

# **UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE**

## **UPEACE HOUSING GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 - 2025**

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## Housing General Information

### Housing availability

The link to access the UPEACE housing portal will be officially emailed on **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, to regular MA students joining and starting classes on August 2024. (Be noted that date may change for special MA programs, please contact “housing@upeace.org” for further instructions). There is no specific time to be e-mail so please be patient and expect it at some point during the day. Students will then be required to create a housing account to reserve their facilities. Where should I create my booking account? You will learn this and more later in this document. The housing portal contains detailed housing information with photos, videos, prices, and descriptions.

**Note:** There are 3 official booking seasons this year: 1-) **July 15<sup>th</sup>** (Regular MA students), 2-) **November 25<sup>th</sup>** (NRSD students) and 3-) **June 17<sup>th</sup>** (Ecology and Society students). Students joining classes with different programs may inform the housing assistant for further instructions. For reservations outside 3 booking seasons, it is suggested “not” to make reservations more than 1 month prior to your arrival as property owners give priority to students with earlier arrivals. It is mandatory to have an official arrival date before making your reservation. NO tentative arrival dates are allowed.

For your information, UPEACE has a housing agreement with some property owners located in Ciudad Colón, El rodeo, San Bosco, Brasil de Mora and surrounding areas by providing accommodation to UPEACE students and all of them meet housing requirement for student's purposes at UPEACE. All UPEACE facilities on the website are furnished, most of them include Internet service and utilities (electricity and water) in the monthly rent price or for an additional fee. Additionally, some of them offer meals, laundry and cleaning service included in the monthly price or for an additional cost. You can learn more about it in detail when you review the description of each home of your choice. Considering all the above, you will be able to choose the facility that best suits your preferences during your Academic Year.

### How does the UPEACE housing service work?

UPEACE does not offer on-campus residences. However, you may find options including family stays, single studios, one-three shared bedroom apartments, houses, etc. and most options fully furnished/ equipped for student purposes. The prices go from \$300USD to \$1200 USD, depending on the type of facility, location, dimensions, amenities and/or special requirements. In Costa Rica, most rent contract and agreements require a deposit, however UPEACE have arranged with property owners, so that the security deposit can be paid from the second month and not from the first month as it is requested. The first month's rent will be considered as a trial month (mandatory payment), and the student will only have to pay the first month's rent upon arrival. During the first month (trial month), the student will have to decide whether to stay longer (at the same place chosen prior the arrival) or to move to another place starting the second month. Whatever decision the student has made, in the second month a contract must be signed and the corresponding payment of the second month's rent plus the security deposit must be made together. The trial month is only valid for the first month, upon arrival to Costa Rica. Therefore, from the second month (after the trial month) you will have to comply and live in the place you chose and stay for the rest of your academic period following the terms and conditions agreed with your landlord.

## Type of facilities and rates

Following are the estimated prices and all that is included:

- Host family (homestay): Students will have the opportunity to live with a Costa Rican host family learning more about the culture, food, and language. Students will have their own room and privacy in order to study and get some rest time. Costs may vary depending on the type of room (size, shared or own bath, additional services, etc.) and amenities offered by the hosts. In most cases, rent includes 2 meals during weekdays (Monday through Friday) and some offer weekend meals for an additional cost. Laundry and room cleaning once a week. Costs are \$400 USD and up per month. There might be a few options that “do not” offer meals with prices from \$300 USD.
- 1,2-bedroom apartments / studios: All apartments/studios are fully furnished and equipped with the basic appliances so that students can live independently. These vary in cost, depending on the size, location and amenities offered. Usually rent includes utilities and internet service (in a few cases you will have to pay for them). Students are responsible for communicating with the owner and keeping the facility in proper order. Costs are between \$350 – \$900 USD per month.
- 3, 4-bedroom houses: Students may be able to choose a house and share the place and rent with other students. These facilities are fully furnished, and basic appliances, bedding and kitchen utensils are provided for students to live independently. Students are responsible for communicating with the owner and keeping the facility in proper order. Costs are between \$900 – \$1,200 USD per month. Usually rent includes utilities and internet service but in some cases, you will have to cover them.

Rest assured; we have ample housing options available for all students enrolled in classes. However, the availability of accommodations is contingent upon the availability of homeowners' properties. Therefore, it's crucial that you select your preferred facility based on the options provided on the platform at the time of your booking request, ensuring your peace of mind and satisfaction.

For budget planning purposes, housing options start at \$350 USD per month and increase depending on dimension, location, amenities desired and/or special requirements. Students are told to anticipate spending between \$700 and \$1,000 USD/month for living expenses (housing, food, incidentals, etc.). The specifics depend on the individual student's living standards. Having access to additional funds in the event of a person's emergency or unexpected expense is also recommended.

## UPEACE portal vs others booking websites.

Whether you opt to reserve your accommodation through the UPEACE website, which we strongly advise, or through alternative methods (such as other booking websites or recommendations from former students), it's essential to ensure that you select a facility where you feel both comfortable and safe throughout your academic year at UPEACE.

That being said, if you decide to find a place on your own, make sure you look at the property rental conditions before confirming your reservation or signing a lease contract. Also review updated pictures, description, services offered, and previous tenant's comments which is highly recommended. Please note that reservations of facilities out of UPEACE database are student responsibility. For your information, many students have experienced "positively" when renting places on their own, but unfortunately, we can't assure everyone have experienced it same way (We don't mean to cause alarm, there are indeed nice and fair owners out there), it's still a concern that prompts us to advise vigilance to prevent any issues from arising/repeating for future generations. To mitigate these concerns and prevent any potential housing issues, we recommend making inquiries before booking any accommodation (especially if it is outside the UPEACE portal), perhaps we could have information and comments that could aid you in making a more informed decision. These insights are sometimes shared by previous students who rented houses independently and decided to share their experiences, (both positive and negative feedback), as they believe they could be relevant for future students.

On the other hand, when booking facilities through UPEACE website (highly recommended) you get the opportunity to have your first rental month as a trial month (only applies for UPEACE facilities) it does not mean free, so first month must be paid in full as it is to be expected, but what you get is the chance for you to make sure the place you booked meet your expectations or on the contrary you decide to move out at the second month without any penalty. In short, most reservations through UPEACE website let you make the first payment "upon arrival" however some owners may ask for a prepayment (see prepayment requirements later in this document). Be informed that a few owners may also request a "security deposit" before your arrival due to their leasing policies, however, they will refund your money if guidelines are followed. In any case, whether you want to stay longer at the same place or move to another facility, the second month's rent plus security deposit must be paid together. The security deposit should be refunded at the end of the contract depending on the rental conditions agreed. You should also sign a lease contract as part of the rental policies (highly recommended).

