

VERTO HOUSING IN SEVILLE

Welcome to your home away from home! Whether you chose to live in a homestay or the student residence, read on for information about what to expect in your accommodations.

HOMESTAYS

Why choose a homestay?

Homestays are a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into an authentic Spanish lifestyle. Some of the benefits of living with a Spanish family are:

- **Cultural immersion** by getting out of your comfort zone and learning about another way of life.
- **Practicing your Spanish in the ideal surroundings.** With your Spanish host family, you will have countless opportunities to continue speaking Spanish outside the classroom.
- **An easier transition** for students who haven't traveled or lived independently before since you will have food prepared for you and be surrounded by friendly hosts who know the area well.

What can I expect?

Hosts and houses vary widely. You will most likely be living in an apartment building since single-family houses are not common near the downtown area of Seville. You may be hosted alone or with another Verto participant, and you may either be in a single bedroom or share a bedroom with another Verto participant. You may either have your own bathroom or share a bathroom with the rest of the family. Hosts can come from all origins and backgrounds, and your family may consist of parents with or without children, a single-parent household, or a grandparent who now lives alone.

Although all homestays look different, you can expect:

- **A safe and comfortable home:** All hosts are vetted by our housing coordinator for standards of health and safety. You can expect to be provided with basics, including a bedroom (possibly shared with another Vertoan), a bathroom (likely shared), WiFi throughout the home, bed linens, towels, and your own house keys. You will be free to come and go as you please, bearing in mind that during certain times of the day you must respect the family's resting times.

- **Walkable location:** You'll live within 10-35 minutes walking distance from the Verto study center and around 5 minutes walking distance from pharmacies, ATMs, stores, restaurants, public transportation, etc.
- **Three daily meals:** You'll be able to try countless traditional dishes, all made at home! If you have indicated that you have dietary restrictions, you will be placed with a family that is prepared to accommodate these restrictions. Your host will provide a packed lunch should you plan to spend all day out at school or on an excursion.
- **Once a week laundry and room cleaning** by your host family. Your host family will provide you with clean sheets and towels once per week.
- **Limited kitchen access:** You will most likely *not* have access to the kitchen to prepare your own meals, though you may have access to some appliances, which may include a microwave, coffee machine, kettle, and/or toaster.

Sharing a house with new people can seem daunting when you first arrive, and you will need to be flexible to ensure you get along. Remember, communication is the key to a successful homestay experience. Take time to discuss the rules of the house with your family and keep them informed of your plans such as when you will be away or if you will miss dinner. If you are unsure of anything, just ask.

Every participant's experience will be unique and depend on the effort of both the hosts and the student. Many students become good friends with their host families and stay in touch with them afterward. Your hosts are friendly and eager to share about themselves and learn about you. But, like anything, you will get out what you put in!

STUDENT RESIDENCES

What can I expect?

The residence hall is a 40-minute walk away from the Verto Study Center or about 20 minutes by bus. Public buses are not able to travel through the historic city center, so the bus can take you so far, and then you'll need to walk the rest of the journey.

Your residence hall is also home to university students from Spain as well as other international students who are not participating in a Verto abroad experience, so this gives you many opportunities to meet people from outside your cohort.

You can expect:

- **Shared rooms:** Shared rooms with one other Verto student, with single beds. a common dining area with a microwave, a small refrigerator, sink and storage cabinets, and a shared bathroom. Bed linens and towels are included.

- **Amenities** like the gym, lounge areas, study rooms, and pool (during pool season). You will have access to Wi-Fi throughout the building.
- **Meals:** You will be provided with 3 meals per day From Monday to Friday and two meals during weekends. Meals will be served in the cafeteria, but you can also order to-go meals if you need to. During the holidays the cafeteria will be closed and meals will be take-away, giving you more flexibility in your schedule. Please note, all students will have access to a meal plan; however, some students may be required to go to another nearby residence cafeteria to eat. The Residence Hall can accommodate dietary restrictions like gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan and vegetarian diets, as well as some religious dietary needs. You can also access packed lunches if you know you'll be out all day for an excursion.
- **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 complete a Roommate Agreement. This will serve as a guide for your shared space and a reference to help resolve 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. All host families are vetted in advance by Verto's housing coordinator.

Regardless of where your housing is located, you must follow basic safety best practices like locking doors behind you and not giving out front door entry codes to anyone.

What if something in my room/home breaks?

Don't worry! Please report it to the maintenance team/front office staff at the residence hall or to your homestay family. 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: Homes and residences are usually 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.

Spanish at Home: Students in homestays can expect to practice and speak Spanish 100% of the time as your host family may not speak English (though some do). This is a great chance to delve into the culture and customs of the country as well as the nuances of the language that can only be learned through conversations with native speakers.

Air Conditioning: The student residence has central air conditioning and heating, you must keep in mind that the temperature is limited, according to energy saving and environmental awareness policies. Some homestays have AC, others do not, but your host family will leave a fan in your room for you to use during the warmer months, and they will provide a personal heater once it begins to get cold.

Commuting: The best way to get around Seville is by foot. Your accommodations will give you easy access to public transportation, but keep in mind that it can take a while to get from one side of the city to another. It's about a 40-45 minute walk from the student residence to the study center. We will help you navigate the transportation system, including Tussam buses, a tram, and Sevici bike rentals. You will be given a transportation pass during Discovery Week, and Verto staff will show you where you can reload it.

More resources

- [Living with a Host Family in Seville, Spain](#)
- [Interview with Host Mom in Seville](#)

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

Below, you'll find example photos of what the student residence may look like. Note that these photos are general and do not represent the exact apartment you will personally be assigned. Additionally, the photos may give the impression of a larger space than reality due to a wide-angle lens.

