

# **VERTO HOUSING IN PRAGUE**

Welcome to your home away from home! Read on for information about what to expect in your accommodations.

## Where will I be living?

Verto participants will be living in student residences around the city. Each residence may slightly differ in layout and size, but all will have double and single rooms, shared bathrooms, and kitchens or kitchenettes.

Each student will have their own bed, small wardrobe, desk and chair. Shared laundry facilities will be available within the residence. Please note, **towels are not included in your housing!** We suggest packing one towel so you're able to shower once you arrive. Verto staff will show you where you can purchase additional towels, should you need them after you arrive in Prague.

The residences are all located walking distance from public transportation, coffee shops, supermarkets, and more.

#### What can I expect from the residences?

The Verto Study Center is located in the city center and is easily accessible from the residences by public transport or by foot.

There may be other European students who are not participating in a Verto Abroad Experience living in your residence, so this gives you an opportunity to meet people from outside your cohort. There will also be plenty of non-Verto students studying at our partner institution, American-Anglo University. As such, there are lots of opportunities for you to make new friends!

You can expect:

- **Double or single rooms:** Each double bedroom has two twin beds and a bathroom. Single rooms will share a bathroom with double rooms. Depending on your housing location, each floor shares a common kitchenette (see below for what's included in the kitchenette). Bed linens are included but towels are not! Rooms may be smaller than what you're used to in the US, but they are typical for Europe.
- Wi-Fi: You will have access to Wi-Fi throughout the residence building.
- **Preparing your own meals:** Part of your new experience in Prague will include learning to prepare meals for yourself in your shared kitchenette. Kitchenettes include stove top burners, a microwave, a refrigerator (keep in mind that European refrigerators are smaller than U.S refrigerators), and a toaster. Each floor shares a kitchenette. Apartment style housing includes a microwave, refrigerator, oven, and stove top.

• **Walkable location:** Expect to live within a short walk to pharmacies, ATMs, banks, stores, bars, restaurants, public transportation, etc.

In order to facilitate a respectful shared living environment all roommates will discuss and fill out their own Roommate Agreement. This will serve as a guide for your shared space and a reference for any disagreements that may arise.

## Is my housing location safe?

Verto housing is chosen based on the highest standards of health and safety, and located in known-to-be safe neighborhoods that are within practical commuting distance to the Verto Study Center.

Residence neighborhoods are known to be generally safe and student-friendly. There may be aspects that surprise students, depending on their hometown. For example, Prague's homeless population can be seen in many areas and may beg passers-by for money or food. The homeless population presence does not mean that the area is unpleasant or unsafe.

Regardless of where your housing is located, you must follow basic safety best practices like always making sure your bedroom door and the building's main door is closed and locked behind you, and not sharing your keys or key codes with anyone.

Each building is equipped with CCTV and utilizes either electronic fob entry keys or key pads for the main building door. There is a night security guard that will do a nightly walk through and a travelling reception that is easily accessible by phone or text during business hours.

#### What if something in my room/apartment breaks?

There are bound to be leaks, power outages, times of slower Wi-Fi, clogged drains for example. But don't worry! Our housing providers have great maintenance teams that will help out with whatever needs to be fixed. Please be patient with this. Once you report an issue, it may take 24-48 hours for a maintenance worker to address the issue.

If you accidentally caused the damage, it's no problem, however, you will be expected to cover the expense and will be provided a receipt after the contractor fixes the damage. If the problem wasn't caused by you, there will be no charge to you.

# What will be different at my accommodations that I might not expect?

**HOME LAYOUT & SIZE.** Residences and bedrooms are usually much smaller and less spacious than in the U.S. The bedrooms, living areas, bathrooms and kitchens might be different shapes and sizes than you are expecting. You will likely have less storage space than you are used to.

**AIR CONDITIONING.** The student residences are not air conditioned. You may purchase an inexpensive fan at nearby home supply stores, should you prefer more ventilation.

**GROCERY SHOPPING.** Because food is fresh and has fewer preservatives, you'll find that items like produce spoil quickly. Additionally, with shared cabinet and fridge space in the kitchen, you'll find that buying in bulk is not very feasible. As such, you should plan for more frequent and smaller shopping trips throughout the week.

**COOKING.** Your accommodation will be equipped with the basic necessities for making snacks & meals. Verto staff are available for meal suggestions or advice on shopping and cooking in Prague.

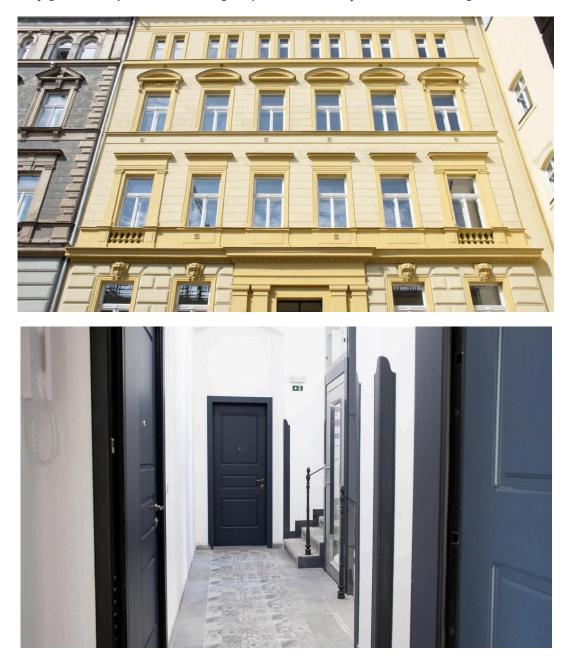
**QUIET HOURS.** The Czech Republic has nightly quiet hours from 10pm to 6am. During this time, you should be respectful of your neighbours by not playing loud music, using loud appliances, or conducting any other noisy activity. You will find security guards in your residence walking the building to enforce this ordinance. Those who violate the nighttime quiet hours may face a fine.

#### Important notes on your housing:

- All students are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their space. Cleaning services of all common areas happen regularly, but you are responsible for cleaning your bedroom and bathroom.
- The wireless internet is available throughout the building and is very strong! Should you have any issues connecting or maintaining a stable connection, please let site staff know immediately.
- While all housing meets Verto standards in terms of quality and basic amenities, please note that it is virtually impossible to find student accommodations in Prague that are exactly alike in every way, and amenities will vary from apartment to apartment.
- Washing machines are not as large or fast as U.S. machines. Please be mindful of this when doing your laundry! Dryers may be available but are not common in Europe. Be prepared to hang dry your clothing.
- Even apartments within the same building may vary in terms of size and layout! Students should be prepared to make adjustments for a different style of housing, which can vary greatly from the style of housing found in the U.S.

# Although it may take some getting used to, your accommodations will feel like home before you know it!

**Please see below for** <u>example</u> photos of what the student residences may look like. Note that these photos are general and do not represent the exact residence you will personally be assigned. Additionally, the photos may give the impression of a larger space than reality due to a wide-angle lens.





















## More resources

Verto Prague Dorm Tour