Gender Inclusive Housing at The New School

Gender inclusive housing is defined as a housing option in which two or more students may share a multiple-occupancy bedroom or suite, in mutual agreement, regardless of the students' sex or gender. Gender inclusive housing supports the University's non-discrimination policy and fully commits to the principles of social justice with respect to sexual orientation, sex, gender, and gender identity. Gender inclusive housing provides housing options for students who may identify as transgender or are questioning their gender identity or do not wish to prescribe to gender classifications. Students who are uncomfortable with a same-sex roommate or do not wish to have a same-sex roommate also have more housing options to choose from.

Gender inclusive housing applies to all multiple-occupancy rooms on self-selected mixed-gender floors in 20th Street and University Center Residences. These options will not impact the option of selecting single-gender co-ed housing. Gender inclusive options cover multiple floors and buildings, such that occupants of gender inclusive spaces are not segregated. Gender inclusive bathrooms are designated as such in any suites selected by a group in room selection identifying themselves as a Gender Inclusive Group whereby all members have signed the Gender Inclusive Housing Agreement and have filled all beds in the self-selected suite.

Suites and rooms in designated residences are considered gender inclusive only when groups of two or more students agree to live together. Students agree to live together when they select a suite and room together during Room Selection in the spring semester and their group fills all the beds in that suite and each member of the group has signed the Gender Inclusive Housing Agreement form. Students must self-select the gender inclusive housing option. Gender inclusive housing will never be forced upon a student. If a vacancy occurs in a room in a mixed-gender floor, the room is not treated as a gender inclusive space. The remaining occupants may pull in a student to maintain the gender inclusivity of the room or the Office of Student Housing & Residence Life will assign a student to the room. The sex of the students will be considered when a vacancy exists in a multiple occupancy space. Vacancies in suites and apartments will be treated as gender inclusive if the occupants of the suite originally filled the space as a gender inclusive space. If the room or suite is selected during room selection as a single-gender space, the gender of the space will be maintained and the unit will not be treated as a gender inclusive space.

Gender inclusive housing is not available for first-year students. Rooms and/or suites are only gender inclusive when upperclass, AAS or graduate students agree to live together in a gender inclusive environment, and the housing process for first-year students does not allow for the appropriate agreement.

The New School Gender Inclusive Housing Option Plan

Upper class, AAS and graduate students may apply for and be assigned to gender inclusive housing. Room assignments are made without regard to gender. The following are general guidelines that will be followed:

- A student must be eligible for University housing.
- A student must be 18 years of age at the time of the request and must be an Upperclassman, AAS or graduate student.
- Assignments will be made without regard to the gender of roommates.
- If a vacancy exists in a gender inclusive room, the following will occur to fill the empty bed:
  - Housing will allow the remaining residents to identify a new roommate to fill the vacancy. The Housing Office will define the time allocated to find a new roommate. This window of time will vary depending on time of year and status of the housing waitlist. Typically, a resident will be allowed a minimum of 24 hours.
Housing will place another eligible student who has requested gender inclusive housing in the open bed.

Housing may require remaining residents to relocate to another room or suite; room type match not guaranteed.

Housing, at its discretion, will allow the students occupying the room to pay for the additional space if all agree to the additional charge.

Returning New School resident students eligible for and participating in room selection:
- Suites in 20th Street and University Center Residences will be designated as potential gender inclusive housing options.
- Students must pre-determine if they wish to choose into a gender inclusive floor space and complete the additional agreement governing this housing option.
- The bathrooms in the suites will be designated as gender inclusive as well when a self-selecting group matching the bed space in the suite chooses it as such and all members have signed the Gender Inclusive Housing Agreement.
- Students requesting gender inclusive housing must identify their own roommates and fill each bed in the room they are choosing.
- Gender Inclusive applicants follow the same process and deadlines as other applicants. Students will sign an additional agreement which affirms their understanding of the Gender Inclusive Housing Guidelines.
- A roommate must communicate any plans to room change or cancel his/her agreement to all roommates as soon as that decision is made.
- Any suites on gender inclusive floors not self-selected by New School students through the room selection process will be converted back to traditional single-sex housing space for the year.

FAQ's Regarding Gender Inclusive Housing at The New School

**What is gender inclusive housing?**

Gender Inclusive Housing allows for same-gender, opposite-gender or other-gender identities to live together regardless of biological sex. This provides a living/learning environment where residents can learn about and explore gender identity and expression in a supportive environment. Gender Inclusive Housing participants must commit to maintaining an inclusive and welcoming living environment free of discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Each resident selecting into or assigned to live in Gender Inclusive Housing must agree to the Gender Inclusive Housing Agreement and will have responsibility to develop and uphold standards for the community in congruence with valuing all persons and seeking to learn from their diverse experiences and perspectives. Participants must also agree to take part in the assessment of the Gender Inclusive Housing program by participating in occasional surveys.

