



# Becoming a Homestay Provider

## Introduction

At New College Durham we have many international students who choose the option of homestay. We currently have a large number of projects running in the college, and receive students from Norway, Denmark and all areas of Asia.

The students range from 16 years upwards and the length of stay varies depending on the project they are part of. A large number of students arrive in September and stay until June. Some students come in January for just eight weeks, others stay for one academic year.

International students are treated like a family member during their stay with a homestay provider. They are fully immersed into the local lifestyle. As a homestay provider, you are expected to advise and support students as they learn to find their way around a new city and a new culture, and help them if they have any problems or questions during their stay.

### As a homestay provider you are expected to provide:

- A bedroom and place for a student to study (this may be in their own room or another part of the house)
- Breakfast each day
- Home cooked evening meal
- Weekend lunches
- A snack, toast, cheese, fruit, etc...
- Laundry facilities – you may want to do this for your students, or you can show them how to use the facilities.
- Bedding and towels
- Wi-Fi internet – this should be provided for the use of study and for the students to be able to contact their family back home
- Moral support, local knowledge and a chance to experience life with a family from a different culture.

### You are not expected to provide:

- Weekday lunches – these are the student's responsibility
- Personal items such as toiletries and clothes
- Regular meals for students' friends – occasionally homestay providers welcome friends over for a meal, but they should have a discussion with you about this.



### The student's room

All homestay provider homes are checked to ensure that they provide:

- A bed – either single or double bed
- Storage – there should be space to store clothes in either a wardrobe, chest of drawers, shelving or a combination of these
- Study space – if you cannot provide a desk space in a bedroom, then there should be a large dining table in the home which provides adequate study space
- Wi-Fi – all host families must provide Wi-Fi, which is accessible in the student's bedroom. Students are expected to respect the Wi-Fi and not use it for excessive downloading such as games etc.
- Bathroom – you do not need to provide a private bathroom, however there should be access to a family bathroom
- Students should always have access to the other parts of the home such as the living room, dining room, conservatories etc.



## Location

Homestay provider need to live within a one-hour commute of the college. The location is chosen based on travel time and not mileage from the college.

## What would be expected from a homestay provider?

Students are aware that families come in all shapes and sizes, and from a variety of backgrounds. What is typical about the families that we would expect our students to stay with is that they are all happy families who want to host students. We expect them to be warm, caring homes and are able to offer the support, encouragement and guidance to their students to ensure they get the most out of their stay.

A homestay provider is not expected to replace the student's family from home. However, the student should be treated as part of the family and may be asked to help around the house, for example wash the dishes after dinner etc.

A homestay provider is expected to communicate with the student's parents/ guardians to ensure their best interests are met. You will receive information on safeguarding and sign an agreement to ensure these rules are adhered to. The main adults that are responsible for students during their stay must undergo a DBS (police check) that is required for the purposes of safeguarding.

## Can you ask students what they are doing?

Yes. Whilst you will not be replacing your student's parents/ guardians, you will have legal responsibility for their welfare while they are here.

Students are expected to communicate with their homestay provider about their whereabouts, and will be expected to respect the changes in culture they will be experiencing in the UK.

Whilst the student does not need to give every single detail, as a homestay provider you can ask for simple information. For example: Where are you going? Who with? What time will you be back? How are you getting there?

It is always advised for homestay providers and students to exchange mobile phone numbers in order to keep in touch with each other throughout the duration of their stay.

## Homestay Application Process

### Initial enquiry:

Call or email us to register your interest. Even if you just want to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Initial telephone interview:

We will ask you a number of questions about your experience, work commitments, location etc. Please do not worry if you have never done this before, we are here to support you.

### Home Visit:

If you meet all of the basic requirements, we will carry out a home visit to get to know you better, explain the projects in more detail, allow you to ask any questions and for us to see the room you have on offer and a general look around the house. At this stage we will let you know if you are successful or not.

### What next?

We will keep in touch and let you know what we have on offer. We always need families who are ready to take students. Once we have a student for you we will send you information including a profile of the student and email addresses to allow you to make contact.



**LET'S  
GET  
YOU  
THERE**