

Homestay Accommodation & Welfare

Statement of Residential Principles and Practice

New College Durham welcomes international students from over the world and aims to provide an environment for them to achieve personal growth, personal achievement and the best learning outcome for their individual circumstances, ability and needs. The college aims to provide students with long lasting memories and to prepare them for their future lives and careers.

New College Durham does not offer any onsite residential accommodation for students; however, does offer and manage its own Homestay Accommodation provision. Currently, the Homestay accommodation provision is used by international students only.

The college employs a designated staff member who works solely with the homestay provision. The Homestay & Accommodation officer oversees the day-to-day management of the provision, including recruitment of homestay providers, inspections, matching of homestay families and students and the compliance to the Department of Education National Minimum Standards.

Over the years, the college has formed, maintained and grown relationships with homestay providers local to the Durham area. Homestays are carefully selected and continually vetted by New College Durham staff to ensure that they provide a high-quality experience and level of care for our international students.

The college recommends that all international students under the age of 18, who are not living with family members, are hosted by one of the college's approved homestay providers.

No students under the age of 18 will be placed in homestay accommodation with a student aged 18 or over.

As student welfare and safety is of paramount importance, criminal record checking, safeguarding training and home risk assessments are all performed before any student is placed with a homestay provider.

All homestay providers have a contract in place with New College Durham. This contract stipulates that as a homestay provider there is the expectation to provide parental responsibility for any student residing in their property.

New College Durham offers a wide range of welfare and support services for students. Students are aware that they can contact the Homestay and Accommodation officer if any issues arise. If these issues occur outside of working hours the college has an emergency contact number that all international students are given, should they have an immediate concern.

In addition to the above support, students can also access the college's Advice, Support and Career service and the International Office.

International students are encouraged to take part in social activities organised by the International Office and the wider college. The International Office organises monthly weekend cultural visits to other parts of the UK and other social activities such as bowling, ice skating etc so students can get to know other students.