

Tips for Settling Into Your Homestay

Living with a Homestay family feels very different to staying in residential or student accommodation. Our Homestay accommodation service is an inclusive environment. Students are welcomed into a family where you will practice your English skills and share meals together.

You may even join family events and day trips. Some students form lasting bonds with the host mother and father as well as children and pets. We want you to be happy in your Homestay and you might feel a little nervous in the first few days of settling in, but soon you will feel very much at home with your host. Many of our Homestay hosts have been welcoming international students for years.

Always remember – your homestay should feel like a home away from home!

Family Guidelines

Our Hosts want to help you feel at home straight away therefore there may be some guidelines to help you settle in. These may include keeping your room reasonably tidy, or asking that you don't take a shower late night so as to not disturb members of the family who are sleeping. Guidelines are there to help you fit into family life.

Showers

There may be other international students also staying in your Homestay, or host children and teenagers, so being flexible and agreeing a time with your host parents will ensure everyone in the family can access the shower to meet their needs.

Laundry

Every host will have different laundry arrangements so it is important to discuss this with your host so you are aware of normal house hold arrangements. All students are entitled to have one – two laundry loads per week done by the hosts.

Meals

Please tell your host if you wish to change the day of an evening meal with plenty of time for the host to be able to make other arrangements, as they may have already prepared the meal for you. Another meal night can usually be arranged, but it should be done in advance after speaking to your host.

Independence

You will have absolute independence when living with a host, but it is important to communicate with your host about your plans. Please keep in touch with your host so they are aware of any changes. Using WhatsApp is a good way to stay in contact with your host, and we recommend buying a local sim card from a mobile phone shop.

Always let your hosts know if you are going to be late coming home, so that they do not worry about you!