

Griffith Homestay Study Tours

Homestay is a cultural exchange. You will be able to improve your language skills, learn about Australia and meet new people.

All families are different and Australia is a very multicultural society. Each one has attended an Orientation and University staff have inspected each house.

Homestay families can be made up very differently: some are singles or live with family, some have kids and some don't and also some have pets like dogs and cats.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- You will be given information about your homestay host including the address and contact details, how many children live in the homestay, if they have any pets and the facilities available.
- You may like to introduce yourself to your host family by writing a letter, send them an email, or telephone.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Nutritious meals and a safe, secure environment.
- A fully furnished private room with a bed, linen, lamp, desk, and wardrobe. Some students maybe very lucky to have your own bathroom facilities but generally in Australia you can expect to share the facilities with other members of the family.

TO REMEMBER

- Your host family will expect to know where you are at all times.
- If you are not returning home for your evening meal, you must let your family know before they have cooked your dinner.
- If you are staying out with your friends, please let your host family know by telephone.
- Remember, always be friendly, polite, and courteous to your host family; they have opened up your home to you.
- Australia is in drought – this means only use a small amount of water for bathing.
- Remember to give your family your mobile number and tell them if you will be late home at night so that they do not worry.
- At the beginning of your tour, it's a good idea to find out where your friends live and their telephone numbers so that you and your host family can contact them.
- If you are under 18 years of age, you must not stay out overnight and must always advise your family of your whereabouts.

Please contact the APP unit if you have any questions.



FOOD

- You may have to make your own breakfast and pack your lunch.
- A typical lunch might be sandwiches, fruit and a drink. Please talk to your family if you would like something different e.g. rice, noodles, salad and fruit. You may have to pay additional money for some specialty items.
- You may like to go grocery shopping with the family to choose your favorite food.

Some useful tips...

... TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HOMESTAY PROGRAM



SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Try not to walk around by yourself at night. If you go out at nighttime, ensure that you are accompanied by a friend.
- Keep all personal papers and documents in a safe and secure place in your homestay.
- Don't leave bags unattended.



WASHING AND CLEANING

- Please ask the family if you would like to use the washing facilities and to explain how they work.
- Some families may or may not offer to do your laundry for you.
- Sometimes you may be asked to assist with washing the dishes and asked to clean your room.



TRANSPORT

- Some homestay families live close to the campus and only require a short bus ride. However other families can live up to 30 minutes away, and may require you to get on a number of buses.
- Your host family will give you a card with bus details and will assist you to purchase your bus ticket/s. They will also show you where to catch the bus to and from the University. Please familiarise yourself with your homestay suburb so that you do not get lost.
- Your host family will transfer you to and from the University on your first and last day of your visit and also for scheduled excursions prearranged by your home institution.
- Please note host families are not required to provide transportation to and from the University or any unauthorised activities or events.
- Remember to contact your host family if you have any concerns.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET



- If you use your family's telephone please pay for it.
- Telephone cards or wireless internet cards are available.
- Pre paid start up kits are available if you have a mobile phone so that you can make calls within Australia.
- Not all families have internet.
- If your host family provides an internet service then you can expect to pay \$10 per week.
- Excessive usage of the internet will incur fees.

FEES AND PAYMENT

- Your homestay fee will be paid directly to your host family.
- You will need to supply your own toiletries, purchase your own bus tickets, and pay for any calls.
- You may also need to pay for extra activities or excursions when you arrive in Australia. These may include visits to restaurants, movie theatres, theme parks and attractions.
- Some additional fees may apply for special dietary requirements e.g. vegan, halal, gluten free, vegetarian or coeliac.
- Students can also expect to pay additional fees for the use of heaters, air conditioning or electrical appliances. Please discuss your requirements with your host family. Longer term Study Tour students may incur additional costs.



SMOKING

- Griffith University is proud to have non smoking campuses.
- There are very strict laws about smoking in public places and in public transport.
- Please ask before smoking in your host family's home.

