

RESOURCES FOR YOU!

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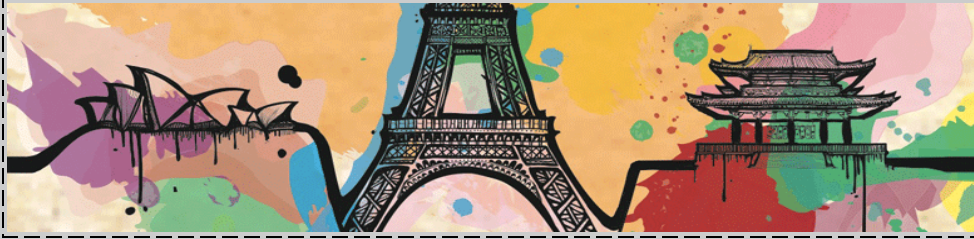


***Why having an
International Roommate
can be the Highlight of
your College Experience***



RPI RESIDENCE LIFE

“Why not change the world?” is a question asked to every student at RPI. However, can you change the world if you don’t even understand it? Meeting someone new for the first time can often be an exciting and anxious time, and someone from a different country can add another dimension. Roommates from different countries is an exceptional opportunity to learn more about yourself, your roommate, and the greater world. It is our hope that by the end of your time together you don't simply think of your roommate as just a roommate—but a friend; and this guide is designed to help you achieve that relationship.



RELATING WITH YOUR INTERNATIONAL ROOMMATE

* **Find Commonalities and Build on Them:**

Converse with your roommate to learn about their interest while sharing your own. Finding common threads helps to build a strong mutual interest between one another.

* **Exchange Customs and Traditions:**

Trading commonalities isn't the only ways to bond; hearing and sharing new experiences are great ways to expand your knowledge and share your own. Photos, stories, and artifacts are examples of interesting things to share.

* **Experience New Things Together:**

Creating experiences is an excellent way to build lasting memories. If you and your roommate are both willing, joining a student organization, attending residence life programs, and exploring campus and beyond together are all great examples.

* **Research Their Culture:**

Because they have more likely than not have researched yours. If you find any facts, stories, customs or ideas that interest you, talk with your roommate about them to gain some hands-on insight.

* **Why RPI?**

You and your roommate both chose Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for a reason. Do you both share the same major? Are your career goals similar? As future alumnus, how are you both aiming to change the world?

HELPFUL REMINDERS

Reframe any Preconceived Notions—

Just like you, your roommate is an individual person, so get to know them personally without assumptions or generalizations.

Remember Your Own Cultural Lens—

You have a specific way of viewing things, and your roommate will as well. Aim to respect these differences even if you don't understand them.

Compromising is Always Key—

Toward the first few weeks of your rooming experience, have mutually agreed upon expectations for chores, quiet hours, guests, etc.

College is the perfect opportunity to meet new people and cultures different than our own. The greatest part about an international roommate is learning firsthand from someone you can build a lasting, close bond with.



When you enter your first professional job after graduation, you will be entering a diverse workforce. Having knowledge of other cultures and people will allow you to easily work with others different from you.

ASK! INQUIRE! CONVERSE!

Communication and dialogue is key for any healthy rooming situation

Why do you always wake up so early?

I like the beat of this song, what are they saying?

You like this show, why is it funny to you?

Ah, my country likes to begin the day early!

They're talking about driving fast and video games!

The characters and stuff they say is hilarious.

Nice, I wish I woke up like that.

Okay, I'll watch it too then!