



UNIVERSITY
SENIOR
COLLEGE



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

About Homestay



About Homestay

The aim of Homestay is to provide overseas students accommodation with local families in a warm and safe environment. Families are selected by completing our application forms and then being interviewed in their home. If they are approved as homestay hosts for our College, they are then required to provide a police clearance and Statutory Declaration.

There are many reasons why families offer to provide homestay accommodation to overseas students:

- To contribute to the growth and development of a student;
- To learn about other places , other cultures and traditions;
- To gain the opportunity of having a student in their life.

Parents of our International students need to be assured that their child is living with a family that will care for their child's safety and well-being, that they are learning about Australian culture and that they have the opportunity to practice English within a supportive and interested family.



What is required of a family who provides Homestay?

University Senior College expects a high standard from the families that apply to our program. Only families who are genuinely interested in assisting young adults to achieve their greatest potential should apply.

Families who look to homestay as a form of income supplementation only and who have no interest in including the student in family outings or have no interest in following their school life will not prosper in our program.

You may be eligible if you have:

- Empty bedrooms (with a bed, wardrobe, drawers and desk);
- A genuine interest in teenagers from a different culture;
- The ability to provide suitable discipline when necessary;
- A flexibility in adapting to unforeseen circumstances;

And if your home is:

- Within an 8-10 km radius of the City and in close proximity to public transport;
- A clean and sanitary environment;
- Safe and secure;
- Has internet access.

Granny flats that are separate from the main house are not suitable homestay accommodation for students under 18 as they need to reside in the home with adult supervision. However, some older students are very interested in this type of accommodation.

Responsibilities

For a successful homestay experience, University Senior College, the homestay family, the student, the student's parents all have responsibilities.

University Senior College:

- The Principal will be appointed the legal guardian for a student under 18 years of age;
- The Student Service Coordinator will assist both the student and homestay family with all queries and questions (a 24 hour per day, 7 day per week service is provided for emergencies);

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- The Student Services Coordinator will monitor the health and well being of the student and will monitor attendance;
- The International Dean will monitor the academic progress of each student.

Homestay Family:

- Will accept the student as another family member in their home;
- Be responsible for day to day parenting (monitor curfews, health, behaviour, safety, etc.);
- Ensure that the families insurance covers the belongings of the Student;
- Provide 3 meals per day plus snack items.

The Student:

- Follow both the University Senior College "Code of Conduct for International Students" and any other rules set by the family;
- Mix with, and get to know, the homestay family (don't sit alone in your room on the internet all day, every day);
- Go on outings with the homestay family when invited;
- Speak English – especially when family members are present. When there are 2 students in the same homestay it is common for them to revert to their native language. This is considered rude; speak English until you are alone with your housemate or friends.

- Students under 18 year old are not permitted to purchase cigarettes or alcohol legally in Australia.

Parents of the Student:

We appreciate that parents have entrusted us with the care of your much loved child. We do everything possible to honour that trust. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Arrival and Adjustment

The best possible homestay family has been chosen to care for the Student.

The Student Services Coordinator will greet the Student at the airport and introduce them to the homestay family. It is important for the Student to contact their parents as soon as possible, they will be anxious to know that you have arrived safely.

The homestay family will settle the student into their new home, explain public transport and teach the student how to travel to and from school, discuss likes and dislikes with food, explain family rules.

Orientation will be done on the first day at school by the Student Services Coordinator. The student will complete forms giving family contact details, will be given school policies, provided with a diary, will be taken to get their Student Card, will be given their health card and will be taken on a tour of our Campus. Help will also be given if the Student wishes to open a bank account or purchase a mobile phone card.

It is very important to be honest with your Homestay family. Try new foods but if you don't like it, tell them or else they will continue serving it to you thinking you are enjoying it. If you have a small problem, get help before it turns into a large problem.

We know that most students will suffer from homesickness usually after the first few weeks. Everything is different: the language, the food, not living with your family, missing your friends, even the climate. As you make new friends and feel more comfortable with your homestay family the homesickness will pass. The Student Services Coordinator is there to help you and if necessary she will get assistance from the School Counsellor.

Other Important Information

Telephone

Most students will have a mobile phone and will use it to contact their family and friends. Students should be allowed to use the home phone to make local calls, however any calls to mobile phones, interstate or overseas should be paid for by the student on top of the homestay fee.

The student is expected to have their mobile phone turned on at all times (except when they are in class) and the battery to be charged, so that the Homestay or Student Services Coordinator can contact you if necessary. It is important to make sure that if you change your mobile number the Homestay and Student Services Coordinator be informed.

Internet

Many Australian homes have access to the Internet. The use of internet time can be expensive and a student's use of the internet needs to be negotiated early.

Travel

If a student wants to travel within Australia or overseas they need permission from the School. A copy of your travel ticket and the address of where you will be living must be given to the Student Services Coordinator. Students under 18 must also have permission from their parents (a form can be obtained from the Student Services Coordinator and faxed to your parents). The student must not leave for holidays before the end of the school term and must return in time for the beginning of the next school term – or for the first term, in time for orientation.

Overnight visits with friends

The homestay family must know you whereabouts at all times. If you intend to stay overnight away from your homestay you must ask their permission before making your plans. It is not acceptable to phone your homestay after you leave the house to say that you will not be returning home. If you are under 18 the homestay must phone the homestay of the friends' family to make sure that they are aware that you will be sleeping there.

Friends visiting

Homestay families will not mind your friends visiting you. If you ask, they may even allow your friends to sleep overnight. It is not acceptable to arrive home with friends without the homestays knowledge and expect your friends to join the family for a meal.

Chores

It is acceptable for the student to perform certain chores in the home, such as keeping their own room tidy, helping with the dishes, changing bed linen (provided other children in the home also do the same).

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Contact

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