

# HOUSING

AT FUA



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The Housing Office is pleased to assist with the housing arrangement process for students. We do not own or lease apartments but work as a facilitator to assist students in finding accommodation during their stay in Florence. The Housing Office's objective is to facilitate the students' study abroad experience. Students choosing to secure housing independently must notify the admissions office. Housing options that we arrange for incoming students are:

## **Apartment Housing:**

- Shared Apartments
- Italian Family Home-stays

**Housing Assignments and Availability:** Apartments will be assigned on a first come, first served basis according to availability, and are communicated at least 20 days prior to arrival in Florence. Depending on their request, students will be assigned to a single or shared bedroom in a furnished apartment that will be shared with other students. If a student request cannot be met due to space limitations, the student will be assigned according to availability and notified before arrival. Students will not be able to choose their apartment or change roommates. All roommate requests must be specified on the housing request form.

**Rental, Deposit and Check in/out Information:** The rental period begins one day before the program start date and ends one day after the last day of class. A refundable security deposit must be paid with the program application. Students will be responsible for any damages to their apartment or its furnishings and will have all damage costs removed from their security deposit. In the case of a single student who is responsible for the damage, only the individual will pay repairs with his or her deposit. When it is impossible to determine which individuals are responsible, the repairs will be charged to the entire group of students in the apartment. Check-in information is communicated to students prior to arrival, along with the housing assignment. Keys will be provided at check-in. Students will not be allowed to check into their apartments before the check-in date or to check out of their apartments after check-out date. The Housing Office makes every attempt to place students according to any needs they might have.

**Pick-up Services:** Students arriving in Pisa or Florence individually and not with pre-arranged group pick-up services may make a separate request to the Housing Office. Separate requests required an extra charge. Please note: arrival date and time must be communicated at least two weeks prior to arrival.

**Health Disclosure:** If the student has a medical condition or disability that needs to be disclosed to the Housing Office and which requires specific attention, please let us know either via email or on the housing application form.

**Housing Assistance During Study Abroad:** The FUA Housing Office assists students with housing concerns, emergencies or issues throughout their stay in Florence. The department can be contacted by walk-in visits to the office, by email, or by phone. After office hours, for emergencies that require immediate assistance, a housing number is available 24/7. The housing rules provided to all students upon check-in indicate what constitutes or does not constitute an emergency.

## APARTMENT HOUSING

**Apartment Location:** Students are housed in apartments throughout the historic center of Florence, within a 15-20 minute walk to Palazzi and FUA facilities. The Housing Office will complete assignments only for students who request housing within the designated deadline.

**Apartment Layouts:** The apartments are fully furnished and fully functional. Utilities are included in the housing cost. The standard layout of the apartments consists of multiple bedrooms, multiple bathrooms (variable), kitchen, living/dining room space. The bedrooms range from single bedrooms for one occupant (limited availability) to triple bedrooms, with the occasional quad space. Shared bedrooms can host 2 to 4 occupants. There will also be sufficient closet space to accommodate a reasonable amount of clothing and luggage. A very limited number have only one bedroom, and some have more than 3 bedrooms. In most shared apartments, students number 4-6. Housing in residences can be arranged in a dormitory format and can house 14-16 students; this option has limited availability. Students in any housing system will be sharing the apartment with other students. Although apartments are of the same standard (see below) and have similar facilities, no two apartments are alike. They are not all located in the same neighborhood, but are all within walking distance of our campuses or the nearest bus route.

**What to Expect:** Apartments may have different layouts. There are a few living factors in Italy that will require special attention. For example: Several historic palaces have thick walls, which may slow down internet speed/connection.

Elevators are not guaranteed in every building.

In order to reduce energy consumption, not all buildings have air conditioning.

Dryers for laundry are not included in apartments, as they are less used in Italy. Drying racks are always provided. Due to legal regulations on heating during the winter, room temperature in apartments does not exceed 20°C (68°F). This is applied to the period from the beginning of November to the end of April.





