

Safe Housing Checklist

Use this checklist to evaluate the level of safety and security for each of your housing options abroad. Keep in mind that it may not be necessary to fulfill every item on this list.

Housing Priorities

Accommodation

- How was your accommodation chosen (recommended by trusted contact, used on previous ASU programs)?
- Will you have a roommate? If so, how are roommates paired (self-selected, assignments based on gender)?
- What amenities are available at the accommodation (running water, private bedroom or bathroom, wireless internet)?
- If you have issues with housing, who is your main contact and how can they be reached?

Location

- Classes, workplace or project site
Approximate distance from accommodation: _____
Type(s) of transportation available: _____
Approximate commute time: _____
- Healthy foods (market, grocery store, etc.)
Approximate distance: _____
Type(s) of transportation available: _____
Approximate commute time: _____
- Community interaction, immersion, entertainment (community centers, coffee shops, etc.)
Approximate distance: _____
Type(s) of transportation available: _____
Approximate commute time: _____
- Nearest medical facility
Approximate distance: _____
Type(s) of transportation available: _____
Approximate commute time: _____

Safety Considerations

Accommodation

- Building is in good physical condition (integrity of walls, balconies, outlets).
- There are no exposed electrical wires or other visible fire hazards.
- Access to fire safety resources (clearly marked exits, alarms, sprinklers, extinguishers).
- Emergency fire evacuation plans are posted in rooms and/or hallways.
- There are multiple ways to get to each room (elevator, at least two staircases).
- There is on-site front desk staff, a live-in manager, and/or host family.

- There is an English speaking point of contact available 24/7.
- There is a person on staff at all times who has completed first aid training.
- There is an enforced curfew.
- Visitors must pass through a reception area.
- There are security guards and/or cameras.
- The house and/or community is gated.
- There are exterior lights and/or motion sensitive lights.
- Accommodation can be locked from the inside.
- Accommodation is wheelchair accessible.
- Bedroom is not on ground level.
- Bedroom can be locked from the inside.
- Windows are barred.
- Windows can be locked from the inside.
- Sliding glass doors and balcony entrances can be locked from the inside.
- Access to a safe with customizable combination.
- Access to refuse disposal and/or recycling.
- Access to safe toilet and bathroom facilities.
- Bathroom facilities are private and can be locked.
- Bathroom facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- Access to potable drinking water.

Location

- Streetlights in the neighborhood.
- Area is clean (not near open gutters, refuse disposal, other health hazards).
- Transportation is easily accessible and safe.
- The neighborhood is wheelchair accessible
- Is the area urban, rural, residential? _____
- Is the area isolated or populated? _____
- Where are the “no-go” areas of the neighborhood? _____
- How close are the nearest neighbors? _____
- Who are the neighbors (families, students, etc.)? _____
- What type of crimes have been reported in the area? _____
- What security measures are in place (guards, cameras, etc.)? _____

Reflection

An accommodation may not fulfill each item on this list but can still be a safe option with the use of risk mitigation strategies. For example, if there is no fire extinguisher in the accommodation, a risk mitigation strategy would be to purchase one on-site.

Compare your housing options to this checklist and make note of areas where safety may need to be improved. Create a list of risk mitigation strategies to address these issues.

Visit <https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/students/health-safety>
to find more international travel health, safety, and security resources.