For any personal reason, if you decide to change your housing (after the trial month) always remember to inform UPEACE housing office (even if you book on your own). Before moving to another place, make sure you are choosing the appropriate facility. If you find a facility in the portal that meet your house preferences, -and before submitting your booking-, you may write to the housing assistant (housing@upeace.org) and ask for the owner contact details so you will be able to schedule a visit to preview the property and make the best decisions before you move. Note: remember trial month applies once (first month), so it is convenient to take advantage of it as it is an exclusive benefit for UPEACE students.

## What should you know before submitting your reservation?

1. For students making reservations outside the 3 official booking seasons (1- July, 2- November, and 3- June) is suggested NOT to make reservations more than 1 month prior to your arrival as property owners give priority to students with early arrivals. If you do NOT yet have an official arrival date, then wait until you have it so you may submit your reservation. NO tentative arrival dates are allowed.
2. For your peace of mind, there are enough accommodation options for everyone so that you can make your reservations later. Note also that housing portal will remain available throughout your academic year.
3. If you have a special health condition or justified physical disability that requires earlier housing assistance, please contact to [housing@upeace.org](mailto:housing@upeace.org) (preferable before the opening of the housing portal).
4. Make sure the place you pick meets your housing requirements. If you are given a contract, make sure you read and understand the terms and conditions before signing. A lease contract should be signed at second month rent (highly recommended).
5. Reservations through the UPEACE portal **must be considered an official reservation process**, so you should NOT book any of the facilities offered only “as tentative or plan B” if you are not fully committed. Remember that you can move out from the second month of rent (without any penalty) in case the facility chosen (prior to your arrival) does not meet your preferences during your first month.
6. **Remember that only 1 reservation per student is allowed**. Please note that other students also need to book a place to move-in before the start of the academic year.
7. You are asked to commit and comply with your house rental conditions during your UPEACE program (with/without a contract). You are reminded that any situation or problem with your housing (that is the student’s responsibility) may affect or delay your final graduation process.
8. If you want to share accommodation with other students (which is good experience), make sure you know each other beforehand or at least that you have similar living preferences (you can use the Facebook group created for these purposes). Otherwise, you could end up looking for other places to stay separately (due to roommate incompatibility issues).
9. Remember to always review the facility description and policies carefully before booking. Some shared facilities are rented singly (per single rooms) in these cases each student reserves their own room independently (without any need to look for roommates) but sharing common areas, and others are rented as a whole unit (not per single rooms) so in these cases you must already have a roommate(s) to share with before booking (or you must be willing to pay the full amount of the reserved place).
10. The place is rented for the number of people in the initial contract. Any additional person must pay additional rent. For example, an equipped 2-bedroom unit, it is

intended for two tenants ONLY. Any additional person occupying the house will be subject to additional rent fees.

11. In case of occasional visits (friends, family, or others), these must be informed to the owner without exception. Depending on the terms and conditions of your property, some landlords may charge you for your visits, considering the length of their stay and the amount per night ranges from \$20-\$35 USD. This amount is usually used to cover the cost of utilities during your visitors' stay. If you inform your owners of your visits in advance you will have a better chance of negotiating the price.
12. If you did not make your reservation through the UPEACE Housing Website, but through former student's reference and directly with the owners, please let us know where you are planning to live for housing records and emergency purposes at ([housing@upeace.org](mailto:housing@upeace.org)).
13. Once you have received confirmation of your housing request, make sure you keep this information handy for locating the place upon arrival to Costa Rica. You will also be able to ask your landlords for the location of your property using Google Maps or Waze. Addresses in Costa Rica are very confusing (unclear) but owners will be happy to support you and guide you.
14. Since (trial month) will also define profitability for all listed property owners, they need you to make up your mind about your housing plans. If you don't take advantage of your trial month (whether staying longer at the same place or moving to another place starting the second month) then future rent possibilities for homeowners may be affected as most of students will officially be settled down after first and second month. Once you have made your decision and your trial month has expired, homeowners expect you to stay from the second month onwards, for at least first semester, or in the best case both semesters.
15. Through the UPEACE reservation platform, students will NOT be able chatting to listed homeowners before submitting your reservations, which means that your decision should be made based on the information provided through the housing portal (housing description, photos, videos, and reviews if available). Once your order reservation is submitted and it is successfully approved by the homeowner then you will have access to the property details including contact information. If pre-payment is requested then it must be transferred to owners within 3 days from the time your reservation is approved, otherwise it will be cancelled/declined for non-payment.
16. Students are advised to take an official cab (orange color) at the airport. The price for this transportation until Ciudad Colon should be between \$30 and 35 USD. Note: It might go a bit higher depending on your housing location.
17. Upon arrival, **you will be required to stay for a minimum of 1 month before deciding to move out.** The minimum period of stay in any facility is 1 month. Remember that once the trial month (1st month) has elapsed or expired, each move from the second month onwards is subject to the terms and conditions written in the contract. Therefore, make sure you choose the right place to stay (from second month) and ask your landlord for a lease agreement which is convenient for both parties.

