



University
for Peace



STUDENT HOUSING

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 – 2027

"This document must be reviewed carefully, as it sets forth the terms and conditions governing student accommodation. Lack of awareness does not exempt individuals from their responsibilities."

Table of Contents

How does the UPEACE housing service work?	3
Type of facilities and rates	4
UPEACE portal vs others booking platforms.....	5
What should you know before submitting your reservation?	6
How does the rent payment cycle work?	9
Booking pre-payment (FAQ 's)	11
Basic house recommendations.....	12
Where to Live?	14
UPEACE housing policies and responsibilities.....	16
FAQ'S	18
Appendices	25
Appendix A: UPEACE Housing Flowchart.....	26
Appendix B: Bringing a pet?.....	27
Appendix C: What are the estimated Living Expenses in Costa Rica?	33
Appendix D: How do smartphone services work in Costa Rica?	34
Appendix E: Getting to know service facilities near Ciudad Colon	35
Supermarkets in Ciudad Colon	35
Appendix F: Green and organic markets in town	36
Appendix G: Restaurants, cafes, pubs and more in Ciudad Colón	37
Appendix H: Banks and ATM 's in Ciudad Colón	39
Appendix I: Gyms and Sport Centers in Ciudad Colón.....	40
Appendix J: Kinder gardens and pre-schools in Ciudad Colón	41
Appendix K: Local information websites (this compilation is freely accessible)..	42

Housing General Information

Regular MA students beginning classes in August 2025 will receive an official email on **July 13, 2026**, 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 accommodation. 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 two official booking periods:

1. **July 13, 2026**, for Regular MA students (beginning with orientation in August 2026)
2. **November 23, 2026**, for NRSD students (beginning with orientation early January 2027)

Students enrolled in other programs or courses should contact the Housing Assistant for individualized guidance. If you need to make a reservation outside the designated periods, it is recommended that you submit your booking request at least one month before your arrival, as property owners generally prioritize students with earlier arrival dates. An official arrival date is required to place a reservation—tentative dates will not be accepted.

UPEACE maintains housing agreements with various property owners in Ciudad Colón, El Rodeo, San Bosco, Brasil de Mora, and surrounding areas to provide accommodations tailored to student needs. All properties listed on the UPEACE website are furnished, and most include internet and utilities (electricity and water) either as part of the monthly rent or for an additional fee. Some accommodation also offers optional services such as meals, laundry, and cleaning, which may be included or available at an additional cost. Each property's description provides detailed information on these features, enabling you to choose the option that best meets your needs for the academic year.

How does the UPEACE housing service work?

UPEACE does not provide on-campus housing. However, students may choose from a variety of nearby options, including family stays, single studios, shared apartments with one to three bedrooms, and independent houses. Most accommodations are fully furnished and equipped to meet student needs. Rental prices generally range from

\$400 USD to \$1,300 USD, depending on the type of accommodation, location, size, amenities, and any specific requirements.

In Costa Rica, rental agreements typically require a security deposit. However, UPEACE has arranged with participating property owners to allow students to pay this deposit during the **second month**, rather than upfront (with a few exceptions among the hosts). The first month's rent—paid upon arrival—functions as a **trial period**, during which students may decide whether to remain in the chosen accommodation or move to a different one.

At the beginning of the second month—whether staying in the same property or relocating—students must sign a rental contract and pay both the second month's rent and the security deposit. After the trial month, students are expected to honor the terms of their rental agreement and remain in their selected accommodation for the duration specified in the lease, in accordance with the agreement established with the property owner.

Type of facilities and rates

Following are the estimated prices and all that is included:

- A. **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 \$350 USD per month.
- B. **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.**
- C. **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.

Please note that there are sufficient housing options available for all enrolled students; however, availability depends on the properties listed by homeowners at the time of booking. To ensure a smooth and satisfactory experience, it is important to select your accommodation directly from the options available on the platform when submitting your reservation.

For budgeting purposes, housing costs begin at approximately **\$350 USD per month**, with prices varying according to size, location, amenities, and any special requirements. Students should anticipate total living expenses—including housing, food, transportation, and incidentals—ranging from **\$1,000 to \$1,500 USD per month**, depending on individual lifestyle choices. It is also recommended to have additional funds available for emergencies or unexpected costs.

(For more information, refer to page 33: Living Expenses in Costa Rica.)

UPEACE portal vs others booking platforms.

Whether you choose to book your accommodation through the **UPEACE Housing Portal**—which is strongly recommended—or through external sources (such as third-party booking platforms or referrals from former students), it is essential to select a place where you feel safe, comfortable, and supported throughout your academic year at UPEACE.

If you decide to arrange your own accommodation, carefully review all rental conditions before confirming a reservation or signing a lease. It is strongly advised that you check updated photos, detailed descriptions, available services, and feedback from previous tenants. Please note that **any housing arrangements made outside the UPEACE database are entirely the students' responsibility**.

While many students have had positive experiences securing housing independently, others have encountered challenges. This is not meant to discourage you—there are trustworthy and responsible landlords—but rather to encourage caution. If you are considering an external rental, feel free to contact us before finalizing your decision; we may have feedback from former students that could help you make an informed choice. Past students often share their experiences, both positive and negative, to assist future cohorts.

Booking through the **UPEACE Housing Portal** offers several advantages, including access to a **trial month** during your first rental period. Although the first month is not free and must be paid in full, this trial provides flexibility: you may continue living in the same accommodation or move to a different one for the second month **without penalty**.

Most bookings through the UPEACE platform allow you to pay the first month's rent upon arrival. However, some landlords may require prepayment; details about

prepayment policies are provided later in this document. Likewise, certain property owners may request a security deposit before arrival due to their leasing policies. Deposits are refundable at the end of the contract, provided all terms are met. For your protection, **signing a lease agreement is strongly recommended.**

If you are already in Costa Rica and identify a suitable property on the UPEACE portal, you may contact the Housing Assistant at **housing@upeace.org** to request a preview appointment before finalizing your booking. This allows you to visit the property in person and ensure it aligns with your expectations before making a commitment.

Please remember: **the trial month is a one-time benefit**, applicable only during your first month. We encourage you to make full use of this opportunity, as it is a unique advantage available exclusively to UPEACE students.

