

Information for Students residing in Homestay and Private Home Accommodation

Information for Term Time Students



Please keep this leaflet in a safe place and refer to it for general information about your stay in homestay or private home accommodation

Welcome

Dear Student

As you will be staying with a homestay or private home host we have produced this leaflet to ensure you know what to expect and what is expected of you during your stay.

All properties listed on our database have been visited by a representative of the Accommodation Office. Hosts could be a family with children, a widow, a single person or an older couple whose children have left home. Hosts are local people who have a spare room in their home and enjoy having students staying with them. There are two main types of accommodation:-

Homestay Accommodation

This is when the hosts treat the student as a full member of the household, eating together and sharing common living areas. No more than three students should be accommodated in homestay accommodation at any one time.

Private Home Accommodation

This is when a student lives in a private home with a host but on a more independent basis – usually under a self-catered arrangement. Hosts should give students a cupboard and space in the fridge and freezer for storing their food, plus use of all kitchen utensils, pans, crockery etc.

Homestay and private home hosts are expected to provide students:

- a clean, comfortable bedroom which is recognised as your own private area during your stay, with enough storage for belongings. Please note that some bedrooms and houses may be quite small and hosts may use some storage areas within this room for their own possessions if you are staying for a fairly short period. Bedrooms will be cleaned on a regular basis by the host, if surfaces are kept clear.
- access to a desk or table, suitably lit, away from normal household disturbances, for quiet study. This may not necessarily be in the bedroom.
- heating appropriate to the time of year. However, hosts may not keep the heating on all night during the winter as it is very expensive.
- sufficient lighting in the bedroom.
- hot water sufficient to allow for a daily bath or shower daily. Please note that some hosts may not have a shower – only a bath, others may only have a shower. Hosts may only have one bathroom so you may need to check the most convenient time to use it and possibly agree timings. Students are required to ensure they keep the bathroom facilities clean after use.
- the laundering of personal clothing, bedding and towels in reasonable amounts. Some hosts may do your washing for you but others will show you how to use the washing machine so you can do it yourself.
- a key to the house but not to your bedroom.
- notice if they wish a student to leave. This is usually one week if the student pays weekly, or one month if the student pays monthly.

In addition, homestay hosts will provide:

- breakfast and evening meal from Monday to Friday at agreed times.
- Breakfast, lunch and evening meal on Saturday and Sunday (lunch could be a packed lunch if you are going out for the day but please give your host 24 hours' notice). Meals will provide a balanced diet.
- a fruit bowl for you to help yourself to fruit should you feel hungry.
- a home-like environment where you can talk with your host, watch television and be treated as a member of the family.

Please note that homestay and private home hosts are not expected to:

- take their students out (although some will).
- allow internet access (although some will). Internet access is available at the University until fairly late in the evening.
- drive you to University.
- allow your visitors in their house but most will if you make prior arrangements.
- allow you to use their telephone (although some will).
- have an inappropriate relationship with the student.
- provide storage for bikes and large items (although some will).
- provide a parking space.

Homestay hosts are not expected to:

- provide lunch during the week.
- provide snacks other than the fruit bowl provided.
- give students money if they choose to go out and eat elsewhere.



Students are asked/required to:

- pay hosts directly in a timely fashion. We recommend that you and the host both sign and date a rent book each time money changes hands.
- speak with the host if there is anything troubling you regarding your accommodation or stay. You can also talk to the Accommodation Office, if you need advice about your homestay host.
- remember you are staying as a guest in somebody's home and must respect this fact and be appropriately courteous.
- inform the host if you break or damage anything. You may be asked to pay for this. We recommend that you take out insurance to cover this. International students can speak to Student Adviser for more information about this – Tel: 01243 812146
- turn off lights and heaters etc when not needed as gas and electricity is very expensive.
- let your host know if there are any foods you cannot eat either for religious or health reasons – if in homestay accommodation.
- note there should be no smoking in houses unless agreement is made with the host.
- consider hosts have pet animals. If you have an allergy to pets we will endeavour to take account of this if you are an international student, for whom we are organising the accommodation.
- make your own way to University each day. Buses run regularly but you will need to pay for this yourself.
- complete an evaluation form at the end of your stay, if required to do so.
- ensure you have appropriate medical cover.
- not give out your host's address to strangers.
- tell the host if you are going to be absent overnight or late home for an evening meal.
- agree house rules with your host on the day of arrival.
- never borrow host family items, unless permission has been gained from the host.
- give appropriate notice if you wish to leave i.e. one week's notice if you pay weekly or one month if you pay monthly.
- pay a retainer (usually 50%) if you are going to be away for more than 7 days but wish to keep the room.
- Respect sleeping patterns of the host and the immediate family.

We hope all your questions have been covered in this pamphlet but if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us either by **Email: accommodation@chi.ac.uk** or the contact details on the back of this leaflet.

The Accommodation Office

The University is fully committed to embedding a culture in which the diversity of students is embraced, valued and respected and in which all students are able to reach their full potential in a supportive environment, free from discrimination and harassment.

The United Kingdom has in place legislation that protects individuals who are being discriminated, harassed or disadvantaged on the grounds of their age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief and sexuality. Whilst it is expected that host families and students embrace the opportunity to experience diversity in its many forms, it is understood that there may be occasions where a host family is, due to a justifiable reason, unable to accommodate a student. Where there is not a justifiable reason the University has a number of policies and procedures which it may invoke [and which may lead to the withdrawal of the student or host family from the Homestay Scheme] to ensure its commitment to equality.



Accommodation Office

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