

HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION AGREEMENT

The Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education, through the International Services division, will provide accommodation and welfare arrangements for students as requested by parents.

From this point forward, the international student will be referred to as 'the student' and the homestay host will be referred to as 'the host'.

The host guarantees that the student will have:

1. Access to a safe, secure, private bedroom for the student's sole use with suitable storage space for clothes, personal effects and study materials, bed, and suitable facilities including a desk, a chair and adequate lighting for study purposes;
2. Access to a clean home with appropriate furnishings suitable for a family and students;
3. Access to a shared or private bathroom, with reasonable time allowed for showers;
4. Access to kitchen, living areas, laundry facilities and shared areas of the home;
5. Access to soap, toilet paper, and laundry powder. The host may negotiate the provision of other items with the student.
6. Access to appropriate cooling (air-conditioning and/or a fan);
7. Appropriate access to internet to complete school work, maintain contact with friends and family, and for the purpose of entertainment (within reason);
8. Provision of keys, alarms or passwords required to have free access to the homestay residence.
9. Access to breakfast, ingredients to make lunch, snacks and a cooked dinner. Students are to have the same access to food as all other residents of the household.

The host is responsible for:

10. Providing a safe and welcoming homestay family environment that will encourage the student to experience life as a member of the family and, where suitable, include the student in family related activities;
11. Taking on a care and support role for students under 18 years old. The host is not the legal guardian for the student, but should take on a parent-figure role to help the student to adapt to, and succeed in their new environment;
12. Facilitating communication between the student, school, International Services and the student's parents.

13. Providing an orientation within the family home, the use of facilities and security. This should include household protocols and safety rules about access and the use of shared areas or facilities such as swimming pools, internet, telephone, mealtimes, visitors and appropriate times to return home during the week and on weekends;
14. Providing students with orientation of the local area including public transport and getting to and from school; the location of shops, doctors or medical facilities; and recreation areas;
15. Ensuring the student is aware of emergency numbers including 000, location of police stations and Australian laws pertaining to under 18 year olds;
16. Ensuring that students are appropriately supervised at all times throughout the duration of residing in the homestay including:
 - a. maintaining suitable supervision of students outside of school hours;
 - b. monitoring the student's general welfare including the students' social activities.
17. Attending interviews with school staff at enrolment, parent-teacher meetings and as required by the school;
18. Contacting the school regarding any student welfare, academic progress and attendance issues;
19. Contacting appropriate emergency services in the event of a medical or police emergency that occurs outside school hours, as well as contacting the student's school at the earliest possible time.

The host agrees to:

20. Commit to hosting the student for the duration of their stay, if the student intends to stay in the NT for under 12 months, or commit to hosting the student for a minimum period of one year, if the student is enrolled in a course with a duration of more than 12 months.
21. Maintain, and provide a copy of current working with children clearance for all individuals residing at the house who are over 15 years of age to International Services. This applies to any individual over 15 years of age who stays overnight at the residence on a regular basis or as necessary;
22. Notify International Services if the residents of the household change (for example, a grown up child moving out).
23. Ensure that an appropriate insurance policy covers students residing in their home;

24. Allow International Services to conduct a six-monthly review, in addition to the initial site inspection, of the homestay accommodation to ensure suitability for the student's age and needs. The six-month review will take the form of a questionnaire sent to the homestay host and the student, and must be completed within one week. International Services may also use other methods (physical visits, interviews, etc.) if necessary to confirm that current accommodation meets the student's needs.
25. Only cancel the homestay arrangement if they have a genuine reason for doing so, after the minimum hosting period has passed. The host must give the student a minimum two weeks' notice of termination in writing. The host must also provide this notice to International Services.

The student must:

26. Clean their own bedroom and assist with other household chores, such as washing dishes, putting out the rubbish, cleaning the bathroom, as agreed to with the host;
27. Obtain approval from the host prior to bringing any of their friends to visit whilst in the homestay accommodation;
28. Behave in a respectful manner. The student must not be noisy, disruptive or create any nuisance in the homestay;
29. Discuss with their homestay host the use of the household phone (if applicable);
30. Be aware that they do not have exclusive possession of any part of the homestay accommodation and as such may not remove any of the property from the premises without the homestay host's written consent;
31. Provide appropriate compensation to the homestay host for any damage they may cause in the homestay accommodation. If they damage something, they must pay for the damage if the homestay host requires it;
32. Give a minimum of two weeks' notice to the host when they intend to leave the homestay or pay two weeks' board in lieu of notice;
33. Understand that they are not allowed to keep or purchase their own pet while living in the homestay accommodation.

Fees and Expenses

34. The current cost for homestay accommodation is A\$270.00 per week. The student must make the payment every 2 weeks, in advance. The host will issue a receipt to the student which shows the date that the payment was made, the amount and the period of time it covers. The receipt should also show when the next payment is due and the amount;

35. During school holidays, the student must pay a holding fee of A\$50.00 per week to the host. If the student is away from the homestay accommodation during the school semester for more than 1 week, the host may ask for up to 50% of the weekly amount;
36. The homestay must reimburse any money owing to the student before the student leaves the homestay;
37. The host must pick up the student from the airport free of charge when the student first arrives in the Northern Territory.

Problems

38. If a problem or conflict arises between the student and the host, both parties agree to attempt to resolve the matter together;
39. If the host and student are not able to resolve the problem or conflict together, they should contact either the school or International Services;
40. The host and student must understand that if they contact the school, the school may ask for assistance from International Services.

By signing this form, the student and the host agree to all matters raised in this Homestay Agreement.

Student's full name (please print)

Host's full name (please print)

Student's signature and date

Host's signature and date

Witness' signature and date

Witness' signature and date

NT Department of Education
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