

STUDENT HOUSING

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 – 2026

This document should be thoroughly reviewed as it outlines the terms and conditions for student accommodation

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Housing General Information

Regular MA students beginning classes in August 2025 will receive an official email on **July 14, 2025**, providing access to the UPEACE housing portal. Please note that the date may vary for special MA programs; for clarification, reach out to **housing@upeace.org**. The email does not have a set delivery time, so kindly remain patient and expect it at some point during the day. Once the email is received, students will need to create a housing account to book accommodations. Instructions on setting up your booking account are provided later in this document. The housing portal offers comprehensive information, including photos, videos, prices, and descriptions of the available housing options.

Important: This year, there are three official booking periods:

1. **June 16** for Ecology and Society students (beginning with orientation mid-July 2025)
2. **July 14** for Regular MA students (beginning with orientation in late August 2025)
3. **November 24** for NRSD students (beginning with orientation early January 2026)

Students in other programs/courses should contact the Housing Assistant for specific guidance. If you need to make a reservation outside these periods, it is advised to submit a booking request (preferably 1 month before arrival), as property owners tend to prioritize students with earlier arrival dates. An official arrival date is required to make a reservation—tentative dates will not be accepted.

UPEACE has established housing agreements with various property owners in Ciudad Colón, El Rodeo, San Bosco, Brasil de Mora, and nearby areas to provide accommodations specifically suited to the needs of UPEACE students. All properties listed on the UPEACE website are furnished, and most include internet service and utilities (electricity and water) either as part of the monthly rent or for an additional fee. Some accommodations also offer optional services like meals, laundry, and cleaning, either included in the rent or available at an extra cost. Detailed information about each property, including these features, is available in their descriptions, allowing you to select the option that best fits your needs for the academic year.

How does the UPEACE housing service work?

UPEACE does not provide on-campus housing. However, students can choose from a variety of accommodations, including family stays, single studios, shared apartments with 1-3 bedrooms, and houses. Most options are fully furnished and equipped to meet student needs. Rent prices range from \$300 USD to \$1300 USD, depending on the type of accommodation, location, size, amenities, and any special requirements.

In Costa Rica, rental agreements typically require a security deposit. However, UPEACE has negotiated with property owners to allow students to pay this deposit in the second month instead of upfront. The first month's rent, which is mandatory, will serve as a trial period. During this trial month,

students can decide whether to continue living in the chosen accommodation or move to a different one.

At the start of the second month, students must sign a rental contract and pay both the second month's rent and the security deposit. After the trial month, students are required to honor the rental agreement and remain in the selected accommodation for the duration of their academic program, adhering to the terms agreed upon with the landlord.

Type of facilities and rates

Following are the estimated prices and all that is included:

- ✓ **Host family (homestay):** Students have the chance to live with a Costa Rican host family, providing an opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, cuisine, and language. Each student will have a private room, ensuring a quiet space for studying and relaxation. Rental costs vary based on room features (e.g., size, private or shared bathroom, extra services) and amenities provided by the hosts.
Typically, the rent includes two meals per day on weekdays (Monday to Friday), with some hosts offering weekend meals for an additional fee. Weekly laundry and room cleaning services are generally included. Prices start at \$400 USD per month, although some options without meals are available starting at \$300 USD per month.
- ✓ **1, 2 - bedroom apartments / studios:** All apartments and studios come fully furnished and equipped with essential appliances, allowing students to live independently. Prices vary depending on the size, location, and amenities provided. Rent typically includes utilities and internet service, though in some cases, these may be billed separately. Students are expected to maintain the property and communicate directly with the owner regarding any concerns. Monthly rental costs range from \$350 to \$900 USD.
- ✓ **3, 4 - bedroom houses:** Students have the option to select a house and share the space and rent with other students. These houses are fully furnished and equipped with basic appliances, bedding, and kitchen utensils, enabling students to live independently. Students are responsible for maintaining the property and coordinating with the owner as needed. Monthly rental costs range from \$900 to \$1,300 USD. While rent typically includes utilities and internet, there are instances where these expenses may need to be covered separately.

We assure you there are plenty of housing options available for all enrolled students. However, availability depends on the properties offered by homeowners at the time of booking. It's important to choose your accommodation from the options listed on the platform when making your reservation to ensure a smooth and satisfying process.

For budgeting, housing costs start at **\$350 USD per month**, with prices varying based on size, location, amenities, and any special requirements. Students should plan for total living expenses, including housing, food, and incidentals, to range between **\$1000 and \$1,500 USD per month**, depending on individual lifestyles. It's also advisable to have extra funds available for emergencies or unforeseen expenses. (For more details, refer to page 34 titled: Living Expenses in Costa Rica)

UPEACE portal vs others booking platforms.

Whether you choose to book your accommodation through the UPEACE portal, which we highly recommend, or through other means (such as external booking platforms or suggestions from former students), it is crucial to select a place where you feel secure and comfortable for the duration of your academic year at UPEACE.

If you decide to arrange your own accommodation, ensure you carefully review the rental conditions before confirming your reservation or signing a lease agreement. It is also highly recommended to check updated photos, detailed descriptions, services provided, and feedback from previous tenants. Please note that reservations made outside the UPEACE database are solely the student's responsibility.

While many students have had positive experiences renting on their own, not everyone has shared the same outcomes. (To clarify, we don't mean to alarm you—there are indeed reliable and fair landlords—but we encourage vigilance to avoid potential issues.) To minimize risks and address any concerns, we suggest making inquiries before finalizing any booking, especially if it's outside the UPEACE platform. We may have information or feedback from former students who rented independently that could help you make an informed decision. Previous students often share their experiences, both positive and negative, believing their insights might be valuable for future students.

Booking accommodation through the UPEACE website (highly recommended) offers the benefit of a trial month for your first rental period. This trial month allows you to evaluate whether the property meets your expectations. While the first month is not free and must be paid in full, it gives you the flexibility to decide if you want to continue living there or move to a different property for the second month without incurring any penalties.

Most bookings through the UPEACE portal allow the first payment to be made upon arrival, though some landlords may require prepayment (details on prepayment policies can be found later in this document). Additionally, certain property owners might request a security deposit before your arrival due to their leasing policies. If all conditions are met, this deposit will be refunded at the end of the contract.

