About Homestay
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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, and 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 Services Coordinator will assist both the student and homestay family with all queries and questions (24 hour per day, 7 day per week service is provided for emergencies);
• 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 you are alone with your housemate or friends;
• Be responsible for day to day upkeep of your room;
• Be responsible for laundry and provide small items.

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.

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).