What should you know before submitting your reservation?

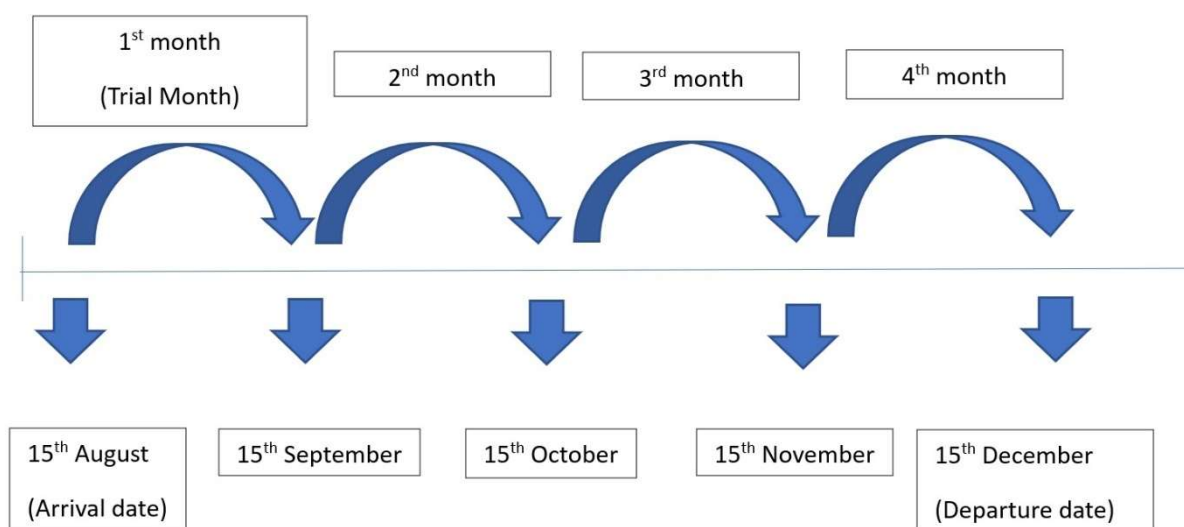
1. Reservations made through the UPEACE housing portal are considered an official commitment. Do not book **"tentatively"** or as a backup. Remember that you may move or change accommodation after your first month (without penalty) if the property selected through the portal does not meet your needs.
2. Reservations are processed only on a **monthly basis**, not daily or weekly. Ensure your dates follow the monthly rental cycle. *Example:* If you check in on August 15, your reservation will run until September 15, and subsequent months will follow the same 15-to-15 cycle.
3. Only submit a reservation once you have an official, confirmed arrival date. **Tentative dates are not accepted.**
4. Each student may hold **only one active reservation**. Please avoid submitting multiple bookings. If you submit more than one active reservation at the same time, your account may be blocked and all reservations will be declined, with no possibility of reversal.
5. The housing portal will remain available throughout the academic year.
6. Students with medical conditions or physical disabilities requiring early housing support should contact **housing@upeace.org** before the portal opens.
7. Ensure the accommodation you choose aligns with your needs. If a contract is provided, read and understand all terms before signing. Signing a lease is highly recommended.

8. You are expected to comply with your rental agreement throughout your stay at UPEACE. Issues resulting from failure to follow contractual terms may delay administrative processes, including graduation.
9. Sharing accommodation can be a positive experience; however, ensure compatibility with potential roommates. Differences in living preferences may require relocation. You may use the designated Facebook group to connect with other students.
10. Review property details carefully. Some shared accommodations rent **individual rooms**, while others are rented as a **full unit**, which requires either having roommates in advance or paying the full rent for the unit.
11. A property is rented for the number of tenants stated in the contract. Additional occupants will incur extra charges. *Example:* A 2-bedroom unit is intended for two tenants; any extra person will be charged additional rent.
12. If you plan to host visitors (family, friends, etc.), notify the landlord in advance. Some properties may charge visitor fees (typically \$25–\$50 USD per night) to cover utilities. Early communication may help negotiate these fees.
13. If you arranged housing independently (through a former student or directly with an owner), please inform **housing@upeace.org** so your information can be recorded for safety and emergency purposes.
14. Once your reservation is approved, keep your housing details accessible for your arrival. You may request the address from the landlord and use Google Maps or Waze. Costa Rican addresses can be confusing, but owners are usually willing to help with directions.
15. The trial month is also important for landlords, as it helps determine rental continuity. You must finalize your decision (to stay or move) within this time. After the trial month, landlords expect a commitment of at least one semester or preferably the full academic year.
16. The reservation system does not allow communication with landlords before booking. Base your decision on the information provided on the portal. After approval, you may request the owner's contact information. If prepayment is required, it must be completed within **72 hours** of confirmation to avoid automatic cancellation.
17. Students are advised to take an official **orange airport taxi** upon arrival. The fare to Ciudad Colón ranges from \$40 to \$50 USD, depending on your housing location.
18. A minimum stay of **one month** is required. Any changes after the trial month must follow the terms of your lease.

19. Rent must be paid in full each month, regardless of travel or temporary absence, since your belongings remain in the unit and the landlord cannot rent it to others. Discounts are not guaranteed and depend solely on the landlord.
20. If you wish to move to another property, provide your landlord with at least **one month's notice**, preferably in writing, and inform **housing@upeace.org** of any changes.
21. Pay rent on time to avoid issues. Payments must be made in cash or via bank transfer, in **USD or CRC**. Rent is always paid **in advance**.
22. Maintain open communication with your property owner. Discuss any concerns directly, as they are generally willing to assist.
23. Always request a **receipt** for rent, deposits, or any payments made. Keep all receipts until the end of the academic year.
24. If no damage is found and proper one-month notice is given (considering your payment cycle), the security deposit should be refunded. Landlords must return the deposit within one month of your move-out date. Obtain written confirmation of your notice. After the trial month, all lease terms apply.
25. For the first month, only rent is required (with a few exceptions). If you choose to continue, both the deposit and the second month's rent must be paid together.
26. Some landlords—especially agencies—may request the security deposit before or upon arrival due to their policies. The trial month still applies, and the deposit will be returned as agreed.
27. After your reservation is approved, share your flight details and arrival information with your landlord as soon as possible.
28. The reservation portal is easy to use. You will receive a step-by-step instruction manual (prior to the reservation period), which you must review before booking. For assistance, email housing@upeace.org.
29. Complimentary transportation between Ciudad Colón and the UPEACE campus will be available. Routes and schedules will be shared before classes begin.
30. If you plan to bring a partner, family members, friends, or pets (short- or long-term), carefully review each property's policies, as restrictions or additional fees may apply.
31. Under Costa Rican law, landlords may conduct a monthly inspection of the rented property, with prior notice and in the presence of the student and landlord.