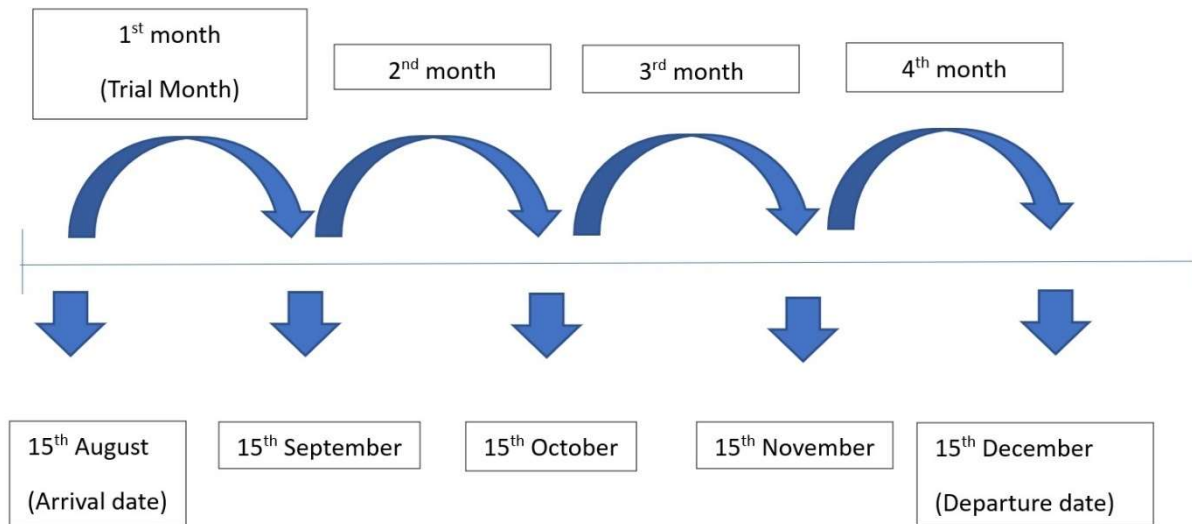
18. All months of rent must be paid without exception, whether you spend most of the time physically in the rented place or on the contrary, you spend most of the time traveling and away due to other reasons. Consider that while your belongings are stored in the rented place, homeowners cannot make use of the property, for this reason the monthly payment must be paid regularly. Note: Homeowners are not required to grant discounts. Therefore, it is at their discretion as to any discount that may be granted.
19. In case you want to move to another place, it is a MUST to inform your homeowners at least 1 month in advance (written is preferable) as part of the housing procedures. Please also inform (housing@upeace.org) of this or any change.
20. Avoid uncomfortable situations and **pay your rent on time**. The rent must be paid in cash or wire transfer (Either Dollars (USD) or Colons (CRC)). No delays are accepted. All payments are made in advance, upon arrival.
21. Communication is the key to success. Feel free to talk to your landlord about situations that concern or bother you. The owners are always willing to help you.
22. Make sure you get a receipt every time you pay the rent, deposit or other services provided to you by the owners. Keep all receipts until the end of your academic year.
23. If no damage has been done to the property and the property owner has been notified **one month in advance** about your moving plans, then the deposit should be returned. Property owners are given one month to return the security deposit from the day you notified your moving. Make sure you have been informed about your move or relocation in writing, with the date of your request (a message or email might work). Note: after the trial month you are subject to the contract conditions.
24. The first month, you will be required to pay only the rent upon arrival. Once you decide to stay for a longer period, the initial deposit plus the second month's rent should be paid together. (This only applies for programs over 3 months).
25. A few homeowners or property administrators may request the security deposit from the first month (upon or prior arrival), this due to their housing policies (usually real estate businesses) however students will continue to enjoy the first trial month and the security deposit will be returned according to the agreed conditions.
26. Once your reservation is confirmed make sure to inform your property owners about your flight itinerary and arrival details as "priority". Keep in touch with them.
27. The portal for reservations is intuitive and easy to use. You will be provided with an instruction manual (step by step guide) to facilitate this process. Any questions at the time of reservations can be address to (housing@upeace.org).
28. Student transportation service will be provided from Ciudad Colón (surrounding areas) to the UPEACE Campus (round trip). The bus stops/routes as well as the schedules will be sent via email prior to the beginning of the semester. Transportation service is free for students only.
29. If your partner, children, family, friends, or pets accompany you during your stay at UPEACE (either short or long stay), it is highly advisable to inform the housing assistant about it, since rental conditions, restrictions and fees may apply.
30. A Facebook group for UPEACE enrolled students is available throughout your academic year, which can be used to meet each other, arrange housing and much more.
31. According to lease law in Costa Rica, homeowners are allowed to carry out an inspection visit to the rented facility (once a month) in order to verify its correct use and operation. This must be performed by the student and homeowner together, with prior notification and according to their availability.



## How does the rent payment cycle work?

Payment cycles for UPEACE students basically start the same day of arrival and extend until the last day of stay. To better cover this topic, we will explain it below.

We will take as an example the First Semester 2023, with an arrival date on August 15<sup>th</sup> and departure date on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Considering this case, the first payment and due date will be on August 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



### Important information (based on the case above)

- According to local lease law, all months must be paid in full, and must be paid in advance.
- The rental month usually starts the same day of arrival/move-in to the reserved option. In the previous case, the reference is that you arrived on August 15<sup>th</sup> so you will have to make your next rent payment on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month and consecutively.
- For your information, “prorate” payments are not legally valid; however, are usually negotiable to house owners, but any negotiation will depend **strictly** on each property owner (so don’t count on this, without first discussing it with your house owner, preferable in advance).
- Be sure to notify your landlord **1 month before your departure (or moving)** taking as official reference your payment cycle date (same day of your arrival). In the case above, the payment date is taken as 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, so, for example, if you plan to move on December 15<sup>th</sup>, you must officially inform your landlord of your departure on November 15<sup>th</sup> (or even earlier). If you do so after (November 15<sup>th</sup>) then you may need to stay another month (to properly inform about your moving) and get the

deposit back or moveout and lose your security deposit, for not complying with the one-month notice timeframe.

- The trial month applies only with the **first month** (same place you booked before your arrival in Costa Rica). During the trial month you will have between 2 or 3 weeks to choose whether you will stay longer in the same place (you will have to sign a contract for a longer period, pay second's month rent plus, the security deposit together) OR choose to move to another place -starting the second month- and formalize your stay (you will also have to sign a contract and pay the rent and deposit together once moving-in).
- Take advantage of the trial month to make decisions about the best place for you as you will have more flexibility during this period. After the trial month (first month), you must comply with the terms and conditions of the contract. Remember to review your contract in detail before signing it.
- What if my departure date is a few days or weeks after the payment date? According to the previous case, if your departure date differs from your arrival date (e.g., 18th, 22nd, 25th) then you will need to talk to your owner to inform them about your departure date. In most cases the price could be negotiated for not paying the whole month (although it is not mandatory) but you should inform them in advance (preferably more than a month in advance). Do not leave it to the last minute and avoid inconveniences. The house owners will have the final say, whether to grant discounts or not.
- What if I need to change my payment cycle? This may be necessary for students who receive scholarships, stipends, or student loans on dates different from their arrival dates. In this case, the student should contact their landlord/lady (in advance) to explain the reason of the request and negotiate change. In most cases this will be possible (most landlords are willing to help and understand student's needs) however it will depend on each property owner and their possibilities to make any changes. Taking the above case, let's say you arrived on August 15<sup>th</sup>, but your stipend will be provided on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of each month. In that case, you could negotiate and make a partial payment of the first few days of rent (5, 10 or 15 days) on a case-by-case basis and restart with a new payment date/cycle according to convenience and agreement with the owner. It is reiterated that this will depend on each owner and particular case.

## Booking pre-payment

### What is Booking prepayment?

It is a new reservation requirement effective January 2024. Basically, it consists in making a payment in advance (within 3 days since owner approves your booking request). This payment consists of “**one-third**” of the total amount of the first month’s rent (owner will confirm to you the amount to be pre-paid). The remaining/pending balance (of the first month’s rent) must be paid upon arrival at the facility and directly to the property owners. Note: This is **NOT** a security deposit.

**Note:** To illustrate, if your monthly payment is \$600USD this means that your pre-payment will be \$200USD (one-third of the first month’s rent). Once you make this pre-payment then you will be able to confirm your reservation. You must contact your landlord directly for payment instructions.