Regardless of whether you choose to stay in the same place or move after the trial month, the second month's rent and the security deposit must be paid together. Signing a lease agreement is strongly recommended as part of the rental process to ensure clear terms and conditions are established. If, for any personal reason, you decide to change your accommodation after the trial month, always remember to notify the UPEACE Housing Office, even if you made the booking independently. Before moving to a new place, ensure it aligns with your housing preferences.

If you are already nearby and have found suitable property in the UPEACE portal, and before finalizing your booking, feel free to reach out to the housing assistant at housing@upeace.org to request a preview appointment. This will allow you to arrange a visit and review the property in person, helping you make the best choice before committing to a move. Please note: the trial month is a one-time benefit (only applicable during the first month), so be sure to take advantage of it, as it's a unique opportunity for UPEACE students.

What should you know before submitting your reservation?

- ✓ Reservations through the UPEACE portal should be treated as an official commitment. Do not book any accommodation "tentatively" or as a backup plan unless you are fully committed. Remember, you can move-out/change after the first month (without penalty) if the property you initially chose (through the booking portal) does not meet your preferences.
- ✓ Please note that reservations are only processed on a monthly basis, not daily or weekly. When booking, ensure that you adhere to the monthly rental cycle. For example, if your check-in date is August 15th, your first reservation will run until September 15th, completing a full monthly cycle. Subsequent cycles will follow the same pattern, from the 15th of one month to the 15th of the next. You can reserve 1 month or longer but follow this pattern.
- ✓ Do not submit a reservation unless you have an official arrival date. Tentative arrival dates are not accepted.
- ✓ Only one reservation per student is allowed. Avoid making multiple reservations simultaneously. Keep in mind that other students also need to secure a place.
- ✓ The housing portal will remain accessible throughout your academic year.
- ✓ If you have a special health condition or physical disability that requires early housing assistance, please contact housing@upeace.org (preferably before the housing portal opens).
- ✓ Ensure the accommodation you select meets your needs. If provided with a contract, make sure you understand all terms before signing. It is highly recommended to sign a lease.
- ✓ You are expected to adhere to your rental agreement throughout your time at UPEACE (whether you sign a contract). Be aware that any issues with your accommodation (when it concerns your responsibility) could delay your graduation process.
- ✓ If you plan to share accommodation with other students (a good experience), ensure you know each other well or have similar living preferences. If you don't, roommate incompatibility could lead to needing to find separate housing. You can use the Facebook group created for this purpose.
- ✓ Review the property details and policies carefully before making a booking. Some shared accommodations are rented by individual rooms (where each student books their own room but shares common areas), while others are rented as an entire unit (where you must already have roommates or be willing to pay for the entire unit yourself).
- ✓ The property is rented for the number of tenants specified in the initial contract. Any additional occupants will incur extra charges. For example, a 2-bedroom unit is intended for two tenants only, and any extra person will be charged additional rent.
- ✓ If you have occasional visitors (friends, family, etc.), you must notify the property owner in advance. Depending on the property's terms, some landlords may charge for visitors, with fees typically ranging from \$20 to \$40 USD per night to cover utilities during their stay. Informing the owner in advance may help you negotiate these fees.
- ✓ If you booked your accommodation independently (through a former student's referral or directly with the owner), please notify us about your housing plans for our records and for emergency purposes at housing@upeace.org.
- ✓ Once your housing request is confirmed, keep the details handy to help you find the place upon arrival in Costa Rica. You can also ask the property owner for the address and use tools

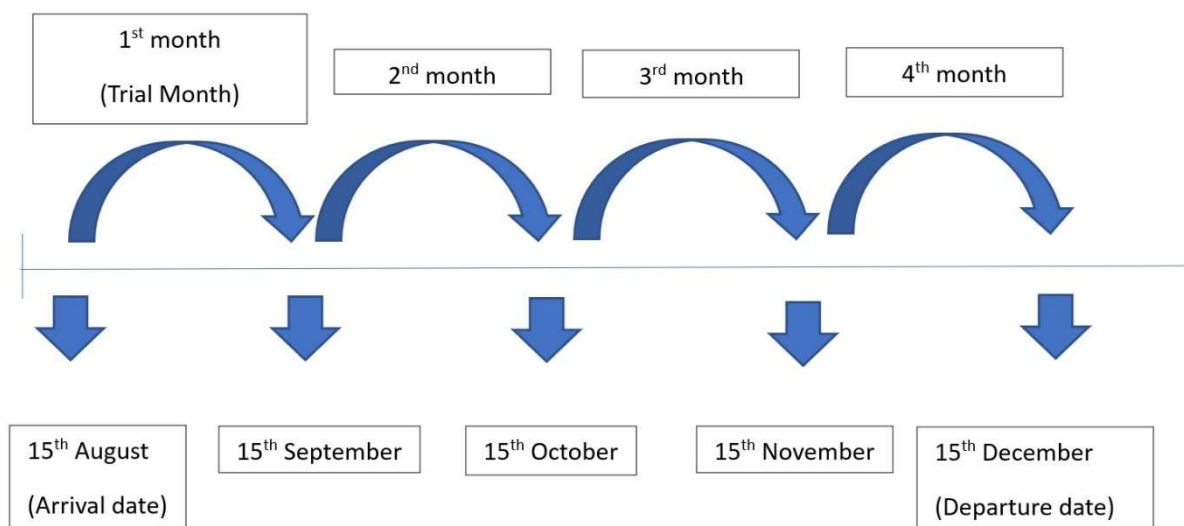
like Google Maps or Waze to locate it. Costa Rican addresses can be unclear, but owners are usually happy to assist you with local directions.

