

Dear Homestay Family/Student,

Welcome to our Homestay Program, we hope the information outlined below will assist you in understanding the importance of having Homestay Accommodation for overseas students and what it involves for both the family and the student. We would like you to take the opportunity to use this document to discuss your role as a student or homestay parent, and if there are any issues that need further clarification please do not hesitate to contact our Homestay Officer at Phoenix Academy.

What is Homestay?

Homestay is a unique opportunity for students from overseas to experience the Australian way of life, the culture, the food, and the traditions by living with a family. That is, from the point of view of an Australian family.

What is a Family?

There are many different types of families in today's modern world. They all offer varying experiences and you should take advantage of these experiences. Families may consist of a mother and children and no father, it may be a mother and father and many children, it may be a husband and wife with no children or it may be a single person living on her own. We have tried to match you as closely as we can with the family and environment, which best suits you. Please let us know if you feel that you would be more comfortable in a different setting.

What is Expected of the Student?

Once the student is placed in a homestay situation they immediately become a part of the family. As such it is expected that they will participate in the normal family happenings as much as possible. It is also expected that they will contribute to the housework and chores as all family members do. Helping to wash and dry the dishes after a meal, offering to help prepare an occasional meal. Keeping their room tidy, making their bed and doing personal washing are just a few of the activities students can do to contribute as any family member would do.

In Australia we don't have servants. Everyone joins in and lends a hand to get the necessary chores done each week. Both men and women share the housework in Australia. If you decide to leave your homestay permanently for any reason it is required that you give your homestay parents two weeks written notice. This notification must be also given to the Homestay Officer at Phoenix Academy. When students go away during holiday time (one week or more) they are required to pay 1/2 homestay fee for holding the room and their belongings. If you decide to change your homestay family for reasons such as wanting to try another Australian family, going away on a holiday, etc. there will be a fee of half the original placement fee for finding you another family.

Using the Telephone

As a rule we say that local calls can be made in moderation, as any family member would do. Keep your calls short, as other family members may need to use the phone. Overseas calls if they have to be made must be REVERSE CHARGE CALLS through the Operator on 12550. We recommend students purchase an international phone card with no connection fees.

Paying Your Homestay Board

You have had your first month's board paid in advance for you. It is up to you to make sure that future payments are made on time and in advance. Make sure you discuss with your family how and when these payments are going to be made.

Some students pay their homestay fees in advance. Phoenix Academy will forward these payments to the homestay every four (4) weeks. If there is any question if students have paid their homestay in advance please phone the Homestay Officer at Phoenix Academy before asking your students directly.

Staying Out

If you go out and for some reason will not be returning home for a meal you should always contact your homestay family and let them know. If you are going to be home late also tell them the time you expect to return. They will worry about you if you don't do this.

Inviting Friends Home

As with any family members it is polite to ask permission from your family before you invite friends home.

Meals

You will be provided with all your meals on the weekends. From Monday to Friday you will be provided with Breakfast and Dinner. Lunch is your responsibility.

Using Water

Water is a precious resource in Australia. We have to pay for our water therefore you should not waste it. Keep your showers short (approx 4 mins). If there is only one bathroom in the house try not to spend too much time in there.

Finally, the most important advice we can give you all is to keep talking to each other and enjoy your time together as a family.

Further Information & Apply

For further information and to make an application to become a Homestay, please contact:

Contact: Chantal Marsters

Position: Homestay and Accommodation Manager

Tel: (08) 9235 6020

Email: homestay@phoenix.wa.edu.au