

Frequently asked questions on homestay:

Q: What are host families like?

From older couples who've just recently retired, to young couples or single parents - many different kinds of people offer homestay services. Of course, each family will be different; and you should be prepared to live by their rules while you stay with them.

Q: I have heard that some host families are not nice, is that true?

Before joining the homestay programme, every host family has had an interview, and is police checked so there shouldn't be any problems. Sometimes you may have difficulties because of differences in culture, but most host families are sensitive to these issues, and know how to deal with such problems.

However, it is true that sometimes things just don't work out, just as with any family! If you do need a change, you should request it as soon as possible by speaking to the international team, as it is most important that your trip is a positive experience for you.

Q: Will I have "hostmates" if I am living in a homestay?

Possibly, some host families have several rooms for international students.

Q: Will I have to share a bedroom?

No. You will have your own bedroom.

Q: Will the family wash my clothes?

Yes. The family will wash your clothes unless you negotiate a different arrangement which is suitable to both of you.

Q: Will my bedroom have its own en-suite bathroom?

No. En-suite bathrooms are still quite uncommon in British houses.

Q: Will my homestay fees increase once I move in with the family?

No. The homestay fee will be fixed for that academic year.

Q: Can I have a homestay within walking distance of the college?

Unfortunately not. Families rarely live in the centre of a city so homestays are usually located on the outskirts. Usually, this will be too far for you to walk to college. There are, however, frequent buses which will bring you to college from your homestay. Most of the British students travel to college by bus.

Q Will my homestay have wifi/internet?

AYes. The majority of homestays now have internet access.

Q: I'm allergic to animals. Will my homestay have pets?

If you're allergic to animals or would prefer not to live with a pet, we can arrange a homestay which has no pets. Just tick the box on your accommodation form to request a homestay without pets. Britain is, however, an animal loving nation and many homestay families have a pet, so you may need to be flexible about any other preferences you have.

Q: What if I don't like my homestay?

We will always listen if you are unhappy at your homestay. We would ask you to consider if your feelings are partly influenced by feeling homesick or if you just need a little more time to adjust to life in the UK. If there is a genuine problem then we would arrange a move for you.

Q: What if I don't like the food at my homestay?

The British diet may be different from your own and may not be what you are used to. This is part of adapting to life in a new country. If there are certain foods you cannot eat e.g. for allergy or religious reasons, then you should note that on your homestay application form. You should be ready to try new things but if you really do not like certain foods, then it is fine to politely tell your homestay host. They will probably be happy to know your likes and dislikes.

Can I arrange a homestay for a few months only?

Yes but please let the international team know in advance if this is your intention so that they can match you to a short term host.