How does the rent payment cycle work?

Payment cycles for UPEACE students typically begin on the day of arrival and continue through the last day of their stay. To illustrate this more clearly, we will use the First Semester of 2026 as an example, with an arrival date of August 15 and a departure date of December 15. In this scenario, the payment cycle—and its corresponding monthly due date—would fall on the 15th of each month.



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

- Rental rates on the UPEACE booking platform are calculated on a monthly basis**, as listed property owners offer special student-friendly pricing that applies only to full monthly stays.
- According to Costa Rican lease laws, monthly rent must be paid in advance.**
- The rental period usually starts on the day you check in. Using the example provided, if you arrive on the 15th, your rent will be due on the 15th of every month. Always verify whether prepayment is required.
- Prorated rent is not legally recognized**, though some landlords may choose to negotiate it. Any prorated arrangement is entirely at the landlord's discretion; do not assume it is available without discussing it in advance.
- For example: if your monthly rent is **\$400 USD**, you should not divide \$400 by 30 to calculate a daily rate for short stays. Monthly student rates are only

financially viable for landlords on a **full-month basis** (or occasionally half-month, depending on the owner). For shorter stays, landlords typically apply **daily or nightly rates**, usually **\$25–\$50 USD**, depending on the property.

- f. **You must notify your landlord at least one month before moving out**, using your payment cycle date as a reference. *Example:* If your payment date is the 15th and you plan to leave on December 15, you must give notice by November 15. On **November 15th**, you must make the payment for your **final month of rent, which will end on December 15th**. Failure to provide timely notice may affect your ability to recover your security deposit.
- g. **The trial month applies only to the first month of your stay** (the property you booked before arriving in Costa Rica). You have about 2–3 weeks to decide whether to continue living there.
 - If you stay: you will sign a lease and pay the second month's rent **plus** the security deposit together.
 - If you move: the new property will also require a signed lease and payment of rent and deposit upon moving in.
- h. **Use the trial month wisely** to evaluate whether the accommodation meets your needs. After the first month, you will be fully bound by the terms of your lease. Read and understand your contract before signing.
- i. **If your departure date does not match your payment cycle**, inform your landlord well in advance. Rent for extra days may sometimes be negotiated, but landlords are not required to offer prorated rates. Adequate notice—at least one month—is essential. Whether partial payments are accepted is entirely up to the landlord.
- j. **If you need to adjust your payment cycle**, especially if your scholarship, stipend, or loan disbursement date does not align with your arrival date, discuss this early with your landlord. Many landlords are flexible. *Example:* If you arrived on August 15 but receive funds on the 20th, 25th, or 30th, you may request a temporary partial payment for the first few days (5–15 days) and then adjust your cycle to align with your funding schedule. Any adjustments depend entirely on the landlord's willingness and ability to accommodate the request.

Booking pre-payment (FAQ's)

1. **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 but not limited) 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 pre-payment 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.
2. **How do you make the booking pre-payment transfer?** After your reservation is approved by the property owner, you may ask your host's contact information from the Housing Assistant (housing@upeace.org). 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.
3. **Is booking pre-payment required for all UPEACE facilities?** **No**, not all owners require pre-payment. 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. Otherwise, the reservation will be **declined and cannot be reversed**.
4. **Is the prepayment refundable?** **NO**, the pre-payment is non-refundable.
5. **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-hour 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 house recommendations

- ✓ **Always close doors gently and avoid slamming them.**
- ✓ **Cleaning services are generally not included** for apartments or independent units, although you may negotiate this directly with the landlord. Please note that this does **not** include laundry or dishwashing.
- ✓ **Keep your space tidy** and store valuable items securely, preferably in the closet.
- ✓ **For security reasons, do not lend your house keys to anyone.** If you must temporarily share a key, inform the property owner in advance.
- ✓ **For your safety, avoid receiving late-night visitors,** especially individuals you do not know well, whether local or foreign.
- ✓ **Pets are not allowed,** although some properties may accept them with prior approval from the homeowner.
- ✓ **Smoking inside the house is strictly prohibited.** If smoking is permitted, it must be done outside in designated areas.
- ✓ **Please be aware that occasional disruptions—such as internet outages, water shortages, or power interruptions—may occur,** particularly during the dry season. These situations are usually infrequent but are part of local living conditions.

The bathroom

- ✓ **Students are responsible for providing their own personal hygiene products.**
- ✓ Use the wastebasket for disposing of toilet paper, hair, sanitary products, gels, and similar items. **Do not flush these materials down the toilet, as doing so can cause serious blockages.**
- ✓ Due to Costa Rica's tropical climate, where heat and humidity can increase perspiration and body odor, daily showers and the use of deodorant are strongly recommended. **Maintaining proper hygiene is important and shows respect for those sharing space.**
- ✓ **The showerhead contains an electric water-heating device, which is not designed for prolonged use or low water pressure.** Take brief showers with adequate water flow to avoid damaging the unit, as tenants are responsible for repair costs. Please consult your landlord for additional instructions.

The kitchen

- ✓ **Keep the kitchen clean and organized.** Handle all kitchenware and appliances with care. If you are unsure how to use any appliance correctly, ask the owner for instructions to avoid damage and potential repair costs.
- ✓ **Avoid bringing food into the bedroom;** use the dining area instead.