### How to make the booking pre-payment transfer?

Once your owner approves your reservation, then the platform will enable the option to view the contact information of your owners (this is explained below). It is at that moment when you will have to request to your owner directly “with priority” the bank information to proceed with the pre-payment in a period no longer than 3 days after the owner approves your reservation. Otherwise, your reservation will be cancelled for non-payment. Once you have made the pre-payment, do not forget to send the payment receipt. Note: The housing platform does **NOT** process payments of any kind.

### Is booking pre-payment required for all UPEACE facilities?

**No.** Not all owners request pre-payment. To know if an owner requests the pre-payment, you can find out/confirm it in the description of each property, precisely in “**Booking requirements**” (see the following image where it is shown). There you will be able to know if it is required or not. If it is **NOT** required, it means that you can make your first payment the same day of your arrival but if the pre-payment **IS** requested, you must pay it (3 days maximum from the date owner approved your reservation) in order to confirm your reservation and secure your home.



**Is the prepayment refundable?**

**NO**, the pre-payment is non-refundable and non-transferable.

**What happens if I need to change my arrival date, will I lose the pre-payment?**

If your reservation was already confirmed and pre-paid (within the 3 days given) then owners may grant you a “period of grace” to arrive which it is up each owner’s decision (could be between 7 to 10 days) after your first booking date. If any situation arises that force you to ask an extension or change in your arrival date, then it must be informed and negotiated with your landlord directly.

## Basic facility recommendations

- Do not slam the door. Close the door.
- For apartments and studios, the cleaning is not normally included in the rent, but you can negotiate with the landlord. It does not include laundry or doing the dishes.
- Keep everything as tidy as possible and place your valuables in the closet.
- The keys to the house must not be lent to anyone else under any circumstance for security reasons. If it is a special situation, must be informed to homeowners.
- For your own personal safety, avoid late night visitors, either foreigners or locals that you are not very well acquainted with.
- Pets are not allowed. Some facilities may be allowed with prior authorization from the homeowners.
- Smoking is not allowed inside the house. Please smoke outside, in permitted areas if available.
- Please note: Most houses WILL have occasional internet loss, water shortages or shut-offs during the dry season, and electricity black-outs. These issues should be infrequent, but students should be aware that this is common and should be expected.

### ➤ The bathroom

- The students will be responsible for providing their own personal care products.
- The wastebasket must be used to discard toilet paper, gel, hair, sanitary napkins, etc. Do not throw anything in the toilet or it will clog up.
- The tropical climate of Costa Rica causes high levels of body sweat and odor; therefore, a daily shower and the use of body deodorant is highly advisable. It is lack of respect to others not to do so.
- The shower head includes a device that heats up the water, it is not meant for prolonged use or little water flow. Take a quick shower and make sure there is enough water flow, or else the device will burn out and you will be responsible for the repairs.

### ➤ The kitchen

- It must be kept clean and tidy. Treat all utensils and electrical appliances with care. If you are unsure of the proper use of any of these, be sure to check with the owner first to avoid damage and repair costs.
- Do not take any food into the bedroom. Use the dining room.
- Do not place wet pots or pans directly over burners.
- Check to see that everything is unplugged or disconnected before leaving the house, even if you only go out for a little while.
- Do not empty leftover foods or pour grease or garbage into the sink drain or it will clog up. Please use the wastebasket.
- Do not turn on all electrical appliances at once. Use them with moderation.
- The oven, the shower, the fans, and the iron consume a lot of energy. BE GREEN.
- Turn off the lights when not in the room.
- Make sure to turn off the faucet when you are not using it.

➤ **Outside and common areas**

- Depending on the type of accommodation you reserve, there will be shared access areas.
- According to neighborhoods and police authorities, activities or parties cannot be held after 10:00 p.m. Failure to comply with this may result in fines and even affect your residence in the country.
- The social and shared areas must be kept in proper order and disinfection.
- Ask the landlord about the garbage pick-up schedule, normally it collects every Monday and Thursday after 6:00 am. Please place the garbage bags in the garbage container outside the property. It is only allowed to take out the garbage on collection days.

➤ **Others**

- In case of repairs or maintenance, please report it to the property owner in advance (written preferably). Depending on the type of damage, homeowners will have 7 business days to fix it, however and in most cases, it is possible to solve it earlier.
- In most cases utilities (electricity and water) are included in the rental cost. Note: any excess above the average/monthly consumption must be paid/covered by the tenant.
- If there is no damage to the property, the deposit will be fully refunded, otherwise the corresponding deductions will be made based on repairing cost and according to leasing law in force in Costa Rica. An inspection (both homeowner and tenant) will be carried out prior to the student's departure.
- Damage caused to the apartment by guests, or third parties must be borne by the tenant.
- Other housing rules may apply depending on the type of accommodation and owner guidelines.

## Where to Live?

### Neighborhoods

#### ➤ Ciudad Colón

Located some 7 kilometers out into the hills is the University for Peace. Students from all over the world pursue their master's degrees in a wide variety of academic disciplines. The vast majority of students reside in Ciudad Colón, which provides the town with a distinctive feel. Demographically, Ciudad Colon can be considered as cosmopolitan as Santa Ana or Escazu, but in terms of amenities and services available, it is considered a typical small Costa Rican town. The cost of living is lower than in Santa Ana or Escazu. There are some supermarkets that meet the needs and requirements of expatriates and dozens of other small stores, banks, pharmacies, restaurants, gyms, private and public healthcare. There are no upscale bars or restaurants but there are many local venues catering to food and entertainment. In this area is held a fair of farm products called "Feria del Agricultor" on Saturdays during the morning time and another fair of green/organic products called "Feria Verde" held on Tuesdays during the afternoon time. Despite its small size, people from over 50 nationalities live in Ciudad Colon at any given time, making it one of the most multi-cultural towns in the whole world. Most of this expatriate population comprises students and faculty members from the University for Peace. Ciudad Colon is at the foothills of the mountain where the University for Peace sits nicely perched. Ciudad Colon used to be called Villa Colon. UPEACE transportation is available during weekdays to the school and back to Ciudad Colon downtown at different times.

#### ➤ Brasil de Mora

Coming from San Jose, Brasil de Mora is located only minutes away from Forum and Santa Ana area, or 2 kilometers away from downtown Ciudad Colon. Brasil de Mora neighborhood is well known because of its tranquility, nature, progressive area development. UPEACE transportation is available only twice during weekdays: before and after classes. Public transportation to Santa Ana, Escazu and San Jose is also available every day. This area has a variety of services nearby.

