

# Students guide to Homestay in Sheffield

## Homestay with breakfast and dinner on weekdays; and 3 meals on weekends

Welcome to Sheffield and thank you for your interest in Homestay accommodation.

Homestay is an integral part of the students' experience on our English language programme. As well as bed and meals, it provides students with a personal introduction to the British way of life and crucially, a lot of opportunity for practising and extending the language they have learnt in class.

In our experience it is the homestay that can "Make or Break" a student's stay and it is often this that students remember long afterwards. Many students keep in regular contact with their hosts on returning home.

**Please read the following guidelines carefully.** They are designed to help you establish a good relationship with your hosts and to explain to you what you can, and cannot, expect from homestay accommodation.

### **Accommodation.**

You should have a reasonable sized room of your own, where you can have the opportunity to study or spend time alone. All students should have a full-sized bed, enough drawer and wardrobe space, a desk and chair or a quiet place to study, a mirror and wastepaper bin. A desk or working space should be available for you to study, either in your bedroom or in another room in the house.

Once Homestay Application is received, it is totally up to the Agency to arrange a host family for you. All will be endeavoured to match a suitable family for you according to the information provided.

### **Meals**

Breakfast, evening meal and full meals at weekends are included in the weekly charge. The evening meal is normally a cooked dinner including meat, poultry, fish or cheese. For breakfast, the following may be offered: tea or coffee, fruit, fruit-juice and/or cereal, egg or cheese or ham, bread or toast with butter or jam/marmalade.

You will always eat your meals with your host. It will help if you tell them at the beginning what kinds of food you like and dislike, and also if you have any special dietary needs for religious or medical reasons. Please inform your Host if you intend to miss a meal or be late. You should not expect your hosts to change the mealtimes frequently or to delay mealtimes for you. British food will probably be different from the food you are used to; please do not expect your host to cook the same food you eat in your country.

### **Cleaning**

You are expected to tidy your own clothes and to make your bed, so that your room can be cleaned properly. A regular time for this should be agreed. Remember you are living in someone's home, not in a hotel.

### **Heating**

Heating is available in your room at no extra cost during the morning and all evenings (most families have central heating on a timed basis). If you are not accustomed to the UK's variable temperatures and you feel cold please ask for extra bedding. British people do not keep their central heating on during the night so please do not expect your hosts to do this.

### **Laundry**

You will be provided with towels and bedding which are regularly washed. Most hosts will include the student's personal items of clothing with their regular wash but remember English people tend to wash clothes once or twice a week, not daily.

### **Bathroom and Toilet**

You should have a reasonable access to the bathroom. You will be able to have a daily shower or bath. You will be expected to leave the bathroom clean after use. You will not have your own personal bathroom.

### **Key**

Most hosts are willing to give their visitors a key but if not there will always be somebody at home to let you in. Sometimes the security system is complicated so hosts prefer the students to settle in before handing over a key. Whatever system, you will have good access to your home so that you are free to come and go as you please.

### **Telephone**

International calls are expensive. You should always ask before you use the private telephone. Internet will be provided, wifi access, so that you could use smart phone / social media to contact your family and friends.

### **Smoking**

Almost all hosts in Britain do not want people to smoke in their houses, so it is likely that you will not be able to smoke in your room or in the house, or even in the garden. It will be very difficult to find a host for smokers once allocated, please discuss where you can smoke.

### **Language**

Conversation with the family is an important part of your learning and experience and your host will encourage you to talk with them. We will not accommodate in the same house any students who speak the same mother tongue.

A good way of improving your English is to spend some time watching television or video with the host, and this will also provide more opportunities for conversations. Always take the opportunity to go out with your host whether it is shopping, cinema, theatre, social outings and walks. Where there is an entrance fee please offer to pay for your ticket.

### **Friends**

You must get permission from your host whether you can invite friends to have a tea at the host family. For security purpose, the friends must leave by 10pm and definitely no overnight staying.

### **Host family's Contents**

Host families have Home Contents insurance, however, it will not cover any damage caused by you. If any damage or theft occurred because of you, it is your responsibility to cover the value lost.

### **General Welfare**

You must tell your host if you are going to be late or away for a night or weekend so that they do not worry about you. You must tell your host if you are not feeling well so that a decision can be made if a doctor or hospital care is needed. For any matters concerning your accommodation you should speak to the Supervisor or Personal Tutor of the Programme of the University of Sheffield

**Remember:** You are a guest in someone's home. Please respect any "house rules" your host may have.

**Home stay is not a hotel.**