- ✓ **Never places wet pots or pans directly on the burners.**
- ✓ **Make sure all appliances are unplugged or turned off before leaving the house,** even for short periods.
- ✓ **Do not dispose of leftover food, grease, or waste in the sink,** as this can cause clogs. Always use the wastebasket or ask your landlord for proper disposal instructions.
- ✓ **Avoid using multiple electrical appliances simultaneously** to prevent overloading the system. Use them wisely.
- ✓ **Be aware that appliances such as the oven, electric shower, fans, and iron consume significant power.** Use them efficiently to conserve energy.
- ✓ **Turn off lights when leaving a room.**
- ✓ **Always close the faucet when it is not in use.**

Outside and common areas

- ✓ Depending on the type of accommodation you select, certain common areas may be shared with other residents.
- ✓ **According to local regulations and law enforcement guidelines, events or parties are not permitted after 9:00 p.m.** Failure to comply may result in fines and could potentially affect your residency status.
- ✓ **All shared and social areas must be kept clean and properly disinfected.**
- ✓ **Ask 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 outdoor bins and only take them out on collection days.

Others

- ✓ **If repairs or maintenance are required, please notify the property owner in advance (preferably in writing).** Depending on the nature of the issue, homeowners generally have up to **seven business days** to resolve it, although many matters can be addressed sooner.
- ✓ **In most cases, utilities (electricity and water) are included in the rent.** However, any consumption that exceeds the average monthly usage will be the tenant's responsibility.
- ✓ **If no damage has occurred, the full security deposit will be refunded.** If repairs are needed, deductions will be made according to Costa Rican lease regulations. A move-out inspection will be carried out before departure, with both the homeowner and tenant present.
- ✓ **Tenants are responsible for any damage caused by guests or third parties.**
- ✓ Additional housing rules may apply depending on the type of accommodation and the homeowner's specific 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, such as 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 does not provide a shuttle service in these areas. Therefore, students who choose to live independently in these zones must use public transportation to reach downtown Ciudad Colón, where they can then take the shuttle service provided by UPEACE for students.

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. **Do I need to be enrolled to reserve housing?** Yes. You must be officially enrolled and up-to-date with your admissions process and tuition before submitting a reservation.
2. **Why isn't the reservation portal available earlier?** The portal opens after the end of each academic year. Most accommodation becomes available again in June, following the UPEACE Commencement Ceremony. This aligns with the departure of many students who return to their home countries. Please note that some students remain longer for thesis work, internships, or travel, which may affect availability for certain properties.
3. **What level of furnishing should I expect?** All accommodations listed on the UPEACE housing portal are fully furnished and equipped with essentials such as bedding, towels, and kitchenware. Some properties may include additional amenities or services, which may be reflected in the monthly rental rate.
4. **Is there a specific move-in date?** No. Your rent cycle begins on the day you move into your selected accommodation. *Example:* If you move in on August 15, your rent will be due on the 15th of each following month. After your reservation is approved, promptly inform your property owner of your arrival date (check-in) based on your flight itinerary.
5. **Are there restrictions on move-in times?** Homeowners are generally flexible, understanding that arrival times depend on flight schedules. However, you should provide your landlord with your flight details in advance to confirm their availability and ensure a smooth check-in.
6. **When will the email announcing the opening of the booking portal be sent?** There is no exact time. The email will be sent on the official opening day, typically between **10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** (Costa Rica Time Zone).
7. **What is the best way to contact my property owner after booking?** Most owners prefer **WhatsApp**, as it is widely used in Costa Rica and allows faster communication. Email is also accepted, but responses may take longer.
8. **Is a housing contract mandatory?** A contract is required if either the student or the property owner requests one. Although not obligatory, a lease is strongly recommended because it outlines the rights and obligations of both parties and helps resolve any potential disputes.

9. **When should I pay my rent?** Rent is typically paid **in advance upon arrival**, as agreed with the property owner. If pre-payment is required, it must be completed within **72 hours** of your reservation approval; otherwise, your booking may be canceled.
10. **Why is a security deposit required?** Security deposits cover potential damages, outstanding bills, or necessary repairs. If the property is returned in its original condition, the full deposit is refunded according to the lease and Costa Rican regulations.
11. **When do I pay my security deposit?** UPEACE students usually pay the deposit during the **second month**, after the trial month. Some owners—particularly real estate partners—may require the deposit before arrival, which is acceptable; however, the trial month still applies.
12. **When will my security deposit be refunded?** You must notify the landlord of your departure **at least one month in advance** (based on your rent cycle) and return the property undamaged. Deposits are refunded according to the contract, often before departure if all conditions are met.
13. **How long does the landlord have to return the deposit?** Landlords have up to **one month** to refund the deposit, as long as proper notice was given and no damages are found.
14. **What happens if there is property damage?** Students are responsible for any damage caused by themselves or their guests. Repair costs will be deducted from the deposit. If the costs exceed the deposit, the student must cover the difference.
15. **What payment method should I use for rent?** Rent can be paid in **USD or CRC**, depending on the agreement with the owner. If pre-payment is required, it must be made via **international wire transfer or deposit**. The owner will provide their banking details once they have confirmed your reservation.
16. **Do the rental amounts include any bank transfer fees?** The UPEACE platform does not process payments in order to avoid additional charges and prevent rental prices from increasing for the benefit of all parties. The rental amounts listed on the platform are net amounts that must be paid in full and directly to the property owner (in cash USD). **These prices do not include any national or international bank transfer fees.**
17. **What if I need to pay my rent or security deposit through a bank transfer, deposit, or an alternative payment method such as PayPal?**

Payment options may vary depending on each host and their ability to receive different types of transactions. If a student wishes or needs to pay using a method that involves bank transfer, deposit, or online payment fees (including PayPal), the student **must cover any fees associated with their chosen payment method.**

An exception applies only if the host specifically requests the student to use a payment method that generates fees and is not included within the standard payment policies and house description. In that case, the host must assume those extra charges. Please note that the rental prices listed on the UPEACE platform are special student rates and **do not include payment processing fees**, as they are intended to be paid in full, directly to the host, in cash and USD.

