groups of people socializing in your room?**
- a. This would be fine with me except when I am trying to sleep or study in my room.
 - b. This would be fine occasionally.
 - c. I would be okay only if I didn't plan to be there.
 - d. I would expect to find privacy in my room most of the time.

Guests in the room can impact a roommate's study/sleeping habits. While we already have existing guest policies, this conversation can also help create an understanding of what's okay and what's not. For example, when your roommate has guests over, can they sit on your bed or only on the chair? How late can they stay? Do you want them to talk to you or would you prefer to be left alone.

- 10. Which statement best describes your standards for the condition of your room?**
- a. I like my room to be clean almost always.
 - b. I like my room to be generally neat, but I am willing to put up with a little clutter from time to time.
 - c. It does not bother me if my room is cluttered and disorganized.

Not everyone is Martha Stewart when it comes to keeping their rooms organized, and that's okay. Do you mind if your roommate leaves their clothes on the floor or will clutter keep you awake at night?

11. How would you feel about your roommate borrowing or sharing your personal belongings?

- a. I would not mind at all.
- b. I would not mind sharing things like TVs, stereos, etc. but would mind sharing personal items like clothing.
- c. I would not mind if I had been asked and had given my permission.
- d. I would not use other people's things and expect others not to use mine.

In younger days we were taught that sharing is caring, but sometimes there's just some things you don't want to part with.

12. In dealing with conflicts:

- a. I am able to clearly express my feelings and concerns.
- b. I will generally express my concerns in a joking fashion so that the other person gets the hint.
- c. I usually wait until I am really annoyed or angry.
- d. I am not comfortable asserting myself in conflict.

No relationship is absolutely perfect and when you live with someone you may run into issues that need to be addressed. What's your and your roommate's personal style when it comes to addressing things that bother them or managing conflict?

13. Although smoking is prohibited in the Residence Halls, your smoking habits can influence your roommate relationship. Do you smoke?

- a. Frequently.
- b. Occasionally.
- c. No.

Though smoking in the residence hall is forbidden, the smell and smoke can remain on clothing and be brought into the residence hall. Residents should be aware about this prior to living together.

14. Do you object to your roommate smoking?

- a. Yes.
- b. Yes, and I am smoke-sensitive.
- c. No.

Similar to the question above, the smell of smoke may negatively affect residents who have breathing related health conditions or residents who have strong feelings about the smell of smoke. To avoid disagreements or potential health concerns, this should be addressed prior to living together.

15. How often do you plan on going home?

- a. Every weekend
- b. Every other weekend
- c. Once a month
- d. Rarely or only during university breaks
- e. Never

It's important to keep communication with your roommate when you will be present in the room and when you won't be because some people may not like being alone and others may want to plan their guest visitation.

The following questions relate to hobbies and interests. While roommates do not have to be a perfect match in regards to likes and dislikes, it helps to have a common ground to build a relationship on. Consider discussing these questions as well as others that are important to you.

Interests

1. Which music genres are most applicable to you?

- a. Country
- b. Rock
- c. Classical
- d. Folk
- e. Rap
- f. R&B / Hip-Hop
- g. Pop
- h. Oldies
- i. Other

2. How often do you have music or the TV on in your room?

- a. All the time
- b. Most of the time
- c. Sometimes
- d. Rarely
- e. Never

3. What are the top three ways you most enjoy spending extra time:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. Arts | Movies | Religion |
| b. Comm. Service | Music | Road Trips |
| c. Computers | Outdoors | Sports |
| d. Dancing | Partying | Television |
| e. Dining | Photography | Theater |
| f. Family | Reading | Video Games |