



2023-2024 Special Interest Housing Agreement

Residence Life Office
One University Avenue, Suite 4502
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)796-5239; housing@messiah.edu

I hereby activate this agreement for a residence hall space for myself at Messiah University for the **ENTIRE ACADEMIC YEAR** 2023-2024, from the applicable date of check-in until the applicable date of check-out as stated below. I understand this agreement will be terminated in the event of my withdrawal, suspension or dismissal from the university, permanent removal from the residence hall by the University, completion of my degree requirements, or participation in an off-campus study program. I agree to be an involved member of the living learning community, pay applicable fines, attend regular floor meetings, and participate in hall activities. I agree that this agreement **does not** create a landlord/tenant relationship between me and Messiah University, and **does not** convey any leasehold or other real property interest. I understand that the terms "resident," "occupant," or "student," as used in this agreement, apply to me. I understand the terms of this agreement and agree to abide by them.

1. **CONDUCT OF RESIDENTS:** The resident of the space assigned agrees to abide by the Community Covenant and Code of Conduct of Messiah University and is subject to University policies relating to residential living facilities as published in the current Student Handbook and incorporated in this contract by reference. A resident is assumed to be aware of these policies.

2. **CHECK-IN PROCEDURE:**

Returning students with traditional housing contracts can complete the check-in procedure:

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, August 20, 2023 for Fall

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, January 14, 2024 for Spring

Early Arrivals:

All early arrivals must be approved by the Residence Life office. Fall early arrivals can occur starting August 13 for sponsored and individual students. An additional per day room fee will be charged individually to those who move in after August 13 and before the designated opening day of August 18 for new/transfer students and August 20

will be billed the current replacement value of those items missing, damaged or broken following each inspection period. Resident Directors or University staff members will conduct an inspection each semester to ensure rooms meet fire and safety requirements and the resident(s) will be responsible to make necessary changes within one day of receipt of violation notification. If during any of the inspections mentioned above, violations of the student code of conduct are found, appropriate judicial procedures may be initiated. The University reserves the right to

Winter Break: The campus residences, including the houses are closed from noon Friday, December 15, 2023 to Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

Spring Break: Students in the Special Interest Houses (Schrag/Rafiki, Woodland, Foreman and Melhorn) are only permitted to stay in their residences if they have received approval from the Residence Life Office.

www.messiah.edu/SpringBreakHousing

19. **GUESTS/OVERNIGHT STAYS:** Guests are welcome in University residences if they are approved under and abide by the Messiah University visitors policy. Approved guests may stay overnight on campus for up to three nights with the approval of their residents of the room. A guest is not permitted to stay on campus longer than three nights, even if the guest stays in more than one room. Students may stay overnight in the rooms or apartments of others students of the same gender for up to three days. Neither guests nor students are permitted in bedrooms of the opposite gender except during scheduled visitation hours. The resident is responsible for the conduct of their guest(s) and agrees to pay for any damage caused by a guest.
20. **BED RISERS:** Bed risers are allowed to create additional under bed storage for residences. In order for bed risers to be used the following criteria must be followed. Bed risers must be made of high density polyethylene that holds 1,200 lbs, the bed cannot be raised more than six inches. Bed risers may only be used on metal beds and may not be used when bunking beds. Bed risers made out of other forms of plastic, cinder block or PVC pipe are prohibited.
21. **STADIUM SEATING** – Lofts, bed-risers and any form of stadium seating for couches or other furniture is prohibited.
22. **FURNITURE STACKING** – The stacking of any furniture that is not constructed to stack is prohibited.
23. **LOFT CONSTRUCTION:** The construction of “loft” beds by residents is prohibited.
24. **PERSONAL INSURANCE:** The University accepts no liability for the theft, loss, or damage by fire, water or appliance failure or otherwise of money, valuables, computers, or any personal property of the student either in the student's residential space or in University storage areas. Students are urged to purchase their own insurance to cover such losses. The Residence Life office works with a company who offers insurance specifically for university students. Information can be found at the Residence Life office or by contacting <http://gradguard.com/school-search>. Since family homeowner's insurance policies sometimes provide coverage for the personal property of a family member away at school, students are also encouraged to check with their family's insurance agent regarding policy coverage.
25. **RECYCLING AND TRASH REMOVAL:** Trash and recycling pick-up is on Monday mornings (put at the end of driveway on Sunday evenings) for Melhorn and Foreman. Rafiki, Woodland & Bertram House use campus trash and recycling services. Rafiki, Woodland & Bertram House need to take their trash to a central drop-off location for their area. In accordance with Pennsylvania Act 101, the occupants of the space assigned are encouraged to separate recyclable glass, aluminum cans and all plastics.
26. **CABLE & INTERNET:** The University is providing cable and internet to all of the special interest houses. The cost has been adjusted to include these amenities.
27. **PARKING:** For those who live in the special interest houses, parking is the same charge as those on campus. Students must still

authorization may be subject to a fine of up to \$200.00 and/or cancellation of their space assignment.

32. **REFUNDS:** Room charges are refundable to students who officially withdraw from the University under the same formula and conditions as those applicable to tuition subject to policies published in the Messiah University Catalog.
33. **STORAGE:** No personal items or furniture may be stored in the house. The house must be completely empty at the end of the school year. On-campus storage is available for house/programmatic items. **The University assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage of items stored.**
34. **MEDICAL FORMS:** All medical forms must be completed and returned to Engle Center (health services) in order for a student to receive a room key for a residential room and building.
35. **CREDIT REQUIREMENT:** Students must enroll and maintain a minimum of 12 credits per semester in order to qualify for residential housing. Exceptions are made by the Assistant Director of Residence Life - Housing on an individual basis for any student who is enrolled in less than 12 credits.
36. **CANCELLATION POLICY: Continuing/Current Students:** Any continuing student who chooses to cancel her/his housing contract prior to August 1st may do so without penalty. Any cancellation received between August 1st and move in day will be subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. After move-in students will be assessed a \$250