18. **How many times can I use the trial month?** Only once. The trial month applies during your **first month** in Costa Rica and allows you to decide whether to stay or move. After that, all policies follow your signed lease.
19. **How do I extend my reservation after the trial month?** Notify your landlord before the end of the first month—ideally within weeks 2 or 3. You must also submit a **new booking request on the UPEACE portal** to secure the accommodation and prevent other students from reserving it.
20. **What if I want to move when trial month is over?** Moving after the first month is subject to your lease terms. Most landlords expect students to stay until at least the end of the first semester, as the trial month provides sufficient time to choose an appropriate property. Some may require a longer commitment.
Discuss your plans early with your landlord to avoid complications regarding the deposit.
21. **Does UPEACE offer dormitories?** No. UPEACE does not provide on-campus housing. However, affiliated property owners offer rental options in nearby areas such as Ciudad Colón, El Rodeo, and San Bosco.
22. **When will I receive confirmation or decline of my reservation?** Within **12 hours** of your submission. Owners prioritize responses to help you plan promptly.
23. **What happens if my reservation is declined or canceled?** Possible reasons include:
 - ✓ The unit was booked just before your request.
 - ✓ The current tenant extended their stay.
 - ✓ A problem arose with the host.
 - ✓ The unit was removed from the system.

- ✓ Other unforeseen issues.

You will be notified immediately so you can submit a new reservation.

24. **Can I bring my pet to the accommodation I reserved?** It depends entirely on the property owner. Some owners allow pets with an additional deposit; others prohibit pets due to past issues. Always review the pet policy for each property and consult the Housing Assistant if you need help finding a pet-friendly option.
25. **How does the housing selection process work?** On the opening date, you will receive an email with the portal link and instructions. You may create a free account and submit **one** reservation at a time. While there is sufficient housing for all students, booking early is recommended, as the most attractive options tend to fill quickly.
26. **Are utilities included in the rent?** Utilities (electricity and water) are usually included **up to an average monthly limit**. Any excess usage is the student's responsibility. A few properties require tenants to pay utilities separately; in such cases, owners will explain the payment process.
27. **Can I open a bank account in Costa Rica as a student?** Yes. You may request a bank-account support letter from the Admissions Office upon arrival. Visit "Banco Nacional de Costa Rica" with:
- ✓ the UPEACE letter
 - ✓ a color copy of your passport and entry stamp (bring the original)
- The process typically takes **2-4 weeks**.
28. **Is there a Facebook group for students?** Yes. You will receive the group link and passcode by email. This group is strictly for enrolled UPEACE students. For access credentials, email **housing@upeace.org**.
29. **Does UPEACE offer transportation?** Yes. Free round-trip transportation operates between Ciudad Colón (and nearby areas) and the UPEACE campus. Schedules and routes are emailed before the semester begins.
30. **Can I bring my pet to campus?** Yes, but only if you comply with UPEACE procedures. See the "Bringing a Pet?" appendices for further details.
31. **Can my pet use the UPEACE bus?** No. Pets are **not allowed** on UPEACE student transportation. If this is a **special and priority situation**, you may submit a request by emailing **eretana@upeace.org**, copying **wmasis@upeace.org** and housing@upeace.org. Please make sure to **attach your Emotional Support Animal (ESA) certificate**, as it is required for the request to be reviewed.

32. **Are there childcare centers in Ciudad Colón?** Yes. Several local kindergartens and preschools are available. Contact them directly for details and pricing. You will find more information later in this document.

33. **Why does mold grow inside homes?** High humidity during Costa Rica's rainy season can cause mold on walls, ceilings, doors, and even clothing. Improve ventilation by opening windows and doors regularly. If mold persists, notify the landlord. Seek medical attention if it affects your health.

34. **Why are there insects in my apartment?** Due to the tropical climate, insects are common—especially during the rainy season. To reduce them:

- ✓ ventilate rooms
- ✓ store food properly
- ✓ avoid leaving dirty dishes
- ✓ clean regularly

If pests persist, inform your host.

35. **Are UPEACE homeowners and host families LGBTQIA+ friendly?** Yes. UPEACE upholds principles of equality, dignity, and non-discrimination. All property owners listed in the database are expected to respect these values, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender identity, orientation, or disability. Most Costa Ricans identify as Catholic; mutual respect fosters positive relationships. Respect is expected from all parties involved.

36. **How should you handle if an issue, disagreement, or conflict arises while living with your housemates?** It is important to acknowledge that, each semester, disagreements and conflicts may arise between roommates. These situations often result from factors such as poor communication, cultural differences, personality clashes, or difficulties related to shared living. Most students are able to address and resolve these issues successfully, allowing them to continue living together throughout the academic term. However, when attempts to resolve the conflict are unsuccessful and incompatibility becomes evident, it is advisable to seek alternative arrangements before the situation escalates. Ignoring the problem or delaying action until tensions reach a breaking point can lead to a stressful and unhealthy living environment.

Additionally, it is essential to remember that roommates share the same rental agreement and are required to comply with the landlord's terms and conditions. Any decision to move out, whether by one or more students, must be communicated in advance—at least one month prior, without exception. This policy ensures fairness not only to roommates but also to landlords, who are also protected under the lease agreement.

In conclusion, students are strongly encouraged to notify the Housing Assistant as soon as conflicts arise, preferably in their early stages, so they can be addressed in a timely and appropriate manner on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, UPEACE's Student Welfare Office provides emotional support through an on-campus psychologist who is available for counseling. This professional is always available to help students manage their emotions, navigate conflicts, and develop effective coping strategies.

37. **When should I check in?** Check-in times depend on each property's availability and the reservation season. For this reason, you are strongly encouraged to contact your host well in advance to:
- Inform them of your arrival plans (flight itinerary).
 - Confirm the exact date and time of your check-in.

This will allow your host to properly prepare for your arrival and welcome you accordingly.

In most cases—especially at the beginning of classes in August (Fall semester)—properties are usually available to receive students during the daytime. However, it is also possible that a student from a previous term may be checking out on the same day you arrive, typically in the morning. For this reason, it is always best to coordinate your check-in time in advance to avoid any inconvenience.

38. **When do I need to check out of my housing?** Check-out must be completed on the last day of your reservation, based on your arrival date and the established payment cycle. Check-out time is in the morning, **no later than 11:59 a.m.** This schedule ensures that, if another student has reserved the same accommodation, their check-in can take place in the afternoon without inconvenience or delays for either party.
- If you require one or more additional days beyond your official check-out date (**subject to availability**), you must coordinate this directly with your host. Please note that any additional days will be charged at the daily rate, which differs from the monthly rate.