- ✓ The trial month is also an important factor for property owners, as it helps them assess profitability. You must decide about your housing plans within this time. If you don't finalize your decision by the end of the trial month (whether staying longer or moving to a new place), it could affect future rental opportunities with the homeowner. After the trial month ends, owners expect you to commit for at least the first semester or ideally the entire academic year.
- ✓ Through the UPEACE reservation platform, students cannot communicate with property owners before submitting a reservation. Therefore, you should base your decision on the information available on the platform (including descriptions, photos, videos, and reviews if available). Once your reservation is approved, you may ask for your owner's contact information to the Housing Assistant. If a prepayment is required, it must be transferred within **72 hours** (once your booking is confirmed), otherwise your reservation will be canceled.
- ✓ Students are advised to take an official orange taxi from the airport. The fare to Ciudad Colón should range between \$30 and \$35 USD, though it may be slightly higher depending on your accommodation location.
- ✓ Upon arrival, you are required to stay at least **one month** before deciding to move out. The minimum stay is one month. After the trial month, any changes to your accommodation, such as moving, must comply with the terms in your rental contract.
- ✓ Rent must be paid in full every month, regardless of whether you are physically present at the rented property or spending time traveling for other reasons. Even if you are not there, your belongings are stored in the rental, and homeowners cannot use the property. Therefore, rent must be paid regularly. Please note that homeowners are not obligated to offer discounts; any discount is at their discretion.
- ✓ If you wish to move to another property, you must inform your landlord at least one month in advance (preferably in writing) as part of the rental process. Additionally, please inform **housing@upeace.org** about any changes.
- ✓ To avoid any issues, be sure to pay your rent on time. Rent payments must be made in cash or via wire transfer, either in USD or CRC (Costa Rican Colons). Delays are not accepted. All rent payments are due in advance, upon arrival.
- ✓ Open communication is essential for a positive experience. Don't hesitate to discuss any issues or concerns you have with your landlord; they are always willing to assist you.
- ✓ Always ask for a receipt when paying rent, deposits, or for any services provided by the landlord. Keep these receipts until the end of your academic year for your records.
- ✓ If no damage has been caused to the property and you have notified the landlord about your plans to move out at least a month in advance, the security deposit should be refunded. The property owner is required to return the deposit within one month of your move-out notice. Be sure to get written confirmation of your move-out notice (such as via email or message). Note: After the trial month, you are bound by the terms of your lease.
- ✓ For the first month, you will only be required to pay the rent upon arrival. If you decide to stay longer, you will need to pay both the deposit and the second month's rent together.
- ✓ Some property owners or administrators may ask for the security deposit upfront, either at or before your arrival, due to their housing policies (often applicable to real estate businesses). However, students will still benefit from the trial month, and the security deposit will be returned according to the agreed terms.
- ✓ Once your reservation is confirmed, make sure to share your flight details and arrival information with the landlord as a priority. Stay in regular contact with them.

- ✓ The reservation portal is user-friendly and straightforward. You will receive an instruction manual to guide you step-by-step through the process (you are required to review it before making a reservation). For any questions during the reservation, feel free to reach out to **housing@upeace.org**.
- ✓ Student transportation will be provided from Ciudad Colón and surrounding areas to the UPEACE campus (round trip). Bus routes and schedules will be emailed to you before the semester begins. This transportation is free for UPEACE students.
- ✓ If you are bringing your partner, children, relatives, friends, and or pets during your accommodation period (short or long term), it is important to double check flat policies and rules, as certain rental conditions, restrictions, and fees may apply.
- ✓ According to Costa Rican lease laws, homeowners have the right to conduct an inspection of the rented property once a month to ensure it is being used and maintained properly. This inspection must be conducted with the student and landlord present, with prior notice and by mutual agreement of both parties.
- ✓ A Facebook group for UPEACE students will be available throughout the academic year, providing a space to connect with fellow students, arrange housing, and more.

How does the rent payment cycle work?

The payment cycles for UPEACE students typically begin on the day of arrival and continue until the last day of their stay. To provide a clearer explanation of this, we'll use the First Semester of 2025 as an example, with an arrival date of August 15th and a departure date of December 15th. In this case, the first payment and its corresponding due date would be on August 15th of each month.



Payment cycle - Key information (based on the example above):

- ✓ Firstly, rental rates through the UPEACE booking platform are calculated on a monthly basis, as the listed landlords provide special, budget-friendly prices tailored for students.
- ✓ As per local lease laws, the full rent for each month must be paid in advance.
- ✓ The rental period typically begins on the day you check in or move into the property you reserved. In the example given, your first payment would be due on the 15th (check in date), and then on the 15th of each subsequent month. Also check if prepayment is required or not.
- ✓ Please note that "prorated" rent payments are not legally valid, but they may be negotiable with the property owner. However, any such negotiation is entirely at the discretion of the landlord, so don't assume this is possible without first discussing it with them, in advance.
- ✓ To illustrate, my rent is \$400 USD per month. If I stay an extra 1, 3, 5, or 7 days, should I divide the \$400 by 30 (number of days per month) to calculate the daily rate? **No**, it doesn't work like that. These special monthly rates are designed to be convenient for landlords, so they're managed -only profitable- on a monthly basis (or sometimes half-month basis, depending on each owner and their requirements). For shorter stays, the daily or nightly rate typically increases, ranging between \$20 and \$40 USD, depending on the landlord.
- ✓ Make sure to inform your landlord at least one month before you plan to leave or move out, using your payment cycle date (check in date) as a reference. For example, if your payment date is the 15th of each month and you plan to move out on December 15th, you should notify your landlord by November 15th (or earlier). If you fail to give notice by November 15th, this could affect your ability to recover your security deposit or result in losing it.
- ✓ The trial month only applies to the first month of your stay (the property you booked before arriving in Costa Rica). During this trial period, you have between 2 and 3 weeks to decide if you want to stay longer at the same location. If you do, you will need to sign a lease for an extended period and pay the second month's rent and security deposit together. Alternatively, if you decide to move to a different property starting the second month, you must also sign a lease and pay the rent and deposit together when you move in.
- ✓ Utilize the trial month wisely to evaluate whether your current accommodation meets your needs, as this period offers greater flexibility. After the trial month (first month), you will be bound by the terms and conditions outlined in the lease agreement. Be sure to read and understand your contract thoroughly before signing it.
- ✓ What if my departure date doesn't align with the payment cycle? If your departure date falls a few days or weeks after your scheduled payment date (e.g., the 18th, 22nd, or 25th instead of the 15th), you should notify your landlord well in advance about your planned move-out date. In many cases, the rent for those extra days can be negotiated, although landlords are not obligated to agree to prorated payments. Providing ample notice (at least one month in advance) is essential to avoid last-minute issues. Any partial payments rest with the landlord.
- ✓ What if I need to adjust my payment cycle? Students who receive financial support (scholarships, stipends, or loans) on dates that don't align with their arrival dates may need to request a payment cycle adjustment. In such cases, you should discuss this with your landlord early and explain your situation. Most landlords are understanding and may allow a change. For instance, if you arrived on August 15th but receive funds on the 20th, 25th, or 30th of each month, you might negotiate to make a partial payment for the initial few days of rent (5, 10, or 15 days) and then adjust the payment cycle to align with your funding schedule. Keep in mind that any such changes depend on the willingness and ability of the landlord to accommodate your request.