This program has been launched in recognition of the fact that traditional, same-sex room assignments are not ideal or appropriate for all students. The New School has chosen to offer gender inclusive housing because we believe it is important that housing policies evolve to meet the needs of students and to create an inclusive, welcoming environment.

**Who can participate in gender inclusive housing?**

Any upperclass, AAS or graduate student over the age of 18 who is interested in sharing a housing assignment with other eligible New School students of all gender identities.

**What are the differences between co-ed and gender inclusive housing?**

The term co-ed operates on the assumption that there are two genders: male and female. It leaves little room for the progressive theories on gender, and no room for those who do not identify as their biological
sex or those who are transgendered. This idea is based on the notion that there are more than two
genders, in fact an infinite amount. Allowing for gender inclusive housing, as opposed to co-ed, shows
more inclusiveness and room for diverse identities.

Where will the gender inclusive residence halls be?
Gender Inclusive Housing for Fall 2013 - Spring 2014 will take place in self-selected suites in 20th Street
and University Center Residences. If no groups form identifying themselves as a Gender Inclusive Group
then suite in the residences will remain single-sex.

What if a student does not want to live in gender inclusive housing?
A student must apply separately to be considered for Gender Inclusive Housing, and students who are
not interested simply need not apply. The majority of housing at The New School will remain co-ed by
floor and single-sex by room and suite, and the usual rules for housing selection will apply.

What will the duration of Gender Inclusive Housing be?
Participants will commit to living in gender inclusive housing for one full academic year, for the Fall 2013
& Spring 2014 semesters. Students may re-apply for Gender Inclusive Housing for the following year if
they meet housing eligibility standards.

Will you prevent people who are romantically involved from living together?
Gender Inclusive Housing is not intended for romantic couples. However, we respect and honor the
privacy of our students, so current housing procedures do not require students to disclose the reason for
their roommate requests.

What if someone who requested to take part in Gender Inclusive Housing decides they no longer
wish to do so?
Students may request room changes by following the normal room change procedures that are published
each semester. Students who do not fulfill their commitment to live in Gender Inclusive Housing for one
full academic year may not be eligible to take part in future Gender Inclusive Housing accommodations.

What will happen to the remaining suitemates in the event that a vacancy occurs?
If a vacancy occurs, the Office of Student Housing & Residence Life will work with the remaining
suitemates to fill the space but reserves the right to place a “wait listed” Gender Inclusive Housing
applicant in the suite, leave the vacancy open, combine two or more under capacity suites, or convert the
room/suite to single sex. This decision will be made at the Office of Student Housing and Residence Life’s
discretion, but reasonable accommodations will be made wherever possible.

What if parents don’t want their child to live in a gender inclusive housing room?
We encourage students to maintain an open dialogue with their families so that they can be supportive of
a student’s housing decision. Students over the age of 18 are legally able to make decisions about their
housing contracts but a decision like this should be discussed as a family.
In that during the 2013-2014 academic year, I will be residing in an on-campus residence area designated specifically as Gender Inclusive Housing, I understand and agree to the following:

- I will be responsible for upholding the standards of the suite which are in congruence with the core value of respecting and valuing all persons. I seek to learn from diverse experiences and perspectives.
- I understand that the vision and purpose of Gender Inclusive Housing is to provide a residence community that is a safe space for all persons regardless of their gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientation.
- I understand that I am making a commitment to live on-campus in a Gender Inclusive Suite for the entire academic year.
- It is my responsibility with my fellow suitemates to fill any vacancies within my Gender Inclusive living space with a currently matriculated student should a roommate move out. It is expected that any confirmed vacancy will be filled within 14 business days. I will go above and beyond to welcome a new roommate(s).
- I understand that if I am not able to fill a vacant space within my Gender Inclusive Suite that the Office of Student Housing & Residence Life will do so and I further understand that I may have to consolidate into other Gender Inclusive suites if necessary.
- It is expected that I will complete a roommate agreement with my Resident Advisor within the first week of the Fall semester. Should there be a room change within my unit, I understand that I will be expected to update the agreement with my Resident Advisor within one week of a new roommate taking occupancy.
- I will respect and safeguard the privacy and personal space of all of my roommates and suitemates
- I agree to attend community meetings when scheduled. Additionally, I agree to participate in evaluations and provide honest and timely feedback as the Residence Life staff works to evaluate the continued success of Gender Inclusive Housing.
- I understand that I am fully responsible for following all College policies and procedures as outlined in the Student Housing Agreement as well as in the Residence Halls and Student Handbook.
- I understand that the Office of Student Housing & Residence Life reserves the right to make changes as it deems appropriate.