# Frequently Asked Questions for Apartments

## What amenities do the apartments/residences offer?

The apartments come fully furnished, with fully functional kitchens. The typical Italian kitchen comes equipped with stove/oven or microwave and refrigerator, basic pots and pans, and essential kitchen utensils. Additional amenities are dependent on the landlords/housing agencies and not Palazzi/FUA. Apartments/residences will also come equipped with bed linens, including sheets, pillows and blankets. Bathroom towels are not included.

## Where are the apartments/residences located?

Florence is a walking town. Once students get acclimated to the city's layout, the initial novelty of walking quickly becomes a habit. That said, students should expect to be in an apartment/residence that requires walking.

## What if I'm dissatisfied with my housing placement?

We try as best as possible to place you in an environment where you will feel comfortable and at home. Most roommate and location issues are typically resolved with mediation through the Housing Office in a timely manner. In the event of a roommate dispute, we ask that the students involved make every attempt to resolve the situation constructively. Part of the housing application process involves submitting a likes/dislikes survey, as well as the opportunity to make specific roommate requests. As long as the requests are made in a timely fashion prior to your arrival in Florence, we can typically meet your requests. Housing is always subject to change, and we do our best to alert students of all eventual changes in a timely manner. Any changes are to be made at the discretion of the Housing Office.

## How many people are expected to share a bathroom in the apartments/residences?

Depending on the number of occupants, the number of bathrooms per apartment/residence varies. Typically speaking, 4 people can share a bathroom. Given our relationship with housing agencies and private landlords, we do our best to place students in apartments/residences that accommodate 4 people per bathroom.

## Is there a deadline to apply for housing?

Yes - your housing application is due with the rest of your application.

## Can I request co-ed or single sex housing?

Generally housing is limited to single sex options, although if a special request is made, we do try to meet your requests. If housing is co-ed, it's generally housing in a residence, as those options are more spacious.

## Can I request changes to my housing after I arrive?

While we try to meet requests, it's not always possible to modify confirmed housing after check-in. If requests can be satisfied without creating additional issues for other students, we're happy to make adjustments. However, this remains at the discretion of the housing department.

## Can I check-in earlier or later than the scheduled check-in date?

Early departure/arrival is not permitted. Please check with the Housing Office if you have a special circumstance that you would like to address. The apartments are occupied prior or immediately following your arrival/departure, and we need to accommodate the current tenant needs before making any adjustments to an arrival/departure date that falls outside of the scheduled date.

## Where do I pick up my keys?

Your keys, along with a map and other instructions on your apartment, will be given to you upon your check-in, either at the school or directly at the apartment/residence as communicated prior to your arrival.

## Benefits to apartment living centrally located apartments help students to gain:

Independence and sense of familiarity in new surroundings. Confidence in daily domestic activities such as shopping, cooking, cleaning. Exchange of language, culture, and traditions with locals in the neighborhood. The experience of living like an Italian, a citizen of Florence. The opportunity to partake in the local culture of walking to explore Florence.

