Residence Life and Housing

The Office of Residence Life and Housing offers a variety of housing options to fit the needs and interests of all students. Rising sophomores and older students have a variety of choices to make when it comes to housing, and we’re here to help!

There are a variety of themed housing options that offer students the opportunity to live with peers who share their interests and develop leadership skills as they pursue these interests and share them with their broader campus community. One themed housing option is The Interest House Community. These eleven houses bordering campus each house just five to eleven students, including RAs and Language Assistants. Language Assistants are native speakers of French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese, and German who live and teach at Whitman for a year and live with students in language themed houses. In addition to these language houses, the IHC includes the Fine Arts House, Writing House, Environmental Interest House, Community Service House (the only interest house whose residents are not required to be on a meal plan), Global Awareness House, and the Multi-Ethnic Center for Cultural Awareness. Another themed option is apartment-style housing in Tamarac House, which emphasizes outdoor activities. Lastly, Douglas Hall’s Interest Suites allow students to apply as a group to focus on a theme of interest to them, such as fitness, LGBT issues, or e-sports. Applications for all of these themed housing options are available in the Residence Life & Housing Office.

There are also a variety of non-themed housing options across campus. Rising sophomores and above who want to connect with the incoming class can easily do so in Whitman’s three mixed class facilities (Lyman, North, and the all-women’s hall Prentiss). Other options include apartment-style housing in College Houses (in which sophomores are not required to be on a meal plan), suites of more transitional rooms in Douglas Hall, or single, double, or triple occupancy spaces in Marcus House (where juniors and seniors are not required to be on the meal plan). Students may enroll in a lottery for single, triple, 4-person, or 6-person occupancy rooms on April 10 or can sign up for a double occupancy room on April 17.

Students will receive information from the Residence Life & Housing Office about all relevant deadlines, but they will also have the chance to get to know each of these communities through a series of open houses, events, and tours offered by current residents, Resident Assistants, and Resident Directors as applications become available and housing selection approaches. In the meantime, students are encouraged to talk with their fellow Whitties and their supportive Residence Life staff to learn about the variety of options available so they can assess which options most appeal to their unique interests and needs. Even if a student does not get into an interest house or their top choice for housing, there are such unique opportunities in each type of housing that we have found students still have a positive learning and living experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Residence Life & Housing Office at on_campus_housing@whitman.edu or 509-527-5297.