Booking pre-payment (FAQ's)

What is Booking prepayment?

Beginning in January 2024, a new reservation policy will require an advance payment to secure your booking. Within **72 hours** of the property owner approving your reservation, you must pay a portion (typically one-third) of the total first month's rent, with the exact amount confirmed by the owner. The remaining balance for the first month's rent will be due upon arrival and should be paid directly to the owner. Please note that this prepayment is not considered a security deposit.

For example, if your monthly rent is \$600 USD, your prepayment will be \$200 USD (one-third of the rent). Once this payment is made, your reservation will be officially confirmed. Be sure to contact the property owner directly for specific payment instructions.

How to make the booking pre-payment transfer?

After your reservation is approved by the property owner, you may ask your owner's contact information to the Housing Assistant. At this point, you must promptly request the owner's bank details to complete the pre-payment within 72 hours after being confirmed. Failure to make the payment within this timeframe will result in the cancellation of your reservation. Once the pre-payment is made, be sure to send the owner a copy of the payment receipt for confirmation. **Note:** The housing platform does not handle or process payments of any kind.

Is booking pre-payment required for all UPEACE facilities?

No, not all owners require a prepayment. To determine whether pre-payment is necessary, check the property description or booking policies. This section will clearly indicate if pre-payment is needed. If pre-payment is **NOT** required, you can make your first payment upon arrival. However, if pre-payment **IS** required, you must complete it within 72 hours, starting from the time your reservation is confirmed by the owner and in order to secure your accommodation.

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 has been confirmed and the pre-payment made within the designated 72 hours window, the property owner may offer a "grace period" for your arrival, typically ranging from 7 to 10 days after your original booking date. Should any circumstances arise that require you to request an extension or adjust your arrival date, you must communicate and negotiate this directly with your landlord.

Basic facility recommendations

- ✓ Always close the door gently, avoiding slamming it.
- ✓ Cleaning services are generally not included for apartments or independent units, but you may be able to negotiate with the landlord. This does not cover laundry or dishwashing.
- ✓ Keep your space organized and store valuable items in the closet.
- ✓ For security reasons, do not lend your house keys to anyone. If you must, inform the homeowner in advance.
- ✓ For your safety, avoid having late-night visitors, especially those you don't know well, whether they are locals or foreigners.
- ✓ Pets are not permitted. Some properties may allow them with prior approval from the homeowner.
- ✓ Smoking inside the house is prohibited. Please smoke outside in designated areas if available.
- ✓ Please be aware that occasional disruptions, such as internet outages, water shortages, or power blackouts, may occur, especially during the dry season. These are generally rare but are part of the local living conditions.

➤ **The bathroom**

- ✓ Students are responsible for supplying their own personal hygiene products.
- ✓ Only use the wastebasket for disposing of toilet paper, hair, sanitary napkins, gel, and similar items. Never flush anything down the toilet, as it can cause blockages.
- ✓ Due to Costa Rica's tropical climate, which leads to increased sweating and body odor, it is strongly recommended to shower daily and use body deodorant. Not doing so is considered disrespectful to others.
- ✓ The showerhead has a water heating device, but it is not designed for prolonged use or low water pressure. Take a quick shower with sufficient water flow to avoid damaging the device, as you will be held responsible for any repairs. Check with your landlord for guidance.

➤ **The kitchen**

- ✓ Keep the area clean and organized. Handle all kitchenware and appliances carefully. If you are unsure how to use any of them properly, ask the owner for instructions to prevent damage and avoid repair costs.
- ✓ Avoid bringing food into the bedroom. Use the dining area instead.
- ✓ Never place wet pots or pans directly on the burners.
- ✓ Ensure all appliances are unplugged or turned off before leaving the house, even for short periods.
- ✓ Do not pour leftover food, grease, or garbage down the sink drain as it may cause blockages. Always use the wastebasket or check with your landlord for instructions.

- ✓ Avoid turning on multiple electrical appliances at the same time. Use them wisely.
- ✓ Appliances like the oven, shower, fans, and iron consume a lot of power. Be energy-conscious.
- ✓ Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- ✓ Always switch off the faucet when it's not in use.

➤ **Outside and common areas**

- ✓ Depending on the type of accommodation you choose, there may be common areas that are shared with others.
- ✓ According to local regulations and law enforcement, no events or parties are allowed after 9:00 p.m. Failure to comply could lead to fines and potentially affect your residency status.
- ✓ All shared and social spaces should be kept clean and disinfected.
- ✓ Inquire with your landlord about the garbage collection schedule, which is typically on Mondays and Thursdays after 6:00 a.m. Please place your trash bags in the designated bins outside the property. Garbage should only be taken out on collection days.

➤ **Others**

- ✓ If repairs or maintenance are needed, please notify the property owner in advance (preferably in writing). Depending on the nature of the issue, homeowners typically have up to 7 business days to resolve it, though most issues can be addressed sooner.
- ✓ In most cases, utilities (electricity and water) are included in the rental price. However, any usage exceeding the average monthly consumption must be paid by the tenant.
- ✓ If no damage has occurred to the property, the full deposit will be refunded. Otherwise, deductions will be made based on repair costs, in accordance with Costa Rican lease laws. An inspection will take place before the tenant's departure, involving both the homeowner and tenant.
- ✓ Any damage caused by guests or third parties will be the tenant's responsibility.
- ✓ Additional housing rules may apply depending on the specific accommodation type and the homeowner's guidelines.

Where to Live?