#### ➤ San Bosco

This is a rural area located some 2 kilometers away from Ciudad Colon downtown. UPEACE transportation is available only twice a day during weekdays: before and after classes to the school and back to the area. Should students need transportation at a different time, they can either take a public bus (\$1 USD approximate) or taxi (\$5 USD approximate) when they get off at downtown Ciudad Colón to San Bosco. Public transportation to Santa Ana, Escazu and San Jose is also available every day.

➤ El Rodeo

Rural area 7 kilometers away from downtown Ciudad Colón and where UPEACE Campus is situated. This area is characterized its nature and tranquility. Therefore, it is particularly suitable for outdoor activities such as horse riding, mountain boarding, biking, running, and hiking. Ideal for nature-lovers, and those who do not mind living far from where most students decide to live in Ciudad Colón. Due to its location and characteristics, this area may be a bit isolated for some students. The area has small grocery stores. Only 2 public transportation services are provided per day (morning and afternoon time) throughout weekdays. UPEACE transportation is available to Ciudad Colon and neighboring areas only during weekdays and within the established schedule. Should students need transportation at a different time, it is recommended to get a taxi to your destination. A ride to Ciudad Colon is around \$10 USD.

➤ Other Areas

San José, Escazu and Santa Ana are on the way to downtown Ciudad Colón. These are developed and tourist areas in Costa Rica, for which the cost of living is higher. UPEACE does not offer accommodation options in these areas, however those students who decide to rent on their own may inform their plans and housing location in order to facilitate them with the nearest UPEACE bus stops. Escazu y Santa Ana are located along the main highway (known as “Route 27”) between Ciudad Colón and San José (Costa Rica’ Capital). There are 2 services available per day: before and after classes but with a limited capacity, so a prior request is necessary to reserve a seat on the UPEACE bus service.



## UPEACE housing policies and responsibilities



### Homeowner's responsibilities:

- Abide by all public health and safety laws and regulations.
- Make all necessary repairs as soon as possible.
- Maintain the property in good condition.
- Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating and appliances and connections.
- Keep all common use areas safe, clean and in good repair.
- Landlords retain the privilege to conduct occasional inspections of the premises to verify the correct use of the property. This can happen once a month, with prior notice and in the presence of the student/tenant.
- Not to disturb the use and enjoyment of the leased property. Always respect the student's privacy.
- Return the security deposit according to the return policy.
- Provide payment receipts after each rent payment made by the student.
- Provide the student with a lease contract from the second month of rent (after the trial month).

### Student's responsibilities:

- Pay rent on time and currency agreed.
- Pay a security deposit.
- Notify the house owner of any major repairs that are needed as soon as possible.
- Take reasonable care of the property.
- Inform your homeowner and take care to fix anything that you or your friends/visitors damaged or broken.

- Always inform your property owners when you plan to move to another location or when your UPEACE program ends. This should be done at least 1 month in advance (based on your payment cycle) and preferably in writing.
- Not make any alterations to the property /facility.
- Use the rental property for the purposes stated in the lease.
- Do not leave unpaid bills and utilities unpaid.
- Do not share the keys to your facility with anyone. Failure to do so will result in non-compliance.
- Respect the rules of your homeowners and neighborhood where you live.
- Read and sign the lease provided by your house owner and follow the guidelines described in the lease.

#### Housing assistant's role:

- The UPEACE Housing Assistant assists students with information related to housing options, availability, prices, and reservations.
- Recommendations are offered for students to make well-informed decisions.
- Students receive support with concerns regarding the interpretation of their housing agreements, particularly when they are in Spanish or when guidance is needed due to unclear or perplexing content within the contract.
- Students are also assisted and guided in solving housing issues between students and homeowners when necessary.
- The housing assistant will not serve as legal representation for either students or landlords. Instead, the housing assistant will function as a mediator or advisor as necessary in specific cases.
- Neither UPEACE nor the housing assistant are responsible for situations that may occur with students who decide to stay with property owners outside of the UPEACE recommended options and database.

## FAQ'S

1. **Why is the reservation portal not enabled on earlier dates?** This is due to the closing date of each Academic Year. Most of the housing facilities resume their availability in June, from/after the Commencement Ceremony at UPEACE. This is considering that most of the students return to their home countries, so this allows the housing database update process to be started and in preparation for the new semester. Note: some students decide to stay longer in Costa Rica (finishing their thesis, internships, or tourist activities) therefore, the availability of some options is subject to change.
2. **How furnished are the facilities available in the UPEACE housing portal?** The apartments/houses offered by local affiliate owners are fully furnished, equipped with all necessary stuff for student accommodation purposes. They may include bedding, towels, kitchen supplies and more. Some apartments may provide more amenities and services than others, so monthly prices may be higher.
3. **Is there a fixed date for me to move into my preferred facility?** There is no fixed date for student moving-in purposes, this means that your rent cycle starts the same date you move-in to the facility chosen. For example, if you're planning to move-in on August 10th, then, it means that every 10th day of each month the rent payment is due. You all are suggested to contact your property owners as soon as your reservation order is confirmed so that you can inform your arrival date based on your travel itinerary.
4. **Is there any time/hour restriction to move-in to my place?** Overall, homeowners are very flexible about arrival times. They understand that the arrival of students is subject to airline availability/schedule and flight changes, so they are always willing to welcome you during day and night hours according to their possibilities. However, it is highly advisable to inform homeowners about your flight details (in advance), to confirm their availability and welcome you on the day and time of your arrival.
5. **What time should I expect the e-mail announcing the opening of the housing portal?** There is no fixed time to be e-mail so please wait for it during the day it was communicated to be officially opened (likely timeframe 10:00AM – 1:00PM) (Costa Rica Time Zone).
6. **What is the best way to contact my owners?** Most homeowners prefer to use (WhatsApp) as chat/communication app since it is easier and faster for them. This app is widely used in Costa Rica. You can also use email, but some owners may take longer to respond.
7. **Is the housing contract mandatory?** The housing contract is mandatory when one of the parties (student or homeowners) requests it. The lease is highly recommended as it sets out the rights and responsibilities of both: landlords/ladies and tenants. Once the parties sign the lease document both are bound by its terms and conditions. The lease will act as a mediator between the parties and will be responsible for solving any issues that may arise in between.