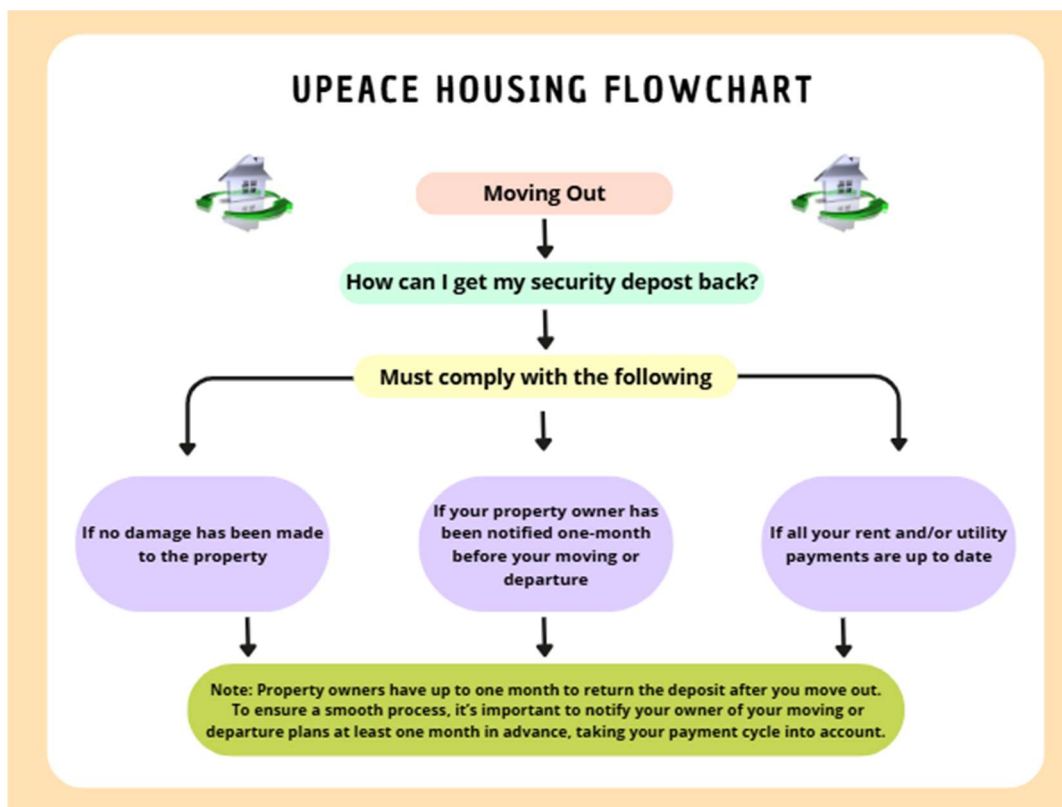
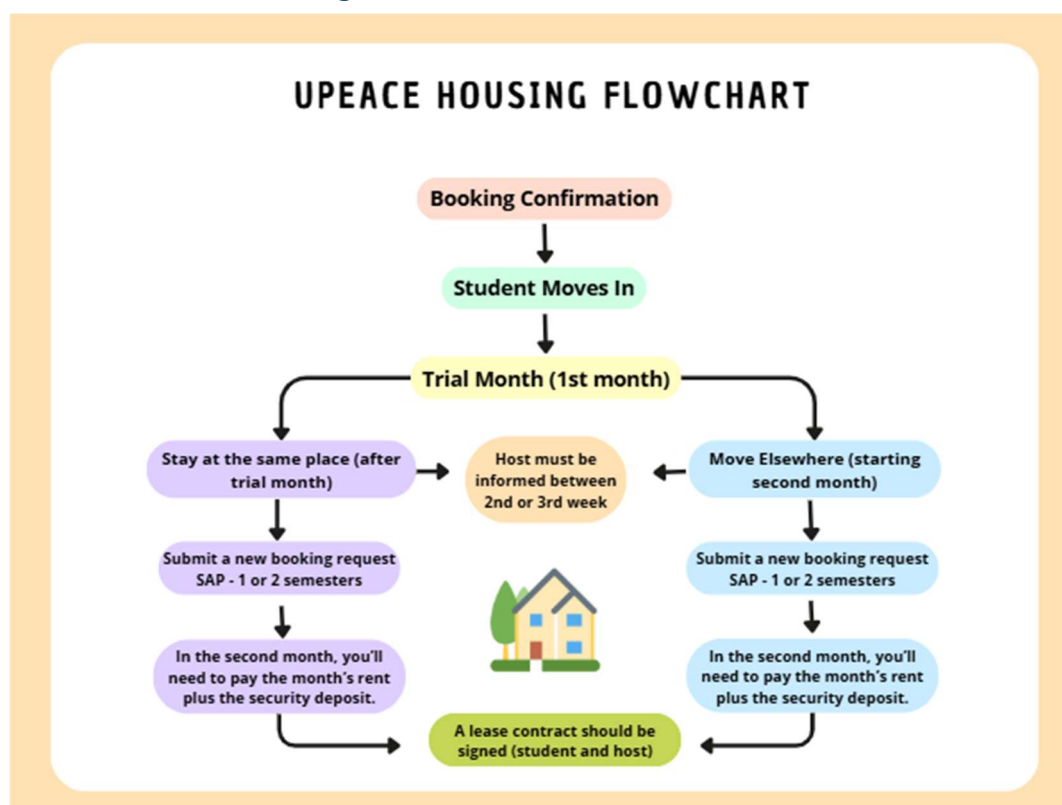
39. **What happens if a contract is not signed between the host and the student?** UPEACE strongly recommends the signing of a rental agreement, as this document clearly establishes the terms and conditions during the reservation and the stay, ensuring greater stability, legal certainty, and peace of mind for both parties.
- However, if such an agreement is not signed, both the host and the student will be subject to the provisions of the **General Law on Urban and Suburban Leases (Tenant Law) No. 7527**, currently in force in Costa Rica. This legislation aims to protect and ensure that the rights and obligations of both parties are respected.