Neighborhoods

➤ Ciudad Colón

The University for Peace is situated about 7 kilometers into the hills, where students from across the globe pursue their master's degrees in a variety of academic fields. Most of these students live in Ciudad Colón, giving the town a unique atmosphere. While Ciudad Colón is as cosmopolitan as nearby areas like Santa Ana or Escazú, it retains the charm of a small Costa Rican town with more modest amenities and services. The cost of living here is lower than in Santa Ana or Escazú. The town offers several supermarkets that cater to the needs of expatriates, along with numerous small shops, banks, pharmacies, restaurants, gyms, and both public and private healthcare options. While there are no upscale dining or nightlife spots, many local establishments provide food and entertainment. On Saturdays, the town hosts the "Feria del Agricultor," a farmer's market in the morning, and on Tuesdays, the "Feria Verde," an organic product market in the afternoon. Despite its small size, Ciudad Colón is home to residents from over 50 different countries, making it one of the most culturally diverse towns in the world. The majority of the expatriate population consists of students and faculty from the University for Peace. The town lies at the base of the mountain where the University for Peace is located, which was formerly known as Villa Colón. UPEACE provides transportation to and from Ciudad Colón on weekdays at various times.

➤ Brasil de Mora

Brasil de Mora is located just a short distance from Forum and the Santa Ana area, only 2 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón. This neighborhood is recognized for its peaceful atmosphere, natural surroundings, and ongoing development. UPEACE offers transportation to the area twice a day on weekdays, before and after classes. Public transportation to Santa Ana, Escazú, and San José is also available daily. The area offers a range of nearby services for residents.

➤ San Bosco

This rural area is situated about 2 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón. UPEACE provides transportation twice daily on weekdays, once before and once after classes, to and from the Campus. If students need transportation at other times, they can take a public bus (approximately \$1 USD) or a taxi (around \$5 USD) from downtown Ciudad Colón to San Bosco. Public buses to Santa Ana, Escazú, and San José are available daily as well.

➤ **El Rodeo**

This rural area is located 7 kilometers from downtown Ciudad Colón, where the UPEACE campus is situated. Known for its natural beauty and peaceful environment, it is perfect for outdoor activities like horseback riding, mountain boarding, cycling, running, and hiking. Ideal for nature enthusiasts, it offers a more tranquil lifestyle compared to the busier areas where most students choose to live in Ciudad Colón. However, due to its location, this area may feel somewhat isolated for some students. There are small grocery stores in the vicinity, but public transportation is limited to two services per day (morning and afternoon) on weekdays. UPEACE transportation is also available to Ciudad Colón and surrounding areas during weekdays, within a set schedule. For transportation outside of these hours, students may need to take a taxi, with a ride to Ciudad Colón costing around \$10 USD.

➤ **Other Areas**

San José, Escazú, and Santa Ana are located on the route to downtown Ciudad Colón. These areas are more developed and popular with tourists, which contributes to a higher cost of living. UPEACE does not offer housing options in these areas; however, students who choose to rent privately can inform the housing office about their accommodation and location. This will help them access the nearest UPEACE bus stops. Escazú and Santa Ana are situated along Route 27, the main highway connecting Ciudad Colón to San José (the capital). UPEACE provides two bus services per day—before and after classes—but with limited seating. Therefore, students must request a reservation in advance to secure a spot on the UPEACE bus.

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 occur once a month, with advance 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 refund 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 landlord and ensure that any damage caused by you or your guests is properly repaired.

- Always inform your property owners in advance if you plan to relocate or when your UPEACE program ends. This notification should be provided at least one month ahead (aligned with your payment cycle) and preferably in writing.
- Not make any alterations/changes to the property/facility.
- Use the rental property for the purposes stated in the lease.
- Ensure all bills and utilities are settled before you leave.
- Do not give your facility keys to anyone else. Doing so will be considered a violation of the rules.
- 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 unavailable for earlier dates?** This is because of the end of each academic year. Most housing options become available again in June, after the UPEACE Commencement Ceremony. This timing aligns with the departure of most students who return to their home countries, allowing the housing database to be updated and prepared for the new semester. Note: Some students may choose to stay longer in Costa Rica to complete their thesis, internships, or travel, so the availability of certain accommodations may vary.
2. **What is the level of furnishing provided in the accommodations listed on the UPEACE housing portal?** The apartments and houses listed by local listed owners are fully furnished and equipped with everything needed for student living, such as bedding, towels, kitchen essentials, and more. Some accommodations may offer additional amenities and services, which could result in higher monthly rental prices.
3. **Is there a specific date when I can move into my chosen accommodation?** There is no set move-in date for students, meaning your rent cycle begins on the day you move into your chosen accommodation. For instance, if you plan to move in on August 15th, your rent will be due on the 15th of each subsequent month. It is recommended that you reach out to your property owner as soon as your reservation is confirmed to provide your arrival date according to your flight itinerary. Always keep your host informed of your arrival.
4. **Is there any time/hour restriction to move-in to my place?** In general, homeowners are quite flexible with arrival times. They understand that students' arrival depends on flight schedules and potential changes, so they are usually accommodating and ready to receive you at any time of day or night, depending on their availability. However, it is strongly recommended to notify homeowners of your flight details ahead of time to confirm their availability and ensure smooth check-in on your arrival day and time.
5. **What time should I expect the e-mail announcing the opening of the UPEACE booking portal?** There is no specific time for the email to be sent, so please be patient and expect it on the day it was announced to be officially opened, usually between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM (Costa Rica Time Zone).
6. **What is the best way to contact my owners after your booking is confirmed?** Many homeowners prefer using WhatsApp for communication as it is quicker and more convenient for them. This app is very popular in Costa Rica. While email is also an option, some homeowners may take longer to reply via email.
7. **Is the house contract mandatory?** A housing contract is required if either the student or the homeowner requests it. While not obligatory, having a lease is strongly recommended as it outlines the rights and obligations of both parties—the landlord and the tenant. Once both parties sign the lease, they are bound by its terms and conditions. The lease serves as an agreement to mediate between the two and will help resolve any potential disputes.