8. **When Should I pay my rent?** Most rental payments are made in advance (upon arrival). This is possible thanks to the agreement with listed property owners. Note: If pre-payment is requested (cancellation policies) it must be made within 3 days from the time your reservation is approved, otherwise it will be cancelled for non-payment.
9. **Why is a security deposit needed?** In Costa Rica, deposits are used to cover unpaid bills, broken items, or damages to the facilities. At the end of the rental period, if everything is in good order, the whole amount is refunded to you according to what is written in the contract.
10. **When Should I pay my security deposit?** Security deposit payments are usually made in the second month (after the trial month). This benefit only applies to UPEACE students. (Note: there are few owners who request it before arrival (usually when dealing with real estate or rental partners) however, the first trial month is still valid, and the deposit will be refunded according to the lease clauses).
11. **When should I get my security deposit back?** Overall, to be eligible for a refund of your security deposit you must have informed your homeowner of your departure/moving at least 1 month in advance, (taking as a reference your payment cycle date) and no damage(s) to the property. The return of the security deposit is subject to the conditions written in the housing contract, but usually, the security deposit is returned before your departure, following conditions agreed.
12. **How long does the owner have to return my security deposit?** Just as the student must inform 1 month before their departure to get their deposit, property owners have 1 month to return the deposit to their students (considering the rental cycle date).
13. **What happens if there is property damage?** No damage should be done to the property. If happens, any damage caused by the student must be repaired and deducted from the deposit payment (only if it is student's responsibility). If the cost of the repair is higher than the security deposit paid, the student must take responsibility to cover any damage caused and avoid inconveniences.
14. **What payment method should I use to pay the rent?** Rental payments are usually made in USD or CRC (based on the exchange rate). The type of currency to make your payments can be negotiated with your homeowners, based on your convenience and possibilities. If pre-payment is requested, then an international wire transfer or deposit must be made. The bank information for pre-payment will be provided by your owner directly. You will have 3 days maximum to proceed with this pre-payment.
15. **How should I do my payment: Cash or bank transfer?** Payments are usually made in cash (USD or CRC) directly to property owners. Bank transfers or deposits may apply when "pre-payment" is requested by the owner.
16. **How many times can I use the trial month? Only once,** with the first reservation you make before arriving in Costa Rica. Once living in Costa Rica, if you wish to change your accommodation starting the second month (for any reason), it is highly recommended that you choose the right place before you move-in as the moving policies will be stricter once the trial month expires.

17. **What if I want to move once the trial month is over?** You can do so according to the conditions written in your contract or agreed with your landlord/lady. After the trial month, most owners expect you to stay, at least until the end of the first semester “December” (as a commitment on your side after having enjoyed the trial month to choose the best location). However, this may change according to each facility as some homeowners may ask you to stay during the 2 semesters depending on their rental agreement. Once the contract is signed (after the second month) you will have to comply with the agreed/given timeframe in order to get your security deposit back. Therefore, it is recommended that you talk to your landlord/lady in advance about your accommodation plans (length of your stay) as this will make easier to make arrangements.
18. **Does UPEACE have dormitories?** UPEACE does not have dormitories. There are no on-campus facilities, but UPEACE has a list of affiliated landlords in Ciudad Colón (center of the city), El Rodeo (where UPEACE is settled), San Bosco and other nearby neighborhoods that students can rent during their academic programs.
19. **When should I receive the “Confirmation or Decline” of my Housing Reservation?** Within 48 hours after your submission. The owners confirmed or declined it as soon as possible (and as a matter of priority) so that you know if it was approved or declined, and you can take the corresponding actions.
20. **What happens if the reservation order I submitted on the housing portal is declined or cancelled?** There may be some reasons why a reservation order may be cancelled. 1-) The apartment was taken just before your reservation. 2-) Possibly the student or tenant living in the place changed his/her plans to move out at the last minute and will stay longer. 3-) Some unexpected landlord situations, 4-) the unit was recently removed from the UPEACE system, 5-) others. If this happens, you will be informed as soon as possible so that you can make another reservation.
21. **Can my pet live with me in the apartment I booked?** That really depends on each owner and their leasing policies. Having pets is very common in Costa Rica, unfortunately, some owners experienced problems with some students’ pets (specifically, damages that weren’t properly fixed or covered), because above reason, some homeowners decided to change their pet house policies (dis-allow pets) and prevent similar situations from happening again. Is totally understandable that not all pets behave inappropriately and that many students are responsible for their pet’s actions, however, it is up to the owners whether to allow pets or not in their facilities. Fortunately, there are still a few owners who are pet-friendly (in terms of housing). Note: You may also be asked for a security deposit in advance to cover any pet damage or repairs if necessary. In these cases, you are advised to contact the housing assistant (in advance) to help you with your accommodation arrangements.
22. **How does the housing selection through the housing portal work?** On the official opening date announced, a link to access the reservation portal will be emailed and you will be able to create a free account in order to submit your booking. Each student will only be able to make only 1 reservation so you are strongly advised to choose the right one (further details

on tab “*\*what you should know before submitting your reservation\**”). There are enough units for everyone so you will not have to worry about housing, however you are advised to choose early (you must have flight itinerary) as the best options (in terms of features, price, location, amenities, among others) tend to be rented sooner.

23. **Are utilities (electricity and water) included in the monthly rent?** They are usually covered with an average monthly usage limit, so any overage on your bills will be covered by the student. The amount to be covered depends on the minimum or average monthly utility expenses in the area. You may ask your homeowner for the covered bill amount so that you can adjust to it without paying additional fees for excess consumption of monthly bills. Few apartments do not cover water or electricity bills, so you will have to pay for those services on your own (In these cases, the owner will give you instructions on how to pay the utilities).
24. **Can I open a bank account in Costa Rica as a student?** That’s right. You may request a letter for opening a bank account upon arrival. This letter can be requested at the Academic Administration Office (UPEACE Campus – building #4). This letter allows to facilitate and speed up the opening of a bank account for students of UPEACE. Students are asked to go (in person) to Banco Nacional de Costa Rica (Costa Rica National Bank), located across Ciudad Colón sand court, and go to the customer service platform so that the service agents can initiate the opening process. For this you will be asked to provide the UPEACE letter (for creating a bank account), plus a color copy of your passport (you must bring your original passport for validation). Bank accounts may be opened in Dollars (USD) or Colones (CRC) based on your preferences and needs. The process to open a bank account and get your bank card will depend on the season (1 to 3 weeks approximately).
25. **Is there a Facebook group for students?** Yes, Facebook group information is provided to all enrolled students via email. This includes the group’s link, password (passcode) and other instructions. You may request the Facebook credentials at [housing@upeace.org](mailto:housing@upeace.org). Note: the Facebook group name and passcode are provided exclusively to UPEACE enrolled students.
26. **Is there UPEACE transportation service for students?** Yes, UPEACE transportation service is provided to all interested students (at NO cost). The schedule, routes and official stops are provided via email before the beginning of each academic year. The main route is from Ciudad Colon (surrounding area) to the UPEACE Campus. Round trip service.
27. **Can I bring my pet with me to the Campus?** Yes, you can, but you must comply with some institutional requirements. Please review the information in the page below (titled: Bringing a pet?)
28. **Can my dog use UPEACE’s bus service?** Yes, it is possible, if you have a medical certificate (certified emotional support pet) that justifies the need for your pet to accompany you to the Campus. If you have this certificate, your pet must be transported on a leash and on the floor of the bus (not on the seats) and you will be assigned a seat in the aisle for the comfort of your dog and passengers. To request a seat for you and a comfortable place for your pet in the aisle, please send an e-mail to [mazofeifa@upeace.org](mailto:mazofeifa@upeace.org) with copy

to [wmasis@upeace.org](mailto:wmasis@upeace.org) and [housing@upeace.org](mailto:housing@upeace.org) (don't forget to attach your emotional support pet certificate).

