

SUMMER UNIVERSITIES



Summer University 2021

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Accommodation | 2 |
| Accommodation options | 2 |
| Hotel/Hostel/Student dorm | 3 |
| Gym | 3 |
| Tent | 4 |
| Minimum Requirements | 5 |
| Meals | 5 |

Accommodation

Accommodation options

There are lots of options to accommodate your participants. Of course everyone wants to find a cheap place in the city centre so that you do not have to waste time on moving from the sleeping place to the place where activities take place or simply for a city tour.

The fact is, that it is so difficult to find a good cheap place at all, and we are forced to go where we find it regardless of the location on the map.

Here you have a brief analysis of the most common accommodation options for a Summer University.

Hotel/Hostel/Student dorm

This is the dream of every participant and organiser of a Summer University. Who would not want to sleep in real beds instead of the hard parquet of a gym?

In addition to the beds, there are a lot of advantages to lodge in a hostel: you will always have clean rooms, sheets and towels available and you do not even have to worry about making breakfast each morning. Not bad, right?

However, hostels come at a cost per person which often goes far beyond the budget of a SU, but if you are a lover of comfort or you failed to sign an agreement for another type of accommodation, you can certainly make good fundraising and choose this option. Your participants will be immeasurably grateful, especially when they will fill the evaluation form.

Price: it varies from country to country and from city to city. It could be like €5-14/person/night in big rooms in a hostel or student dorm and often you have to add a small extra breakfast fee that should not exceed €2-5/person/night. Same goes with hotels, but prices are higher and may reach €20-40/person/night in 3-4 persons bedrooms.

How to get it: prefer going in person to visit the place, meet the hostel/hotel manager and arrange a special deal, explaining to them that you are part of an NGO, you have limited budget, etc.

Remember that no one is interested in your problems as well as in your interests, so you should start talking about the benefits the hotel/hostel will get with your stay there (promotion on your page, you organise special evening events for all of the hotel guests, etc).

Gym

A gym is definitely a great option for your SU. Usually it is quite cheap and in the same place you have the space for everyone to sleep and to do any (sport) activity in the programme.

This type of accommodation, of course, requires participants to bring with them a sleeping bag and a mattress, which can be annoying for those who want to travel with low-cost flights or with a small luggage. A wonderful proposal from the organisers would be to sell to participants air mattresses at a friendly-price, that may be agreed with a local dealer based on the quantity needed.

This sleeping bag/mattress problem is actually a very small one in comparison to the benefits that the gym can give you. You can have parties 24/24H without danger of disturbing other guests, use all the facilities and sports equipment without wasting time in long commutes to other places and live the AEGEE-Spirit dancing, singing and socializing exploiting the numerous narrow places, passages and changing rooms ;)

Price: If you present AEGEE with the special charm of the European level NGO you should not have such big problems getting the gym for free from church institutions, universities, schools or sport groups/academies.

Sometimes it happens that the above-mentioned charm does not work and you are requested to pay a fee. More than €500 is a theft.

How to get it: Most schools are closed during summer as are its gyms. You can try to contact a representative of your local high school to see if they are interested in any kind of cooperation. Always remember to sign an agreement with the owner right after the deal, so that you have an assurance that there will be no step-back by the gym property. Sometimes it happens that even with a signed agreement the property finds out problems in giving you the gym. A possible resolution varies from case to case.

Tent

There is nothing more adventurous than sleeping under the blue sky in a tent in the mountains or at the seaside. Based on the dimension of the tents, this option is particularly good for team buildings and cultural activities.

You should also value this option if you want to do open-air activities or when organising a sustainable SU.

Remember to take the weather forecasts into strict consideration. Especially in some regions the weather varies quickly and you can pass from a sunny and warm day to a freezing and storming night. The adventurous night in the tent can quickly lead to runny nose, sore throat and other non-funny sicknesses for you and your participants who will not be able to enjoy next planned activities as they would like to.

Price: you need a number of tents based on the people you have to host. Tents prices vary so much based on the model, dimension, material, etc. The great thing is that you have to pay a very small fee for camping and it should be no more than €2-6/person/night including toilets and shower service.

How to get it: like with the hostel option, meet the place's owner in person to get a good quote for your stay. Are you friends with a farmer? Why not camping on a countryside field? It could be a good idea, but do not forget to provide toilets and showers for your guests.

Minimum Requirements

This section's title sounds so close to the ICT field and maybe it has something in common. How can you run a software on a PC which has not the basic requirements you need? Of course, it is not possible. Same goes with your Summer University. Here's what you need:

- Signed agreement with the property's owner, unless that person is you
- Separate toilets and showers for men and women.
- Hot water
- Liquid soap
- Lot of toilet paper
- Cleaning materials
- First Aid Bag
- International friendly breakfast

Meals

One of the most important things to plan for your Summer University are the meals. Every day the participants should get two quality meals of which one is warm (or an equivalent for dinner for example a meal salad, but not every day). Actually preparing the meals is a perfect task for a couple of helpers, this will save the main organising team some energy.

Make sure to prepare a planning well-before the Summer University starts. You need to know the costs of the meals, the ingredients and the recipe. In case you go out to eat, make sure to have a good estimation in the budget and a reservation well before you want to come with a large group of people.

It is important to also have quality options available for people with specific dietary needs, such as allergies or vegetarian food. Prepare the alternatives options well in advance to make sure that everyone will be well-fed and happy during your summer university.