8. **When Should I pay my rent?** Typically, rental payments are made in advance upon arrival, as per the arrangement with the property owners listed. Please note: if a pre-payment is required, it must be completed within 72 hours from the time your reservation request is confirmed by the host or else your booking will be canceled due to non-payment.
9. **Why is a security deposit needed?** In Costa Rica, deposits are intended to cover any outstanding bills, damaged items, or repairs needed to the property. If everything is in order and the flat is handed back in the same condition as it was when you initially received it, the full deposit will be returned to you as outlined in the contract and according to local leasing.
10. **When Should I pay my security deposit?** Security deposits are typically paid in the second month, following the trial month. This arrangement is exclusive to UPEACE students. (Note: Some property owners, especially those working with real estate or rental partners, may request the security deposit prior to arrival (which is also acceptable), but the trial month still applies, and the deposit will be refunded as per the terms outlined in the lease agreement.)
11. **When should I get my security deposit back?** To qualify for a refund of your security deposit, you must notify your property owner of your departure at least one month in advance (based on your payment cycle date) and ensure there is no damage to the property. The refund of the security deposit is governed by the terms of the housing contract, but typically, it is returned prior to your departure, provided all agreed-upon conditions are met.
12. **How long does the owner have to return my security deposit?** Similarly, while students must notify their property owners one month in advance of their departure to receive their security deposit back, property owners also have up to one month to return the security deposit to the student, as long as student notice is given in alignment with your pay cycle.
13. **What happens if there is property damage?** The property should remain undamaged. If any damage occurs, the student is responsible for repairing it, and the cost will be deducted from the security deposit (only if the student and/or their guests are responsible for causing the damage). If the repair cost exceeds the amount of the deposit, the student must cover the additional expenses to resolve the issue and prevent any complications.
14. **What payment method should I use to pay the rent?** Rental payments are typically made in either USD or CRC (directly to property owners), depending on the current exchange rate. The choice of currency can be negotiated with your property owner, based on what works best for you. If pre-payment is required, it must be made via international wire transfer or deposit. The property owner will provide the necessary bank details for the pre-payment, which must be completed within 72 hours of confirmed.
15. **How many times can I use the trial month?** The trial month is a one-time offer lasting 30 days (during the first month), allowing you to decide whether to continue staying in the same place or move to a different one based on your preferences and needs. Regardless of your decision to stay or relocate, the trial month cannot be used again and the policies for moving will become stricter and governed by the terms outlined in your contract.
16. **How do I extend my reservation after the trial month?** You should notify your landlord before the end of the first month (ideally between the 2nd and 3rd week) to let them know

that you plan to extend your stay. Additionally, it is crucial that you create a new booking request in the UPEACE portal (as priority) for the entire duration of your stay to prevent other bookings from being made while you are occupying/renting the property.

17. **What if I want to move after the second month (meaning trial month is over)?** You can make changes based on the terms outlined in your contract or as agreed with your landlord. After the trial month, most property owners expect you to stay at least until the end of the first semester, as a commitment following the trial period, where you had the opportunity to choose the best accommodation. However, this may vary depending on the owner and some may require a commitment for the full two semesters (or a mutually agreed-upon duration of stay), depending on their rental agreement. Once the contract is signed (from the second month), you will need to adhere to the agreed-upon timeframe to ensure the return of your security deposit. Therefore, it's advisable to discuss your accommodation plans and the duration of your stay with your landlord in advance to make future arrangements easier.
18. **Does UPEACE have dormitories?** UPEACE does not provide dormitories or on-campus housing. However, the university has a list of affiliated landlords in various nearby areas, including Ciudad Colón (the city center), El Rodeo (where UPEACE is located), San Bosco, and other surrounding neighborhoods, where students can rent accommodation during their academic programs.
19. **When should I receive the “Confirmation or Decline” of my Housing Reservation?** Within 12 hours after your submission. The owners will confirm or decline your request as quickly as possible, prioritizing the process, so that you are informed whether it has been approved or rejected, allowing you to take the necessary steps promptly.
20. **What happens if the reservation order I submitted on the housing portal is declined or cancelled?** There are several reasons why a reservation order might be cancelled: 1) The apartment was booked right before your reservation. 2) The current tenant may have changed their plans and decided to extend their stay. 3) There may be unforeseen issues with the landlord. 4) The unit might have been removed from the UPEACE system. 5) Other reasons. If this occurs, you will be notified promptly so you can make a new reservation.
21. **Is it possible for my pet to stay with me in the apartment I reserved?** It really depends on the individual property owner and their leasing policies. While having pets is quite common in Costa Rica, some owners have faced issues with pets in the past, particularly with damages that were not properly repaired or compensated for. Because of these experiences, some owners have decided to no longer allow pets in their properties. It is important to recognize that not all pets cause problems and many students are responsible for their pets' behavior, but ultimately, the decision to allow pets rests with the owner. Fortunately, there are still some pet-friendly owners. Keep in mind, if pets are allowed, you may be asked to pay an additional deposit to cover any potential damage. In such cases, it's advisable to reach out to the housing assistant ahead of time to discuss your accommodation needs. Also check the pet policy for each property you are interested in on the portal before making a reservation.

22. **How does the housing selection through the housing portal work?** On the official opening date, you will receive an email with a link to access the reservation portal (a booking instruction guide will also be provided). From there, you can create a free account and submit your booking. Each student is allowed to submit **only one reservation simultaneously**, so it is important to choose carefully (for more information, refer to the "what you should know before submitting your reservation"). Although there is sufficient accommodation for everyone, it's recommended to book early (with flight itinerary in hand) as the most desirable options in terms of features, price, location, and amenities tend to be rented out quickly.
23. **Are utilities (electricity and water) included in the monthly rent?** Utilities are typically included up to an average monthly usage limit, with any excess charges being the responsibility of the student. The overage amount depends on the standard or average utility costs in the area. You can ask your landlord for details about the covered amount to manage your usage and avoid extra fees. A few properties do not include water or electricity in the rent, so you would need to cover these expenses independently. In such cases, the landlord will provide instructions on how to pay the utility bills.
24. **Can I open a bank account in Costa Rica as a student?** Yes, you can request a letter to open a bank account upon your arrival. This letter is available at the Admissions office and is designed to facilitate and expedite the bank account opening process for UPEACE students. Once you have the letter, you should visit "Banco Nacional de Costa Rica" in person. The time required to open a bank account and receive your bank card typically ranges from one to three weeks. Proceed to the customer service area, where the bank representatives will begin the account opening process. To open your account, you will need to provide:
- ❖ The UPEACE letter for bank account creation
 - ❖ A color copy of your passport and entry stamp (bring your original passport for verification)
25. **Is there a Facebook group for students?** Yes, all enrolled students receive information about the Facebook group through email. This includes the group link, password (passcode), and detailed instructions for joining. If needed, you can request Facebook credentials by contacting **housing@upeace.org**. Please note that the group name and access passcode are strictly for the use of UPEACE enrolled students.
26. **Is there UPEACE transportation service for students?** Yes, UPEACE offers free transportation for all students who wish to use the service. Details regarding the schedule, routes, and designated stops are shared via email prior to the start of each academic year. The primary route runs between Ciudad Colón (nearby areas) and the UPEACE Campus, providing round-trip service.
27. **Can I bring my pet with me to the Campus?** Yes, you can bring a pet, but you will need to meet certain institutional requirements. Please refer to the information on the page titled "Bringing a Pet?" for more details.

