



WAIKATO INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Homestay Information for students

Living with a New Zealand family in a Homestay arrangement is a valuable experience for both you and the family as it offers insights into the lifestyles of other cultures. Please speak English as much as possible and participate in family activities and routines. Please read all of the information below very carefully so you know what to expect from your family, and know what is expected of you.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD RUNNING

Every family has their own routines, so please ask about these when you first arrive, as it may help you to settle in and feel more included in family routines.

1. Please ask your host family where they keep spare bedding, blankets, etc. so you don't get cold in the night.
2. Please ask about meal times and where food, cups, plates etc are kept. Students must not make arrangements to go out with friends without notifying the host family and gaining their approval first.
3. It is your responsibility to keep your own room clean and tidy.
4. Please try to speak as much English as possible, so try to talk to your host families. If you don't try to speak to them, they will think that you are unhappy, so they will worry about you. It doesn't matter if your English is wrong, or sounds strange.
5. If you get some food that you don't like, please tell your host family. If you don't like it, you don't have to eat it. If you don't tell them, they may give you the same thing again.
6. Please make sure that you keep your belongings tidily and in a safe/secure place. If your host family has small children, please make sure that your medicines and other valuables are kept out of their reach.



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MEALS AND FOOD

Homestays will provide you with 3 meals per day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you wish to make your own lunch to take to school/university, please ask for access to food.

Also, ask your family if you are able to use their kitchen facilities to cook for yourselves occasionally. Please inform your family in advance if you will not be home for dinner, or if there are any foods that you cannot eat or don't like. Please note that if you are under the age of 18, you are not allowed to go out alone. Should you have any questions about this rule, please speak to your homestay family or to the WIE homestay coordinator, Andrea Day.

CLEANLINESS

Please ask your host family how to operate the shower/bath, water system. Also, please ask about the procedures for disposing of personal hygiene products if necessary. You must provide your own personal hygiene goods such as toothbrush, shampoo and conditioner. Ask your family when it is most convenient for you to have your shower. Some families with young children will need to use the bathroom in the evenings to give their children a bath. Working families tend to use the shower first thing in the morning before going to work.

WASHING

Host families will usually wash student's clothes, unless you express a desire to wash your own, (i.e. underwear). Please ask how to use the washing machine, and also where to hang your clothes. You are responsible for your own ironing so ask the family how to use their iron.

TELEPHONE

Please ask your host family for permission each time before using the phone. You are responsible for paying for any toll calls or mobile phone calls that you make. Telephone accounts must be paid once a month, including mobile phone calls. You can buy a phone card which is an extremely cheap option. Try not to spend a long time on the telephone as host families may need to use their phone also. If you are using the family's phone line, be considerate and don't use it during hours when they may be expecting a call. Check with them about a convenient time.



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HEALTH

All students must have their own medical insurance. If you are under 18, please contact our office immediately or ask your host family to contact us if you feel unwell or are in psychological or emotional distress. Phone the Homestay Co-ordinator Andrea Day (07) 8583238 or for out of hours call the school Principal on 021 26223996, and arrangements will be made to seek Medical Treatment. If it is an Emergency, all students must be taken to Anglesea Clinic or in serious cases Waikato Hospital Accident and Emergency department and our Homestay Co-ordinator or Company Director must be notified immediately.

DIFFICULTIES

If you are having problems in your Homestay, please inform us as soon as possible. If the situation is unsatisfactory for you, and the problem can not be resolved, then you will be removed from your homestay. There are complaints forms and procedures available from the office.

When you are living with your host family you **must:**

- Treat host families with respect at all times
- Abide by host family rules
- Always behave in an appropriate manner when you are a guest in another person's house.
- Take care of own personal hygiene
- Arrange your own medical/travel/personal belongings insurance
- Keep own rooms clean and tidy
- Pay for all toll/mobile phone calls you make and excessive internet use.
- Pay for any damage you make to host families belongings or property
- Notify the office if you are unwell, or have had an accident/injury of some kind.
- Notify the office if you homesick or depressed
- Notify the office if you are having any problems with the host family
- Give the host family 2 weeks notice if you are planning on changing accommodation
- Notify the office if you are convicted of a criminal offence

In your Homestay, you must **Not:**

- Make unreasonable demands on host families
- Negotiate the homestay fee as this price is set by the institution of study
- Offer accommodation to friends or relatives at your homestay.



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- Expect host families to pick up and drop off if there is adequate public transport available.
- Bring boyfriends/girlfriends to the homestay to sleep
- Have a party and invite friends around when host families are out/away
- Drink alcohol if you are under the legal drinking age of 18 years old
- Partake in any illegal substances i.e. drugs
- Drive in New Zealand or purchase a vehicle, without an appropriate driving license
- Smoke cigarettes/pipes inside a homestay, unless you are of legal smoking age and the host family allows you to smoke.
- Hit or spank host family children
- Drink alcohol and drive a motor vehicle/motor bike etc
- Participate in any illegal activity

A NOTE TO YOUNGER STUDENTS

Waikato Institute of Education is a signatory to the NZ Code of Practise for the Pastoral Care of International Students. Students who are under the age of 18 years are required to adhere to stricter rules than adult students.

As a younger student you are required:

- ✓ To be under authorised adult supervision at all times
- ✓ You are not to go out unaccompanied by an adult
- ✓ You are not allowed to partake of any substance/activity illegal for your age while in New Zealand
- ✓ WIE will administer all homestay payments on your behalf
- ✓ We encourage to you to keep regular contact with your parents/ family at Home. Your homestay family and the school will help you stay in touch with them during your studies.
- ✓ Should you feel ill, lonely, sad or homesick our support staff are here to help, you will also be introduced to a first language interpreter that you can speak to any time if necessary.