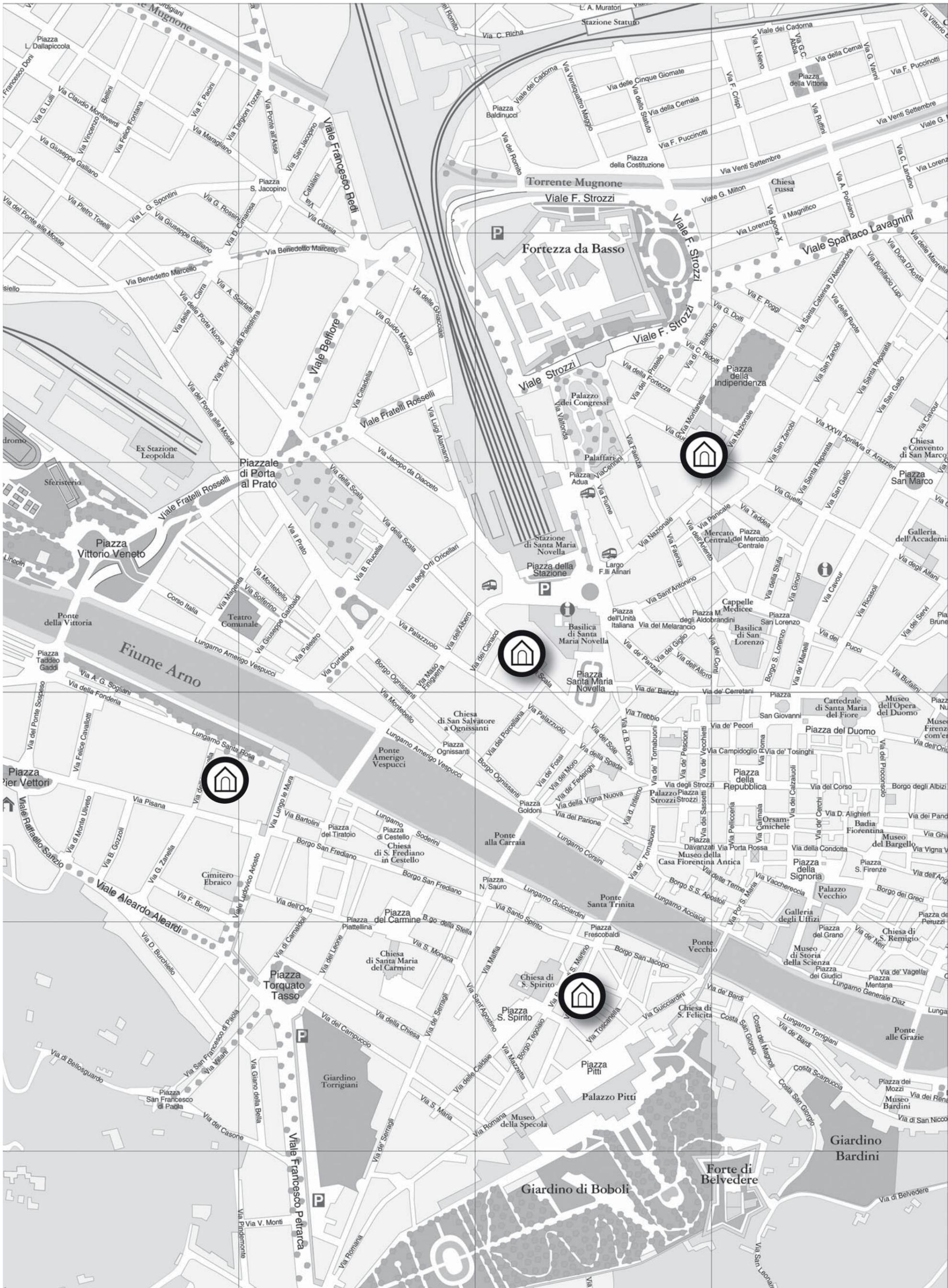
## Challenges to apartment living

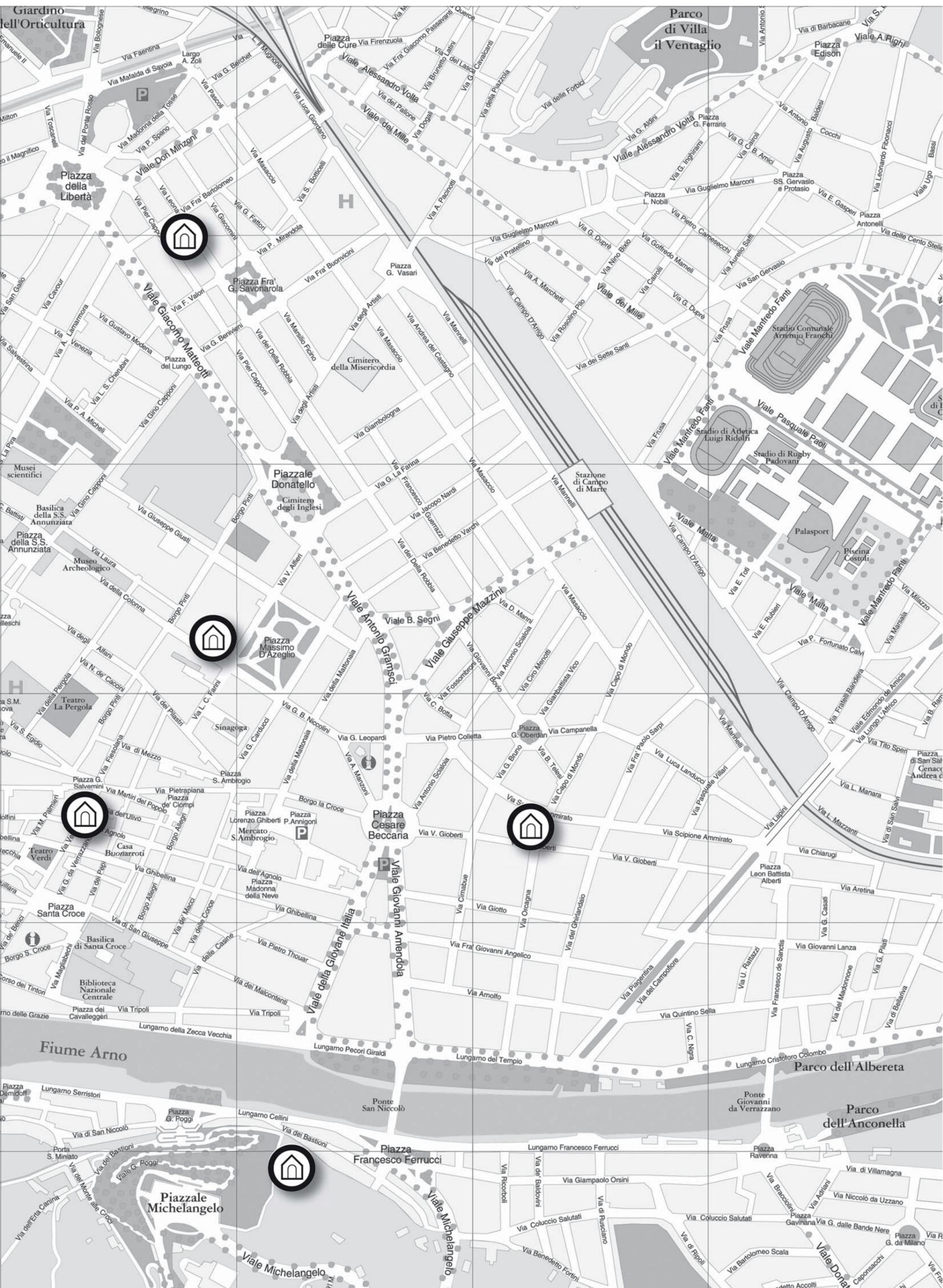
Learning how to manage and share a living space with new people. Understanding the different dynamics and opinions of different individuals. Building new relationships outside of your comfort zone.

## Our Standard for Student Apartments

Several housing questions may be answered by consulting our standard for each apartment as outlined below. For further questions, see our FAQ section or contact the Housing Department.

- Apartments are within walking distance to the school facilities (no more than 20 minutes, all are within the historical city center/inside ancient city walls)
- Multiple occupancy room (double to quad) in shared apartment
- Single rooms are limited and subject to additional supplement
- At least one bathroom every 4 students
- Two full sets of linens for the beds, plus a blanket/comforter
- Towels are not included
- Washing machine
- Clothes drying rack
- Iron and ironing board
- Fan for summer months
- Mosquito repellent plug-in (refills are not supplied)
- Fully equipped kitchen: Flatware, dinnerware, glasses, pots and pans
- Toilet paper (only supplied for arrivals, for the remaining time students must resupply on their own)
- The minimum "set" for cleaning: broom, cloths, sponges. The set does not include detergent and cleaning supplies, which are to be purchased by the student).
- Internet access is available at all apartments. The Housing Department is not responsible for connection quality, as it depends on the phone and internet companies that provide local coverage. For on-campus connections at FUA, wifi is always available at no charge during the institution's hours of opening.
- All apartments are NON-SMOKING







[www.fua.it](http://www.fua.it)