28. **Can my dog use UPEACE's bus service?** Yes, it is possible to bring your pet if you have a medical certificate (certifying your pet as emotional support). With this certificate, your pet must remain on a leash and on the floor of the bus (not on the seats), and a seat will be assigned in the aisle for the comfort of both your pet and the other passengers. To request a seat for you and a comfortable space for your pet, please email mazofeifa@upeace.org with copies to wmasis@upeace.org and housing@upeace.org, and be sure to attach your emotional support pet certificate.
29. **Are there childcare centers in Ciudad Colon (Kinder Garden and pre-schools)?** Yes, there are. More details are provided below. You can reach out to the institutions directly for additional information regarding their services and pricing.
30. **What causes mold to grow inside my house (walls, doors, ceilings, etc.)?** In Costa Rica and other tropical regions, mold growth on walls, doors, and ceilings (even clothing) is common during the rainy season due to the high humidity levels. This excess moisture encourages the growth of mold and fungi. To prevent this, it's recommended to ensure good ventilation in your home by regularly opening windows and doors to allow fresh air to circulate, which helps reduce indoor humidity. If the mold issue persists, you should notify your property owner so they can take steps to limit its spread. If mold causes any health issues, it's important to seek medical attention promptly.
31. **Why are there so many insects/bugs in my apartment?** Due to the local climate and geography, it's common to encounter a variety of insects, particularly during the rainy season. The increased humidity encourages insects to seek shelter and food inside homes. Common pests include ants, spiders, mosquitoes, flies, and cockroaches. Homes provide an easy refuge, especially if food leftovers are not properly sealed or if dirty dishes are left in kitchens, dining areas, or bedrooms. To help reduce insect entry, ensure proper ventilation, store food in sealed containers or the refrigerator, avoid leaving dirty dishes out, and clean regularly. If the issue continues despite these efforts, inform your landlord so they can assist with the problem.
32. **Are listed UPEACE homeowners and host families LGBTQIA+ friendly?** Yes, they are. The University for Peace is dedicated to upholding the human rights, dignity, and worth of every individual, acting with respect, understanding, and sensitivity towards diversity while ensuring there is no discrimination of any kind. Property owners listed in the housing database are expected to align with these values and treat all students and visitors with the same respect. This includes, but is not limited to, non-discriminatory behavior towards individuals of different ethnicities, national origins, religions, LGBTQIA+ people, and those with disabilities. It's important to note that the majority of Costa Ricans, along with many others in the region, identify as Catholic. Therefore, showing respect for their beliefs and traditions is crucial for fostering a positive and harmonious atmosphere.
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.

Appendix

Bringing a pet?

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

Approved by: Board of Directors, March 8th, 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.

What are the estimated Living Expenses in Costa Rica?

Estimated Living Expenses in Costa Rica (per Student)	
Description	Monthly Cost (in \$USD)
Accommodation	
<i>Rent</i>	\$300- 500
<i>Utilities (water, electricity and fast Wi-Fi)</i>	\$140
Transportation options	
<i>Shuttle to/from UPEACE (weekdays)</i>	Free
<i>2-3 UBER (weekend trips)</i>	\$130
<i>Public transportation/bus</i>	\$50
Food options	
<i>Daily lunch + beverage + snack (UPEACE cafeteria)</i>	\$250
<i>Grocery shopping (for a person who prefers to cook at home)</i>	\$200
Healthcare (local hospitals)	\$50
Extras (coffees, going out, daily small expenses)	\$300
Mobile phone	\$20
Total estimated expenses for an individual person	\$1,300 - 1,500

How do smartphone services work in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica's main service providers include "Kolbi," operated by the national telecommunications company ICE, as well as "Claro" and "Liberty," which are well-established and recognized across North, Central, and South America, the Caribbean, and some European countries.

An unlocked smartphone can be used in Costa Rica without restrictions. If needed, you may contact your internet provider in advance to enable global roaming on your plan. Alternatively, you can opt for a prepaid SIM card to use with your unlocked device during your stay. For emergencies, dialing 9-1-1 does not require a local phone line.

Students find smartphone service plans particularly convenient, as they offer a range of options to suit different needs. Among the most popular plans chosen by students, two stand out as favorites.

- ❖ A **"post-paid"** service plan is available through contracts, often bundled with the purchase of a new smartphone, which may include both the device and a calling/data plan if needed. These contracts typically last for several months or years and can be customized to meet individual preferences. Alternatively, customers can subscribe to calling and internet/data plans without purchasing a smartphone. Monthly fees are fixed based on the plan's terms and conditions. To sign up for this service, a passport is required, and it is important to fulfil the contract and conditions agreed before leaving the country if you opt for this option. These plans are available at authorized branches or retailers across the country.
 - ❖ Alternatively, a **"pre-paid"** service plan is an excellent option for students, offering flexibility and ease of use. This plan requires minimal documentation, typically just a passport, and allows better control over spending. With a pre-paid plan, you can add credit to your account as needed, starting at 1,000 CRC (about 2 USD), whenever your balance is low. Balance inquiries and payments are simple and can be done through a service provider app. You can recharge your phone credit at official branches across the country using cash or online payment platforms using a credit or debit card. These services are widely available at authorized retailers and branches throughout the country.
- ✓ KOLBI – for further information: <https://www.kolbi.cr/>
 - ✓ CLARO – for further information: <https://www.claro.cr/personas/>
 - ✓ LIBERTY – for further information: <https://libertycr.com>

Getting to know service facilities nearby Ciudad Colon

Supermarkets in Ciudad Colon

<p>➤ Mas x Menos (Supermarket - Walmart Franchise)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery. Website: https://www.masxmenos.cr Phone: +506 2249 3332 ext. 109 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Fresh Market (Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery Website: https://freshmarket.co.cr Phone: +506 2105 2653 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Super Mora (Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery.</p> <p>Website: https://www.supermora.com Phone: +506 2249 2459 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Pali (Supermarket - Walmart Franchise)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping. Website: https://www.maxipali.co.cr Phone: +506 22491769 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Super El Dragon (Chinese Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · Delivery.</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/people/Super-El-Dragon-Ciudad-Colon/100057157610987/ Phone: +506 88902355 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	

Green and organic markets in town

➤ Green Fair (Feria Verde)

About: FERIA VERDE in spanish (GREEN FAIR) is community, a meeting point between friends, producers and consumers.

