POLICY STATEMENT

The visitation policy provides residents with the opportunity to host visitors in their residence hall rooms or apartments during established visiting hours.

The overnight visitation policy provides residents with the opportunity to host individuals in their residence hall rooms or apartments for one to two nights within a given week. Only female individuals will be allowed overnight privileges in Stark and Jones Hall.

The responsibility of this policy rests upon the individual who must maintain her/his conduct in a manner which takes into consideration roommate(s) or other concerned parties and acts in accordance with all University and University Housing policies. Violations of these responsibilities will be subject to disciplinary action which includes the removal of the privilege to participate in visitation or to host overnight visitors; repeated violations may be grounds for removing the individual(s) from that living area.

DEFINITIONS

**Resident**
Resident is defined as an individual who has a current University Housing signed contract for a residence hall or apartment.

**Visitor**
Visitor is defined as any individual (student or non-student) not living in on-campus housing who, during established visiting hours, visits a TWU student in their residence hall room, apartment, or assigned building.

**Overnight Visitor**
Overnight visitor is defined as any individual (student or non-student) not living in on-campus housing who stays overnight in a TWU residence hall room or apartment at the invitation of one of the assigned room/apartment residents and with permission of the roommate(s) within the established University Housing visitation policy.

**Host**
Host is defined as any resident in any TWU residence hall or apartment who invites an individual (resident or non-resident) into their residence hall or apartment building or assigned residence hall room or apartment for any length of time.
**Cohabitation**
Cohabitation is defined as hosting any individual in a TWU residence hall room or apartment who is not assigned to that specific space for a period of time exceeding two consecutive days/ nights in a given week. Cohabitation in the residence halls or apartments is a violation of the contract between the Department of University Housing and the resident.

**VISITATION POLICY**

The visitation policy provides residents with the opportunity to host visitors in their residence hall rooms or apartments during established visiting hours.

A maximum of two visitors per resident can be checked in at any time. No more than six people can be in a room at any time, including assigned residents. Visitors must be escorted at all times by their hosts.

The maximum hour parameters for visitation for the residence halls and apartments are:

**Jones Hall**
- Sunday-Thursday: 10:00 am – 1:00 am
- Friday & Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:30 am

**Stark Hall**
- Sunday-Thursday: 10:00 am – 1:00 am
- Friday & Saturday: 24-hour visitation beginning at 10 am on Friday

**Guinn Hall, Lowry Woods, Grove Street, and TWU Select Apartments**
- Sunday through Saturday: 24 hour visitation

**OVERNIGHT VISITATION POLICY**

The overnight visitation policy provides residents with the opportunity to host individuals in their residence hall rooms or apartments for one to two nights within a given week. Only female individuals will be allowed overnight privileges in Stark and Jones Hall.

A resident may host an overnight visitor in her/his residence hall room or apartment with permission of the roommate(s).

Overnight visitors may not stay more than two consecutive nights unless the host has been granted permission by their Residence Director.

**VISITATION AND OVERNIGHT VISITATION PROCEDURES**

**Responsibilities of the Host**
1. Visitors and overnight visitors must be registered at the residence hall or apartment front desk in accordance with the procedures of that building.
2. A resident of the building must sign in the visitor or overnight visitor at the residence hall or apartment front desk and then must accompany the visitor or overnight visitor at all times while in the building.
3. Proper concern for the rights of roommates as provided for in the Resident’s Rights and Responsibilities must be honored. The host is expected to talk with her/his roommate(s) to obtain approval from the roommate(s) before hosting a visitor or overnight visitor in their room.
4. The host must check visitors and overnight visitors in and out at the front desk each time they leave or re-enter the residence hall or apartment building.
5. Visitors and overnight visitors should not be left in the resident’s room while the resident is not present. They must be accompanied by their host at all times and in all areas of residence hall or apartment.
6. Visitors and overnight visitors must carry proper identification at all times.
7. Visitors and overnight visitors must comply with all University Housing and University policies.
8. Each resident host is responsible for the actions and behavior of her/his visitor(s) or overnight visitor(s).

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Visitors and overnight visitors who are TWU students as well as their host are responsible for compliance with University and University Housing policies and may be subject to disciplinary action if violations occur. Should circumstances and/or incidents arise in which a non-student visitor or overnight visitor is in violation of laws or University ordinances, this person can be held liable for civil action. Should the host not make every reasonable effort to ensure the visitor or overnight visitor is in compliance with University and University Housing policies, the host may be subject to disciplinary action.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Residents should be aware of uninvited and unescorted persons on their floors or in their buildings. If a resident does not host these persons, they do not have legitimate reasons for being in the hall or building. For reasons of safety and security, all residents should be aware of this jeopardy to security and are encouraged to immediately notify a residence hall or apartment staff member or, if circumstances warrant, the University Police.

RESIDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each resident possesses certain individual rights and responsibilities which must be held in high regard. However, these rights carry with them a reciprocal responsibility on the part of the individual to ensure those same rights for other residents.

Primary rights of the hall or apartment resident include the right to read and study free of undue interference in one's room/apartment, the right to sleep, the right to one's personal belongings, the right to free access to one's room/apartment and suite facilities, the right to a clean environment in which to live, and the right to have grievances heard.

A resident has the right to initiate referrals to residence hall or apartment staff and/or to the disciplinary process regarding a person's behavior that infringes on her/his rights and the rights of others. The resident further holds the right to be free from fear, intimidation, and physical and/or emotional harm.

Additional rights of the hall or apartment resident that should be protected but should not infringe upon the reasonable exercise of primary rights defined above include the right to personal privacy, and the right to host visitors or overnight visitors.

All residents should have the opportunity to maintain personal contacts and friendships with other persons to fulfill their needs for socialization. Visitors and overnight visitors are expected to respect the above stated rights of the roommate of the host and of other hall or apartment residents.
Any violation of these rights is subject to review and action by the University Housing and TWU student conduct process.