29. **Are there childcare centers in Ciudad Colon (Kinder Garden and pre-schools)?** Yes, there are, you can find more information about down below. You may contact the institutions directly for further information about services and rates.
30. **Why is there mold inside my house (walls, doors, ceilings, etc.)?** Due to the weather of Costa Rica and other tropical countries, during the rainy season it is very common to see mold on the walls of our houses. This is due to the high concentration of humidity in the environment which speeds up the growth of mold and fungi. As a first preventive measure it is strongly recommended that you maintain good ventilation in your homes, opening doors and windows as often as possible so that fresh air can circulate in your home, with this reducing the level of humidity inside your facilities. If the problem persists then you can inform your property owners of the situation so that they can find a way to minimize the spread of mold indoors. In case of any health problems due to the presence of mold in your home, you are advised to seek medical attention as a matter of priority for treatment.
31. **Why are there so many insects in my apartment?** Due to the climate and geographical location, you may see a lot of insects, especially in your home during the rainy season. Due to the humidity in the environment insects look for shelter and food (i.e. ants, spiders, mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, etc.) and houses are an easy option for them, especially when we leave unsealed food leftovers and dirty dishes in the kitchens, dining room or bedrooms. For this reason, keeping your home ventilated, storing food sealed or in the refrigerator, not leaving dirty dishes, and cleaning regularly can help control the entry of insects into your home. If you follow the above recommendations and the problem persists, you can inform your landlords so they can help you properly.
32. **Are listed UPEACE homeowners and host families LGBTQIA+ friendly?** Yes, they are. University for Peace is committed to fully respecting the human rights, dignity and worth of all persons and shall act with understanding, tolerance, sensitivity, and respect for diversity and without discrimination of any kind. Therefore, property owners listed in the housing database are committed to the values of the University for Peace and act accordingly towards any student or other person who stays at the property. This includes but (is not limited to) non-discriminative behaviors towards people from different ethnicities and national origins, religions, LGBTQIA+ folks and persons with disabilities. It is important to consider that most of Costa Rican citizens as well as other countries in the region are Catholic, so respect for their beliefs and customs will be fundamental to guarantee a harmonious environment.
33. **Do I have to be enrolled in order to reserve housing?** Yes, in order for you to reserve housing you must be enrolled. That is, you must be up to date with your admissions process and tuition payments as instructed by the UPEACE admissions office.

## Local information resources



Websites you may find useful.

The information provided in these links is intended for informational purposes only, and its authorship belongs to their web developers and content creators.

- ❖ Costa Rica: Time Zone – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Weather - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Currency - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Language - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Food - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Religion - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Public Transportation - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Health Care - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Restaurants - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Tips for Travelers – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Hotels for Travelers - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: National Park Service - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Shipping Service (local and international) - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: English News – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Rural Tourism – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Ecotourism – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Wildlife – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Culture – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: ATM and Money – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Pharmacies – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Bus Itinerary – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Entry Requirements for Tourists - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Ministry of Foreign Affairs - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Suggested Itineraries – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Airlines Flying to Costa Rica - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Driver's Licenses in Costa Rica – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: Useful Phone Apps – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: The Essential Items to Bring – [CLICK HERE](#)
- ❖ Costa Rica: FAQ's – [CLICK HERE](#)

## Getting to know service facilities nearby Ciudad Colon

Supermarkets in Ciudad Colon

<p>➤ <b>Mas x Menos</b> (Supermarket - Walmart Franchise)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery.          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 2249 3332 ext. 109          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ <b>Fresh Market</b> (Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 2105 2653          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ <b>Super Mora</b> (Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery.</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 2249 2459          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ <b>Pali</b> (Supermarket - Walmart Franchise)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping.          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 22491769          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ <b>Super El Dragon</b> (Chinese Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery.          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 88902355          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	

Green and organic markets in town

<p>➤ Green Fair (Feria Verde)</p> <p>About: FERIA VERDE in spanish (GREEN FAIR) is community, a meeting point between friends, producers and consumers.</p> <p>What will you find? Organic products, healthy food, crafts, design, others</p> <p>Information: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Schedule: Tuesdays only from 1: 00PM to 7:00PM</p>	<p>➤ Feria del Agricultor (Farmer's Fair/Market)</p> <p>About: Similar to Green Fair/Market and held in the same location. Feria del Agricultor in Spanish (Farmer’s Fair/Market) is community, a meeting point between friends, producers, and consumers.</p> <p>What will you find? Green, fresh products, healthy food, crafts, design, more</p> <p>Information: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Schedule: Saturday only from 5: 00AM to 12:00MD.</p>
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## Restaurants, cafes, pubs and more in Ciudad Colón

This is a list of restaurants, cafes, pubs, located in Ciudad Colon that students tend to visit the most each year based on their preferences. This information is merely informative, please for further questions contact the restaurants directly through their websites or social networks. This list is not limited, there are also other restaurants and food courts in the neighborhood that you may also visit.

<p>➤ Conservatorium (Restaurant and Coffee)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 40812451            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Restaurant Casa76 (Pizza and Pasta)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 22496676            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ Caribbean Jam (Sports &amp; Restaurant)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 40342004            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Che Pizza (Restaurant and Pizza)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 22490909            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ 22 Bistro (Restaurant and coffee)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 8319 3498            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Chirote (Restaurant and bar)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery            Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>            Phone: +506 22490468            Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>

<p>➤ Restaurante El Bendecido (Chinese Food Resturant)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery.          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 22493456          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Amphitheater Villa (Anfiteatro de Villa)</p> <p>Service options: Old pit transformed into a tourist attraction on the banks of the Virilla River Canyon. It consists of a network of underground caverns for tours and events, two outdoor restaurants with beautiful landscapes and sunsets.          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          YouTube Video: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 84034545          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ Restaurante Abanico de Sabores (Bar &amp; Grill)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 2249 5805          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Vino Mundo (Restaurant, wines experts)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No Delivery          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 70532780          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>

