



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Homestay Handbook

For Students



Revised December 2011

The Homestay Program at The University of Winnipeg wants to ensure that both students and host families have a positive experience. Please read the below information carefully. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank-you!

Adriana Glikman

Homestay Coordinator

Email: a.glikman@uwinnipeg.ca

Office Phone Number: 204-982-6631

Emergency Homestay Phone Number: Given to students prior to arriving and at orientation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOST FAMILY

- Pick you up when you arrive and drop you off at the end of the program
- Provide you with food for three meals a day – breakfast, lunch and dinner (dinner will be made by your host family)
- Provide you with a room (bed, dresser, desk/ table to study at)
- Tell you what the rules and expectations are in their home
- Speak English when you are there
- Welcome you as a member of their family

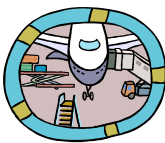


RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

- Keep your room clean and tidy. You should vacuum and empty your garbage at least once a week
- Clean up after yourself in the bathroom
- Help with meals. In some families, you may make your own breakfast and lunch. Clean up after you are done in the kitchen
- Communicate with your host family. If you don't understand something, ask
- Tell your host family if you are going to be late or if you won't be home for dinner
- Pay for your own entertainment
- Use your own toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, and other personal items.



WHEN YOU ARRIVE



When you arrive at the host family's home you will be shown your room and common areas. Your family will give you a paper with their name, address, and phone number on it. Your host family will show you how to get to the university by bus.

Take the time to get to know your host family and your new environment. They will want to know about your home town and your family, so if you have some pictures, be sure to show them to your host family. **Spend time with your family rather than just staying in your room.**

ACCOMMODATIONS



Your host family will provide you with a clean, comfortable place to stay. Some host families live in apartments and others in houses. It is common to have bedrooms in the basement.

MEALS



You will find Canadian food different from your food. Discuss what foods you like/dislike with your host family. If you really miss the food from your country, offer to cook a meal for your host family. Make sure you ask your homestay family if a friend can come for dinner. If you will not be home for a meal, tell your host family by noon. If you decide to eat out with friends, your host family is not responsible for paying for that meal. **Be sure you know when meals are served** so that you can **be at home on time.**

BATHROOM USE

Ask your host family when you should take your shower. Keep your shower under 10 minutes! Clean up after yourself in the bathroom. Clean the sink after you have used it and hang up wet towels.

In Canada we put used toilet paper in the toilet (not the garbage can). We do not flush all feminine products (ask your host family).



LAUNDRY FACILITIES AND USE



Ask your host family when they do laundry. If they prefer that you do your own laundry, be sure that you understand how to use the washer and the dryer, and that you wait until you have a **full load** of laundry.

TELEPHONE USE

If you use the homestay phone you must ask permission and you must use a telephone card for all long-distance calls. You should not be receiving calls late at night (after 10:00 pm). If you like, you can buy a cell phone and use a “pay as you go” card.



COMPUTER USE



material.

- Some families might not have a computer so if you have your own laptop computer, bring it with you. If not, there are computers at school.
- Ask your host family how to log on to the internet and if there is a maximum amount of data you can use.
- Be very careful about using the Internet. **Do not** try to access inappropriate

NOTE: Don't get into the habit of spending hours alone in your room at your computer.

HEALTH PROBLEMS



Tell your host family if you are not feeling well. If you have to miss school, you should also contact the school. If you are very sick the family will take you to see a doctor. You will have International Student Health Insurance (from The University of Winnipeg). This insurance will cover you anywhere in Canada up to the level of Manitoba fees.

KEYS

You will be given keys to your host family's house. Please return them to your host family when you leave. **If you lose your key you must pay the cost of replacing it and potentially the cost of replacing the lock.**



SOCIAL PLANS



While academic study, growth, and development are the main goals of the program, group interaction and socializing are also important elements when you travel abroad. You must give information to your host family as to **where** you are going, **when** you will be back, and with **whom** you are going out. **Host families have the right to set house curfew times.**

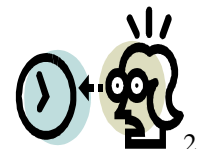
ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

The legal age for drinking alcohol in Manitoba is 18 years. Drinking underage, excessive drinking, the use of illicit drugs and /or the use of false identification are strictly prohibited and might result in being asked to leave the Homestay Program.