Failure to comply with the applicable legal provisions may result in sanctions or penalties, which shall apply to all parties involved, regardless of language, nationality, or any other particular condition.

40. **What is the official channel to inform UPEACE about housing-related situations?** The official channel to report any situation related to your accommodation and/or hosts is **exclusively** via email at **housing@upeace.org**. This channel ensures proper documentation, follow-up, and the required level of formality for institutional communication. Any other communication channels will be considered **non-official** and **will not be taken into account** for analysis, follow-up, or decision-making purposes by UPEACE.
41. **How many housing units can I live in or move between?** Students are expected to maintain housing stability and avoid moving between residences unless it is necessary and explicitly permitted under the terms of their housing contract. A maximum of **three (3) housing changes** is allowed within any **consecutive 12-month period (including the first trial month)**.

Appendices

Appendix A: UPEACE Housing Flowchart



Appendix B: Bringing a pet?

UPDATE OF THE POLICY FOR THE ENTRY OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS TO THE MAIN CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE 2025.

The following policy is based on the policy developed in 2023 by Dr. Karina Mora and the board that participated in its approval, within which the following are mentioned:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • Francisco Rojas | • Warner Masís |
| • Juan Carlos Sainz | • Adriana Salcedo |
| • Angela Willis | • Mariateresa Garrido |
| • Olivia Sylvester | • Karen Acosta |
| • Mayeni Aguilar | • Karina Mora |
| • Ariela Fernandez | • Laura Navarrete/
Ombudsperson (Rev) |
| • Mihir Kanade | |

SECTION 1: GENERAL

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. A multicultural space must be respectful of differences, which is why it is key to establish guidelines to guarantee the well-being, integrity and full development of those who regularly visit and attend the university campus.

1.3. The collection, transfer and final disposal of animal excrement is an activity that involves a risk to the occupational health of field and miscellaneous workers, as well as a recharge of functions in addition to the usual activities of gardening and cleaning buildings, since it involves the handling of bioinfectious waste.

1.4. Given the growing interest on the part of staff and students in bringing pets to the University, as well as the possibility of bringing animals from outside the campus, the need to implement the following policy has been identified.

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES

Formulate a series of guidelines that allow for the standardization of the entry of domestic animals by students and staff, which facilitates an environment of harmony and respect for all and complies with the regulatory provisions established by the national legal system.

SECTION 3. LEGAL FIELD

- Law 7451; Animal Welfare
- General Regulations for the Granting of Operating Permits of the Ministry of Health (Regulation number 34728-S).
- Regulations for Food Services to the Public of the Ministry of Health (Regulation number 37308-S).
- Regulations for the Reproduction and Responsible Ownership of Companion Animals.
- Educational proposal for animal welfare.

SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS

4.1 Domestic animal: it will be understood as any animal that due to its characteristics can live with the human being (for the purposes of this writing, it will refer to dogs and cats).

4.2 Owner: A person who owns a domestic animal in his or her home and has dominion over this animal.

4.3 Dangerous animal: dogs that manifest a markedly aggressive character, or those that have been involved in aggressions against people or other animals, are considered dangerous.

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

4.5 Emotional support animals: those that help alleviate the symptoms or behaviors associated with the emotional disorder of the person who serves as the owner. The emotional disorder of the respective person must be duly documented by their psychologist or psychiatrist and express in it that their dog effectively helps to alleviate their situation. Likewise, the owner must carry out a training course to allow the certification of the animal as an emotional support pet, conditional on the fact that the person passes the course.

4.6. Guide or assistance animals: those that are specifically trained to help a blind person or person with severe visual impairment in their movements, improving their autonomy and mobility, specialized, whose solvency and professionalism is guaranteed by the international standards set by the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF).

SECTION 5: PROVISIONS.

5.1. For the Pet Owner:

- The owner must register the pet before entering it on the Campus and obtain approval from an institutional Occupational Health Commission (registration form, photograph of the pet, certification of the pet attendance and opinion that supports it).
- By entering the University for Peace with a pet, the owner expresses his tacit acceptance of the policy established in this document, which has been communicated to all staff.
- The owner must agree to keep the pet at a maximum distance of one meter from itself and on a leash, during the entire time during which the animal remains on the university campus.
- The owner is directly responsible to any visitor, member of the university or other domestic animal that is affected in its physical or emotional integrity by the presence or behavior of the animal.
- He is responsible for ensuring that his pet has good behavior, and that order and grooming are maintained.
- The owner will be absolutely responsible for the impact that his pet may have on the facilities and assets owned by the institution, as the purpose of this is to generate a clean and orderly educational and workspace for the benefit of the user.
- The owner is responsible for picking up their pet's solid waste and placing it in the trash cans assigned for that purpose. If there is biological waste from your pet, the owner has the responsibility to collect and dispose of the excrement in the places provided for it. As well as the cleaning of the affected space. If you require cleaning implements, you can request them from the cleaning team, but they will not have the responsibility to clean the affected area.
- The owner of the pet must remove it from campus if it disturbs the peace, safety or public health, or if it demonstrates aggressiveness, regardless of its size and breed. Attention to an issue in this sense will not be a justification for abandoning work functions or absenting oneself from the university campus. Therefore, it will be understood that the worker who is a pet owner must replace the time he or she loses in the control or care of his or her pet.
- The pet owner will be responsible for providing the utensils that the pet requires to eat its food and hydrate. It is absolutely forbidden to feed animals with cafeteria utensils that are used for human consumption.

5.2 For Pets:

1. They must be fully vaccinated and the vaccination card must be carried if needed.
2. They must be at ALL times and without exception, in the custody of their owner, at a maximum distance of one meter.

3. Have a collar, leash and be properly identified (badge with your name and phone number of the owner).
4. Pets will not be allowed to enter the bus provided by the Institution, nor the cafeteria, therefore, in accordance with the sanitary guidelines of the Ministry of Health, including article 61 subsection c) of the Regulations for Food Services to the Public (Regulation number 37308-S), the presence of animals is not allowed in the same place where food is served, unless they are emotional support animals or assistance dogs, as defined in Section 4 of this policy.