## Banks and ATM's in Ciudad Colón

<p>➤ Banco Nacional de Costa Rica (Local Bank)</p> <p>Note: This bank has a corporate agreement with UPEACE.</p> <p>About: Banco Nacional de Costa Rica or BNCR is the largest local bank in Costa Rica and the second largest in Central America by assets.</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Phone: +506 22494586</p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Banco de Costa Rica Ciudad Colón (Local Bank)</p> <p>About: Banco de Costa Rica is a state-owned commercial bank that operates in Costa Rica.</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Phone: +506 22490095</p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ Banco Popular (Local Bank)</p> <p>About: Banco de Popular is a state-owned commercial bank that operates in Costa Rica.</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Phone: +506 21046801</p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Coopealianza (Financial store for savings and credits)</p> <p>About: Local Savings and Credit Cooperative – Western Union retail store</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p> <p>Phone: +506 27853000</p> <p>Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>

## Gyms and Sport Centers in Ciudad Colón

<p>➤ Gimnasio Ciudad Colón (Ciudad Colón's Gym)</p> <p>Service options: Gym/Physical Fitness Center (Community center)          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 22491393          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Fénix Gym</p> <p>Service options: Private Gym (Instructors in place)          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 47020582          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ Erick Amador Wellness &amp; Fitness</p> <p>Service options: Wellness &amp; Fitness (Personal Trainer in place)          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 40312413          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	<p>➤ Spinning Center</p> <p>Service options: Spinning Center (Certified Trainer)          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 86533030          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>
<p>➤ Box 309 sin límites (Box 309 no Limits)</p> <p>Service options: Gym/Physical Fitness Center          Website: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>          Phone: +506 47010684          Google Location: <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a></p>	



## Kinder gardens and pre-schools in Ciudad Colón

- ❖ CEMI (Centro Educativo Mundo de Ilusiones) – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ New Horizon – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Kreative Montessori – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Waldorf Elementary School – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Pequeñas Sonrisas Kindergarten – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Barquito de Papel Pre-School – For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Mamá Margarita Pre-School and Kinder Garden - For further detail click [HERE](#)
- ❖ Rogelio Fernández Güell Elementary School (Government School) - For further detail click [HERE](#)

## How do smartphone services work in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica has three primary service providers: "Kolbi" (operated by ICE), the national telecommunications company, along with "Claro" and "Liberty," which are established in the country and renowned in North, Central, and South America, Caribbean nations, and select European countries.

A smartphone device that is not locked to a specific carrier can be used in Costa Rica. However, it's advisable to contact your wireless provider beforehand to activate global roaming on your plan. Alternatively, you can purchase a prepaid SIM card and utilize your unlocked phone while in Costa Rica. In case of emergencies, dialing 9-1-1 does not require a local line.

Smartphone service plans are convenient for students, offering a variety of options tailored to customer preferences. Among the most common and popular plans preferred by students, we can highlight two.

- A "post-paid" service plan is available through contracts when buying new smartphones, which include both the device and a phone calling/data plan if required. These contracts typically span several months or years and can be tailored to individual customer preferences. Additionally, customers can opt for calling and internet/data service plans without purchasing a smartphone. Fixed monthly costs are determined by the terms of use and service conditions. Formal documentation is required for this contract service, and it's essential to terminate the contract before leaving the country if you choose to subscribe to this service. These service plans can be obtained from any authorized branches or markets nationwide.
  - Alternatively, the "pre-paid" service plan is the most suitable option for students, offering greater convenience. It requires minimal documentation, usually only a passport, and provides better control over expenses. With this plan, you can top up your mobile account/number with your preferred credit amount, starting from 1000 CRC (approximately 2 USD), whenever your balance runs low. Checking your balances is easy using your smartphone app. You can credit your account/number at authorized physical markets (using cash) or through official online payment platforms (using credit or debit cards). This service is available at authorized branches or markets across the country.
- ✓ KOLBI – for further information [CLICK HERE](#)
  - ✓ CLARO – for further information [CLICK HERE](#)
  - ✓ LIBERTY – for further information [CLICK HERE](#)

## Appendix

Bringing a pet?

## **POLICY FOR THE ENTRY OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE MAIN CAMPUS**

*Approved by: Board of Directors, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Information source: University for Peace*

### **SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.1. The main campus of UPEACE is located within the protected area of El Rodeo, located within 300 hectares of natural reserve of primary and secondary forest, rich in flora and fauna so there is a close relationship with nature.

1.2. With the increasing interest of staff and students in bringing pets to the University, it has become necessary to implement the following policy.

### **SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES**

To formulate a series of guidelines to standardize the entry of domestic animals by students and staff, in order to facilitate a harmonious and respectful environment for all.

### **SECTION 3. LEGAL SCOPE**

- Law 7451; Animal Welfare.
- General Regulations for Granting of Operating Permits of the Ministry of Health N° 34728-S
- Regulation for the Reproduction and Responsible Keeping of Pets.
- Animal Welfare Educational Proposal.

### **SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS**

4.1. Domestic animal: shall mean any animal that due to its characteristics can coexist with human beings (for the purposes of this document it shall refer to dogs and cats).

4.2. Owner: Person who has dominion or dominion over a domestic animal.

4.3. Responsible: Obligated to answer for something or for someone.

4.4. Dangerous animal: Dogs that show a markedly aggressive character, or those that have been involved in aggression to people or other animals are considered dangerous.

4.5. Potentially dangerous dogs: refers to some breeds of dogs, which are considered potentially dangerous, either because of their physical attributes and/or aggressiveness.

## **SECTION 5: PROVISIONS.**

### **5.1 For Pet Owner:**

– By entering University for Peace, with a pet, the policy set forth in this document is understood to be accepted.

– You are directly responsible for any visitor, member of the university or other domestic animal whose physical or emotional integrity is affected.

– He/she is responsible for the good behavior of his/her pet, and that order and cleanliness are maintained.

– The owner is responsible for picking up the pet’s solid waste and placing it in the trash cans assigned for that purpose.

– The pet owner must remove the pet from the campus if it disturbs the peace, safety, or public health, or if it shows aggression, regardless of its size and breed.

### **5.2 For Pets:**

– They must be fully vaccinated and must carry the card of such vaccinations if needed.

– They must be always in the custody of their owner (at all times) and without exception.

– They must have a collar, leash and be properly identified (name tag and owner’s telephone number).

### **5.3 For the Institution.**

– The Institution will place properly identified trash cans for the solid waste of pets.

## **SECTION 6: PROHIBITIONS**

6.1 Potentially dangerous dogs are not allowed.

6.2 Any type of animal abuse.

6.3 That the owners leave solid waste in the common areas and/or green areas, it must have the necessary implements to collect and clean up any deposition or waste of the pet.

6.4 Pets are not allowed to roam loose and alone on campus.

6.5 The presence of pets in the food areas, except for those assistance animals that are properly identified and registered for this purpose.

6.6 Giving “table food” to any pet.