CURFEWS

COLLEGIATE STUDENTS: The Homestay Program suggests a 10:00 pm curfew from Sunday to Thursday and 12:00 am-1:00 am curfew on Fridays and Saturdays. Always inform your host family where you are and when you will be back home.



SLEEPOVERS



COLLEGIATE STUDENTS: Weekend sleepovers are allowed at the discretion of your host family and providing that **the home where the sleepover will take place is also part of our Homestay Program.**

TRAVEL



Students are encouraged to explore and experience Canadian culture during their stay in Winnipeg. This should not interfere with academic studies and be limited to school holiday periods. You must inform your host family of the dates you will be away and should also give information as to where you are going and with whom.

Many host families will want to include the student in their own local travel and holiday plans. Please note that travel within Manitoba with the host family does not require parental permission (for students under 18 years old) but the **Student Life Coordinator and/or Homestay Coordinator should be informed.**

TRAVEL: COLLEGIATE STUDENTS A “parental permission to travel” form must be completed and signed by your biological parents for each trip outside of Manitoba (for Collegiate students/students under 18 years of age). You must leave the university with a detailed itinerary of your travels including the names and addresses of who you will be traveling with and staying with. The Collegiate takes no responsibility for student actions taken on travel not approved by the program. ***Unapproved travel is not allowed.

SPENDING MONEY



You are advised not to keep large sums of money in your room. Do not borrow money from, or lend money to, members of your host family.

INSURANCE

Your belongings may not be covered by your host family’s house insurance. You should check with your parents to see if their insurance covers your possessions while you are studying abroad.



DAMAGE OF PROPERTY



If you damage or break something while you are staying with your host family you should pay for the item to be fixed or replaced.

LENGTH OF STAY

If you are staying in the program for more than one term and want to stay with the same family, ask them if you can stay and inform the Homestay Program. If your host family cannot host you again, then another family will be found for you.



PAYMENT OF HOMESTAY FEES

- The Homestay program pays your host family directly for up to the first 90 days (less if program is shorter).
- After 90 days (from the day you arrived) you will be responsible to pay your host family directly \$650 every thirty days.
- Fees remain the same during mid-term break. If you travel in between terms the first 2 weeks the student pays \$6 a day. After two weeks they must pay the monthly fee again (even if they are still away).
- **Be on time with all payments to your host family. Pay 30 days in advance after the first 90 days.**



WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE



If you are having problems in your homestay talk to the Homestay Coordinator. Sometimes problems can be worked out; however, if there are serious problems, a change in host families can be made.

Do not change host families without permission from the Homestay Program.

IMPORTANT!

- **If you are planning on leaving the Homestay Program**, you and your host family must sign the leave/change of form **two weeks before you plan to leave** and return this form to the Homestay Program.
- If you decide to leave your host family **after 90 days you also need to inform** your family two weeks **before** you leave (otherwise you must pay them \$325 for two weeks).
- Students who have outstanding homestay payments, phone bills and/or have incurred damages in their homestay, may not receive their final letter, certificate or transcript until the issue(s) has been resolved.
- The University of Winnipeg **Homestay Program is for current University of Winnipeg students**. The Homestay Program and/or the host family have the right to ask a student to leave the Homestay Program if they are no longer in an academic program/have not attended classes for over two weeks (not including academic breaks).
- When students and host families join our program they agree to the policies of the program. It is unfair for students or host families to try to negotiate changes in living arrangements such as reduced fees or friends moving in, etc. If students and host families wish to remain in our program they must follow the rules of the program.
- If a student does not follow homestay policies they might be asked to leave the program.
- If you have been in homestay for more than one year and would like to change homes you must pay the placement fee again.
- If you have changed families more than once you will also be charged the \$200 placement fee again.
- The placement fee and the 90-day homestay fee are non-refundable.

We hope you have a wonderful experience in The Homestay Program!

Please ask if you have any questions.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Notice of Leave/ Change of Homestay Form

Student's Name: _____
(Please print)

Host Family's Name: _____
(Please print)

Date: _____

Date that student will leave homestay: _____

Student's signature: _____

Host family's signature: _____

Return this form to The University of Winnipeg Homestay Program Coordinator.

Office Notes:

