

Interest House Community Application 2024-2025

Thank you for applying to live in the Interest House Community (IHC)!

The Interest Houses are designed to:

- Be great places for students to live and grow
- Allow students to focus on a particular language, culture, and/or area of interest
- Serve as resource centers for the campus and community
- Sponsor and organize fun, educational, and social activities for the campus
- Create close communities through regular house meals and activities together
- Provide students with leadership opportunities
- Create a student community of diverse interests
- Note: All IHC residents are required to have a meal plan *except* those living in the Community Service Co-op

If you would like more information about the individual houses, please explore this link:

<https://www.whitman.edu/life-at-whitman/residence-life/interest-houses>

HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the online application form [HERE](#)!
 - If you would prefer to create your own word document answer the following questions, please submit your document to ihcapplications@whitman.edu
- Applications are due at 11:59 pm Friday, March 8th

After applying, you will interview with the RA(s) of the house(s) you applied to, and join the house for dinner or an alternative group activity (i.e.; tea time). You will be contacted after applying to sign up for the interview and dinner.

NOTE: If invited to live in the IHC, the house you are placed in will be based on available space, your house preference, and assessment of your application components (application, interview, etc). Please note that if selected, you will be offered a spot in *one* house. We take many things into consideration when placing residents, which results in one letter of acceptance from one house, not multiple from several houses. This is to ensure that we can accommodate as many residents as possible without empty spaces. Applicants will be notified of decisions by April 5th. Applicants are encouraged to have alternative housing plans in the event that the IHC does not have sufficient spaces for all qualified applicants.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, feel free to contact the IHC Resident Director, Alyssa Ortiz at ortizal@whitman.edu

Application Questions

If turning in a PDF, please include your *name, class year, phone number and email* at the top of your application. Be sure to be *specific* with your answers and make sure that the information you provide is *tailored to the house to which you are applying*.

1. If you are applying to multiple interest houses, please rank your preferences and provide a brief paragraph describing why you have picked this order. If you decide to change your preference classification, please contact the Resident Director, Alyssa Ortiz, (ortizal@whitman.edu).
2. To which house(s) are you applying? Why do you want to live in this house?
3. What skills, talents, and/or experiences do you have to offer the house and the Interest House Community? Please describe your previous exposure to a culture and/or language if applicable.
4. Interest House life is different from living in a Residence Hall. What aspects of Interest House life most appeal to you? What aspects are you potentially concerned about?
5. What extracurricular commitments will you have next semester, and how will you make time for the house? Do you have any questions about the responsibilities of living in an Interest House (chores, dinners, programming, etc.)?
6. Please describe your optimal living environment.
7. What questions do you have about the house(s)?
8. What else should we know about you?
9. (A) If you are applying to the **French, German, Chinese, or Spanish Houses** please include a writing sample 1-2 pages in length in the foreign language of the house to which you are applying, introducing something (a famous person, an item, a product, etc.) with the assumption that the application reader has no idea what you are talking about. **OR**, describe yourself in 150-250 words in the appropriate language. Things to include could be: Where are you from? When were you born? How long have you been speaking the language? What do you study? What do you like to do for fun?
(B) If you are applying to the **Tekisuijuku**, explain in writing (in English) how you plan to continue your study of Japanese.
(C) If you are applying to the **Community Service House**, please describe a community service experience or project that you have participated in. What did you like about it? How impactful do you feel it was? Did you learn anything? What could have been improved?
(D) If you are applying to **Multicultural, Fine Arts, Wellness, Writing, Lavender House (LGBTQIA2S+), Spiritual, or Environmental Houses**, please choose one of these options: On a separate single piece of paper, creatively express yourself (i.e. draw a picture, write down a favorite poem or quote, share a song, etc.) and briefly explain its importance, **or** write a 150-250 word response describing who in the world, alive or dead, you would most like to share a meal with and why.

Remember to complete the Qualtrics form **OR** turn in your PDF application to ihcapplications@whitman.edu by **11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 8th**