



INESLE Madrid
Instituto de Español

Housing Standards

INESLE Madrid

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HOUSING STANDARDS

HOUSING GUIDELINES

1. OBJECTIVE OF INESLE Madrid

The goal of the INESLE Madrid housing program is to integrate our students into Spanish society. We want our students to engage with their host families, to improve their Spanish language skills, to learn about Spain and to experience Spanish culture.

2. BEHAVIOR WITH YOUR HOST

- You have the opportunity to build a relationship with your host family. You should be dynamic and stay in a few nights a week to practice your Spanish and discuss Spanish culture and society. Your host family will help you understand how Spaniards live and think, and how to express likes and dislikes.
- It is essential that the relationship with your host family be one of mutual trust. The best way for them to trust you is for you to respect their rules and regulations.
- Families will normally greet you in the mornings, when coming back home and they will expect the same from you. When leaving the house, you are also expected to let them know.
- Your host family has this same document in Spanish in order to insure that all parties are informed of the Housing Norms given by INESLE Madrid, their duties and responsibilities.

2. YOUR ROOM

- You have a right to privacy in your room and your host families have a right to privacy in their rooms.
- Most of you will be in an individual or a twin room, which you will share with a member of the host family of the same sex. There will generally be two twin-size beds, a small closet, one or two bookshelves, a table, two chairs and a reading lamp. The closet and the table in your room are to be shared with your host brother or sister. Please try to keep it as well-organized as possible so someone can come in and clean without moving your stuff.
- Host families greatly appreciate your efforts to keep your room neat and tidy.
- Personal valuables are your responsibility at all times.
- Any damage to host family property must be paid for by the student.

3. MEALS WITH THE HOSTS

- You will have breakfast and dinner at home every day.
- You are not expected to be around while the host family is having lunch (it is their free time).
- Please be open and upfront with your family regarding eating restrictions in order to avoid any misunderstandings.
- You are expected to eat almost every evening meal at the table with your host family.
- Remember that the regular time for dinner is between 9 and 10:30pm but it may be even later.

- Breakfast is usually coffee, tea or milk and cookies or toast. You are expected to have breakfast in the morning, normally 8:00 to 9:00am. You should adhere to the family's breakfast hours. Late breakfasts should not be expected. Ask in advance if there are regulations on this.
- Your host family will expect you to use good table manners (not eating with fingers, etc.).
- Don't be surprised if you see them peel and eat a peach with a knife and fork or eat grilled cheese sandwiches and hamburgers the same way.
- Spaniards do not normally drink soft drinks or wine with meals. Fresh water is customary.
- Using electronic devices while having dinner in front of the family is not allowed.
- Spaniards also love to talk during and after meals, particularly during the weekends. You are expected to take part in what we call "la sobremesa" or conversation around the table. You'll also see that they can be very politically conscious. The first thing that you may be asked is what you think about the American government.
- Many Spaniards have definite ideas about the US and its foreign policy.
- Stay at the table until the other family members finish their meal. If you really need to leave the table, ask for permission first.
- It is better not to eat and/or store open packages of food in your bedroom. Ask your host family if you can store some food in the kitchen/fridge.
- YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COOK where you live, or to take anything from the refrigerator without asking for permission. You will be given at your house two meals a day – breakfast and supper. And they will prepare the lunch for you during the week days. And during weekends you will have also lunch with your host family
- Drinking and/or storing alcoholic beverages at home are completely forbidden. If found out this will imply expulsion from the host family and from the INESLE Program.

4. YOUR CLOTHES

- You should put on your house slippers or flip flops and put your house clothes on before moving around the house. Do not walk around the house semi-undressed (in boxers etc). Host families greatly appreciate your efforts to dress appropriately.
- In the common areas of the home it is considered rude to put up your feet on chairs and tables and lie down or stretch on the couch with your shoes on. Please refrain from doing so.
- Your hosts will wash your clothes. However, they are only expected to wash a REASONABLE amount of clothes two or three times a week. Please keep clean clothes inside your closet.
- Although every house will have a washing machine that doesn't mean there will be a tumble dryer. Your clothes as well as the host family members' clothes will most likely be hanged out in the terrace.

5. PERSONAL HYGIENE

- Some students share a bathroom with the host family. They will supply you with clean towels and bed sheets once a week.
- Spain has a very dry climate. Spaniards are very conscious of the water they use and do not waste it. Keep showers to a minimum and try to save water whenever possible, for example, do not keep water running while brushing your teeth. Turn it on and off as needed. You are allowed to take only one 10 minute shower each day.
- You are not allowed to shower and/or blow dry your hair after midnight or earlier if your host family so requests. You will be living in an apartment and pipes make a lot of noise. Showering late may wake up family members and neighbors.
- You are expected to wash your hands before dinner.

6. TELEPHONE AND INTERNET USE IN THE HOST FAMILY

- The host family is not responsible for supplying you with a telephone and/or a computer. Though in the case you want to use a computer is quite likely you may use one from them.
- Host families will have internet access at home.
- Internet access at home may be limited by the host family's criteria to certain hours. Ask at the beginning of the program if they have set a time limit and be respectful with it.
- Do not make phone calls after midnight. This restriction also includes SKYPE calls with friends and family members.
- The host family appreciates students who are socially involved with the host family and they do not appreciate students who are always connected to the computer and listening to music on their devices.
- Please unplug your computer, cellphone, IPod, tablet, camera, etc. before you leave the house in the morning as the price of electricity and oil are more expensive in Spain than in the U.S.

7. ABOUT YOUR HOST FAMILY

- Please feel free to speak to any director regarding any issues. Usually, issues arising between students and their hosts are due to cultural differences. The best way to solve these minor issues in Spain is through an honest, open and calm discussion.

8. INESLE Madrid STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

INESLE Madrid seeks to provide students with international education opportunities which allow them to learn in a respectful and safe environment. Behavior which violates local laws or disrespects the program, host country, housing rules, or host family will be considered in violation of the INESLE Abroad Standards of Behavior.

- INESLE Madrid reserves the right to remove a student from their host family for violating INESLE Madrid standard of behavior guidelines.
- Host families may also ask for students to be reprimanded and/or expelled from their home.
- Examples of violations include but are not limited to:
 - Students who do not respect the family, the housing rules and regulations.
 - Students who damage any property of the host family. Any damage to host family property must be paid for by the student.
 - Disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and/or excessive use of alcohol. Possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs in the host family.
 - Students who continually wake up the host family and/or neighbors because they are noisy.
 - Students who make phone calls and/or skype after midnight disturbing the other members of the family.
 - Actions that are considered abusive, harassing, or actions that physically harm or threaten physical harm to any persons (including oneself).
 - Damage to property.
 - Violation of housing rules with host families, apartments, or other housing arranged by INESLE Madrid and/or conduct that jeopardizes the relationship between an INESLE Madrid program and its established providers.
 - Violation of school rules, cultural in town trips and related field trips.