

Information for International Short Programme Unit Students



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

Welcome

Dear Student

We are pleased to hear that you will be coming to study with us soon. In order to ensure that you know what to expect when you arrive, we have produced this leaflet to give you some information about staying with a homestay host. You should shortly be given an accommodation preference form to complete and return to us. This will enable us to allocate you a host most suited to your requirements. However, although we will do everything we can to make sure your requests are taken into account, we cannot guarantee that every request will be met.

What to expect

You will be staying with a local host organised by the University. It may be within walking distance or a short bus journey from the University campus. All hosts have been visited by a representative of the Accommodation Office. Hosts for example 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 overseas visitors staying with them.

The University hosts are expected to provide the following for our students:

- A clean, comfortable bedroom which is recognised as your own private area during your stay, with enough storage for your 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.

Bedrooms will be cleaned on a regular basis by the host if surfaces are kept clear.

- Access to a desk or table, suitably lit for studying, away from normal household disturbances, for quiet study. This may not necessarily be in the bedroom.
- Heating appropriate to the time of year. Please note, most Hosts will generally do not keep the heating on all night during the winter as fuel is very expensive in the United Kingdom.
- Sufficient lighting in the bedroom.
- Hot water sufficient to allow for a 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.
- 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 24 hours' notice). Meals will provide a balanced diet.
- A fruit bowl for you to help yourself to fruit should you feel hungry.
- A key to the house but not to your bedroom.
- A home-like environment where you can talk with your host, watch television and be treated as a member of the family.
- Provide agreed notice if they wish a student to leave.

Please note that hosts are not expected to:

- Take their students out to visit places (although some will).
- 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.
- Allow internet access (although some will). Internet access is available at the University until fairly late in the evening.
- Drive you to University although we encourage them to collect you on your day of arrival and bring you back to University, with your luggage, on your day of departure.
- Allow your visitors in their house but most will if you make prior arrangements.



- Allow you to use their telephone (although some will). You will be able to buy international dialling cards when you arrive and can use the telephones at the University.
- Have an inappropriate relationship with the student.

Students are asked/required to:

- Initially 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. You can contact the International Student Adviser for more information about insurance policies – **Tel: 01243 812146** or **Email: intwelfare@chi.ac.uk**
- Please turn off lights and heaters etc when not needed as gas and electricity is very expensive.
- Try all cooking eaten by the host and regard it as part of your study experience although it may be different to what you are used to. If you have any foods you cannot eat either for religious or health reasons please

ensure you have noted these on your accommodation preference form, so we can pass this information to your host before your arrival.

- Note there should be no smoking in houses unless agreement is made with the host.
- Consider a lot of our hosts have pet animals in their homes so it is possible you may have to live with a pet. If you have an allergy to pets we will endeavour to take account of this.
- You 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.
- 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.
- To respect sleeping patterns of the hosts

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.

We hope you have a good journey and look forward to meeting you soon.

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.

Information is correct at the time of going to press.



Accommodation Office

Bishop Otter Campus
College Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6PE

Tel: + 44 (0) 1243 812120 or 816069
Email: accommodation@chi.ac.uk
Web: www.chiuni.ac.uk/accommodation

