Homestay Policy

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires that all international students who will be under 18 years of age while studying in Australia on a student visa, have appropriate accommodation, support and welfare arrangements in place. There are three options in which a student may satisfy this requirement:

- A student may reside in Australia with a parent or legal custodian who travels to Australia to provide welfare for the students for the duration of their study. This must be indicated on the student’s visa application.
- A student may reside in Australia with a relative over 21 years of age who is approved by the student’s parents of legal custodian, who must also nominate the relative as the student's guardian to DIAC on the appropriate form accompanying the application for a student visa.
- A student may reside in Australia if the parents approve of University Senior College being the legal guardian and so USC is responsible for the student's accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements and a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare form (CAAW) is issued to the student.

All students when applying to USC for enrolment will indicate on the Enrolment Form their preferred option and parents are required to endorse the choice.

Accommodation arrangements where USC is the Legal Guardian

All under 18 students who nominate USC to be their legal guardian and a CAAW is issued, are required to live with a USC approved homestay host on full board until they have completed their ELICOS course and have turned 18 years of age.

Students must obtain written approval from the USC Homestay & Student Services Officer before changing approved accommodation arrangements. If students do not maintain approved accommodation and welfare arrangements during their period of study at USC a report will be made to DIAC (via PRISMS) that the student is living in unauthorised accommodation. This may lead to cancellation of the student visa.

Support & General Welfare

All international students are required to attend regular appointments with the International Dean and the Homestay & Student Services Officer. These meetings are compulsory and provide students with the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns regarding their homestay, academic progress, personal or social life. Both the International Dean and Homestay & Student Services Officer will refer students for additional assistance from academic staff, student counsellor or specialist services.