What will you find? Organic products, healthy food, crafts, design, others

Information:

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g309293-d14435979-Reviews-Feria_Verde_de_Ciudad_Colon-San_Jose_San_Jose_Metro_Province_of_San_Jose.html

Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Schedule: Tuesdays only from 1: 00PM to 7:00PM

➤ Feria del Agricultor (Farmer's Fair/Market)

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.

What will you find? Green, fresh products, healthy food, crafts, design, more

Information:

<https://deferia.cr/ferias/ciudadcolon/>

Google Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Schedule: Saturday only from 5: 00AM to 12:00MD.

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: https://conservatoriumcr.com/en/ Phone: +506 40812451 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Restaurant Casa76 (Pizza and Pasta)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery. Website: https://www.facebook.com/people/Casa76-Pizza-y-Pasta-Ciudad-Colon/100048018080299/ Phone: +506 22496676 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Caribbean Jam (Sports & Restaurant)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery Website: https://www.facebook.com/people/Caribbean-Jam/100063557082104/ Phone: +506 40342004 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Che Pizza (Restaurant and Pizza)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery. Website: https://www.facebook.com/chepizzacr/ Phone: +506 22490909 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ 22 Bistro (Restaurant and coffee)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery. Website: https://www.facebook.com/22Bistrocheftrini/ Phone: +506 8319 3498 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Chirote (Restaurant and bar)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery Website: https://www.facebook.com/ChiroteBoqueriaBirrera/ Phone: +506 22490468 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>

<p>➤ Restaurante El Bendecido (Chinese Food Resturant)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No-contact delivery. Website: https://www.facebook.com/p/Restaurante-El-Bendecido-100063548084444/?locale=ca_ES Phone: +506 22493456 Google Location: CLICK HERE</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: https://www.anfiteatrodevilla.com YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2grS5Swbzc Phone: +506 84034545 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Restaurante Abanico de Sabores (Bar & Grill)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · Delivery Website: https://www.facebook.com/restabanicodesabores/ Phone: +506 2249 5805 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Vino Mundo (Restaurant, wines experts)</p> <p>Service options: Dine-in · Takeaway · No Delivery Website: https://vinomundocr.com Phone: +506 70532780 Google Location: CLICK HERE</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: https://www.bncr.fi.cr</p> <p>Phone: +506 22494586</p> <p>Google Location: CLICK HERE</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: https://www.bancobcr.com/wps/portal/bcr</p> <p>Phone: +506 22490095</p> <p>Google Location: CLICK HERE</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: https://www.bancopopular.fi.cr/banco-popular</p> <p>Phone: +506 21046801</p> <p>Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Coopealianza (Financial store for savings and credits)</p> <p>About: Local Savings and Credit Cooperative – Western Union retail store</p> <p>Website: https://coopealianza.fi.cr</p> <p>Phone: +506 27853000</p> <p>Google Location: CLICK HERE</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: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=469694543534270&_rdr Phone: +506 22491393 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Fénix Gym</p> <p>Service options: Private Gym (Instructors in place) Website: https://www.fenixgymcr.com Phone: +506 47020582 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Erick Amador Wellness & Fitness</p> <p>Service options: Wellness & Fitness (Personal Trainer in place) Website: https://gimnasioscr.com/erick-amador-wellness-fitness-entrenamiento-personalizado-ciudad-colon/ Phone: +506 40312413 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Spinning Center</p> <p>Service options: Spinning Center (Certified Trainer) Website: https://www.facebook.com/spinningcentermora/ Phone: +506 86533030 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>
<p>➤ Box 309 sin límites (Box 309 no Limits)</p> <p>Service options: Gym/Physical Fitness Center Website: https://www.facebook.com/box309sinlimites/ Phone: +506 47010684 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	

Kinder gardens and pre-schools in Ciudad Colón

<p>➤ CEMI (Centro Educativo Mundo de Ilusiones)</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/mundoilusiones/?locale=es_LA</p>	<p>➤ New Horizon</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/SistemaEducativoAngulo/?locale=es_LA</p>
<p>➤ Kreative Montessori</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/@KreativeSchoolCR/?locale=es_LA</p>	<p>➤ Waldorf Elementary School</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/escuelawaldorfcostarica/</p>
<p>➤ Pequeñas Sonrisas Kindergarten</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/jardindeninospequeñassonrisas/?locale=es_LA</p>	<p>➤ Kibu Centro Educativo Pre-School</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/kibucentroeduc/?locale=es_LA</p>
<p>➤ Mamá Margarita Pre-School and Kinder Garden</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/DesarrolloEducativoMamaMargarita/?locale=es_LA</p>	<p>➤ Rogelio Fernández Güell Elementary School (Government School)</p> <p>Website: https://www.facebook.com/people/Esc-Rogelio-Fernández-Güell/100063501463739/</p>

Local information websites (this compilation of links is freely accessible)

- ❖ Costa Rica: Time Zone – <https://www.timeanddate.com/time/zone/costa-rica/san-jose>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Weather - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/climate>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Currency - <https://costarica.org/facts/currency/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Language - <https://costarica.org/people/language/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Food - <https://costarica.org/food/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Religion - <https://www.costarica.com/culture/religion-in-costa-rica>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Public Transportation - <https://www.vacationscostarica.com/travel/public-transportation/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Health Care - <https://www.internations.org/costa-rica-expats/guide/healthcare>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Restaurants - <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/restaurants/all?page=1>
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