5.3. For the Institution only for officially assisted animals.

1. Place properly identified trash cans for pet solid waste.
2. It will place signs of no entry of animals in the cafeteria area. With the exception already described. Read point 3.
3. It will place posters identifying those offices where there is the presence of emotional support animals or guide or assistance dogs.
4. Place signs indicating that the feeding of wild animals is prohibited.

SECTION 6: PROHIBITIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IN GENERAL

6.1. Potentially dangerous dogs are not allowed on campus.

6.2. Any type of animal abuse.

6.3. That the owners leave the solid waste in the common areas, since the owner must have the necessary implements to clean any deposition or waste of the pet.

6.4. Pets roaming loose and alone on campus.

6.5. The presence of pets in the food areas, library, classrooms, offices, bathrooms, except for those assistance animals that are duly identified and registered for this purpose.

6.6. It is forbidden to feed animals with cafeteria utensils that are used for human consumption

6.7. The pet is only allowed to be fed directly by its owner. The feeding of animals by third parties who are not owners of the animal is strictly prohibited.

6.8. Liability for animals fed by third parties: If any member of the community, work team, university, or any visitor regularly or repeatedly provides food, water, or any other type of care to an animal that is not their property, such person shall be deemed to have automatically assumed ownership of that animal. Consequently, this person will be fully responsible for complying with all obligations established in this policy, including proper care, supervision, veterinary expenses, and any incident or situation arising from the presence or behavior of the animal.

6.9. In the event that an animal that does not belong to the university community enters or remains on campus and represents a risk to safety, health or order, the **Emergency Protocol for External Animals** will be activated, which may imply its removal from the campus by the competent authorities. The University for Peace will not assume, in any case, civil, criminal or economic liability for damages, incidents or accidents caused by these animals.

7. Non-compliance.

Failure to comply with these provisions may result in administrative and/or health sanctions, including fines, suspension of permits, closure or complaint for disobedience to authority, as established by the Ministry of Health.

After incidents in shops, the Ministry of Health issued a resolution (August 2025) reinforcing controls:

- Entry allowed **only to assistance animals**.
- If animals are allowed to remain on campus, it will be necessary to restructure the regulations in general terms. Likewise, the establishment must have a civil liability policy that provides coverage for any incident that may occur with the animals authorized within its facilities.
- Fines for noncompliance can include:
 1. **Economic sanction** (General Health Law, Art. 307).
 2. **Temporary or permanent closure** of the establishment.
 3. **Criminal complaint for disobedience to the health authority**.

8. Annexes

8.1 Penalties (the resolution does not specify a fixed amount; however, these are suggested amounts and effects for non-compliance)

Type of person	First foul	Second foul	Serious Recidivism
Administrative staff	Written reprimand + \$20 fine	Fine of USD 50 + entry in the file	Temporary suspension without pays for up to 3 days
Academic staff	Written reprimand + \$30 fine	Fine of USD 60 + report to the Academic Vice-Rector's Office	Suspension of teaching activities for up to 1 week

Students	Warning + \$10 fine	Fine of USD 30 + annotation in academic record	\$50 fine + suspension of extracurricular activities / restricted entry
Visitors	Warning and Removal from Campus	\$50 fine + temporary entry ban	Definitive prohibition of entry + report to the Ministry of Health in case of health risk

It is recommended to establish that the payment of fines is a requirement to renew enrollment (in the case of students) or receive services (for external visitors, such as rental of auditoriums).

The University will notify the Ministry of Health in case of serious or repeated breaches, for the application of external legal sanctions.

Appendix C: 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, when not included in the monthly rent price (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

Appendix D: 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.

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>

Appendix E: Getting to know service facilities near 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 (Local Supermarket)</p> <p>Service options: In-store shopping · In-store pick-up · Delivery. Website: https://www.supermora.com Phone: +506 2249 2459 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	<p>➤ Palí (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. Website: https://www.facebook.com/people/Super-Dragon-Ciudad-Colon/100057157610987/ Phone: +506 88902355 Google Location: CLICK HERE</p>	

Appendix F: 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.

Appendix G: 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</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>

Google Location: CLICK HERE	
<p>➤ Restaurante El Bendecido (Chinese Food Restaurant)</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/restabanico desabores/ 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>

Appendix H: 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>

Appendix I: 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>	

Appendix J: 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/@KreativeScholCR/?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/jardindeninospequenassonrisas/?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>

Appendix K: Local information websites (this compilation 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>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Tips for Travelers – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/tips>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Hotels for Travelers – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/accommodations/hotels?page=1>
- ❖ Costa Rica: National Park Service – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/ecotourism/national-parks>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Shipping Service – <https://correos.go.cr>
- ❖ Costa Rica: English News – <https://ticotimes.net>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Rural Tourism – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/rural-tourism?page=1>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Wildlife – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/greatest-wildlife-spectacles>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Culture – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/things-to-do/culture>
- ❖ Costa Rica: ATM and Money – <https://costarica.org/facts/currency/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Pharmacies – <https://costaricabestride.com/how-are-pharmacies-in-costa-rica/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Bus Itinerary – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/bus-itinerary>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Entry Requirements for Tourists – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/entry-requirements>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Ministry of Foreign Affairs – <https://www.rree.go.cr>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Suggested Itineraries – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/itineraries>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Airlines Flying to Costa Rica – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/planning-your-trip/airlines?page=1>
- ❖ Costa Rica: Driver's Licenses in Costa Rica – <https://crie.cr/drivers-license-in-costa-rica/>

- ❖ Costa Rica: Useful Phone Apps – <https://costa-rica-guide.com/practical/phones/useful-phone-apps-for-travel-in-costa-rica/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: The Essential Items to Bring – <https://mytanfeet.com/about-cr/packing-for-costa-rica-what-to-bring/>
- ❖ Costa Rica: FAQ's – <https://www.visitcostarica.com/faqs>

Note: *These links are public and free to access. If any of them stop working properly, please inform the Housing Assistant (housing@upeace.org) so they can be replaced with alternative links, if available.*

We sincerely appreciate the time you have devoted to reviewing this institutional document. We hope that the information contained in this document has been useful for your travel and university purposes.