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ELH

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HOUSE

Homestay accommodation information pack for ELH students



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Accommodation for ELH students

Homestay accommodation

If you require ELH to find accommodation for you please read the "accommodation information for students" part 1 and part 2 at the end of this form and make sure you are happy with this. Also read the "Homestay Terms and Conditions" and make sure you understand what it says. If there is something you do not understand please ask.

Then complete part 1 and part 2 of the homestay form below and return this to ELH by post, fax or email.

What is "Homestay"

Homestay is accommodation with an English family for ELH students

Students sometimes like to stay with an English-speaking family when they study at ELH because they can practice their English every day at home after class.

Homestay is not a "hotel" and homestay families are not "hotel staff"!

How much does "Homestay" cost?

What you pay per week:

	Bed & Breakfast	Bed & Breakfast & evening meal	Bed, Breakfast, Lunch & Evening meal	With sole use of bathroom or en-suite
Small room	£210	£250	£290	+ £20
Medium room	£230	£270	£310	+ £20
Large room	£250	£290	£330	+ £20

Accommodation will be with an English family. You will have a bed, a wardrobe and/or chest of drawers, a desk with a light and a chair.

You will have use of the bathroom, kitchen, sitting room and other spaces/rooms that are shared by the family members eg conservatory, dining room, garden etc. Prices are for one person per room per week. If more than 1 person want to share a room this may be possible; write to us and we will let you know.

All rooms will be nice and clean and the accommodation will be within easy reach of English Language House.

When to pay for "Homestay"

Students who want ELH to find homestay accommodation for them must pay full accommodation fees 28 days or more in advance of their arrival date.

This will allow ELH enough time to find suitable accommodation and provide the student and the homestay families with all the necessary details in advance of the student's arrival.

It may be possible for ELH to find accommodation for students who pay full accommodation fees 14 to 27 days before their arrival date but we cannot guarantee this.

Students who pay full accommodation 14 to 27 days before their arrival date will need to make their own arrangements for accommodation for the first two weeks after their arrival in the UK.

Homestay Information part 1**Homestay at ELH****What is homestay?**

Homestay is accommodation for ELH students with an English family.

Students sometimes like to stay with an English-speaking family when they study at ELH because they can practice their English every day at home after class.

Homestay is not a "hotel" and homestay host families are not "hotel staff"!

Homestay families agree to take ELH students into their home and they treat them like a friend or a member of their family. In the homestay family there may be children and/or pets (dog(s), cat(s), fish, etc).

Homestay families are interested in the ELH students who stay with them, and want to make them feel comfortable and welcome in their homes. ELH students who want to live in homestay accommodation must feel happy about being part of an English family during their stay and must make an effort to participate in their homestay family's life. Homestay families like to find out about the student's life and country and the student can find out more about their homestay family's life and habits and about life in England.

ELH homestay hosts are flexible and understanding with ELH students, and we expect our students to be the same. Students behave with their hosts as they would within the homes of their own friends and families. This means they are polite (say 'please' and 'thank you' – very *important in English*) and happily follow the rules of the family about meal times or using the kitchen for snacks, laundry (washing clothes), and watching television. So, for example, if you are not planning to eat with the family one evening, tell them.

Expect to spend at least 30 minutes or more each evening chatting to the family. They may like you to watch television with them and this is a good way to improve your English language skills. You could discuss the programme with them or ask them to explain things which you don't understand.

The weather and living in the UK may seem a little strange to you at first. If you are cold, ask for extra blankets for your bed or heating in your room. Do not leave lights and electric heaters on when you are out. Do not hang clothes over electric heaters - this could be cause a fire. If the house has central heating, the radiators will come on and off automatically.

Be on time for meals. Do not use the kitchen, or take food from the kitchen, unless you have agreed this with the family. After meals, it is polite to offer to help with clearing the table and washing up.

Try to keep your room tidy and make your bed. Leave the bathroom clean and tidy after using it. If there is a shower over the bath with a shower curtain, please make sure you put this inside the bath before you have a shower. And it is polite to ask whether you can have a shower, as the water may need to be heated first.

We expect you to be careful with the furniture and property in the house. If an accident does occur please inform the school immediately and please let the family know. Be prepared to pay to replace anything you damage.

Your hosts will try to make your stay in England pleasant and enjoyable for you and they may become your friends. However, you should not make any private arrangements to stay with them. You should only stay with them through ELH. We can then help you, or them, if there are any problems.

Computers and the internet: Not all families have internet access and some only have a limited number of hours per month when they can use the internet. They may be concerned about internet security and may, or may not, limit your use of their computer connection. Please talk to the ELH office if you would like to use a computer at the homestay. Remember that you are at the homestay to help you learn English and, if you are able to use your computer in the homestay, you should minimize its use, and spend as much time as possible practicing your English

Homestay Information part 2

Applying for homestay at ELH

Please make sure you read and understand the following before you apply for homestay at ELH.

- We need to have full payment in advance before we can place you in homestay accommodation. You need to pay both the Accommodation placement fee (£45) and the Weekly Charge for accommodation.
- We then need about a week to arrange your homestay accommodation.

Until then you may like to consider staying in one of the many hotels in Central Milton Keynes close to the school. Look on www.mkweb.co.uk/accommodation for hotels, etc, or go to the Central Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. Tel: 01908 254050. The library has visitor information.

Agreeing to homestay accommodation

All homestay accommodation offered by ELH to its students has been checked as suitable.

Usually, only one student is accommodated in a homestay family. However, some families have a big house and can take more than one student. In this instance a maximum of two students may be accommodated in the same family; the students will each have their own bedroom and they will be different nationalities.

ELH recommends that students apply for ELH homestay accommodation for the maximum period of time they wish to live in homestay. We cannot guarantee that students will be able to extend their accommodation beyond their initial request dates and students who request less time in homestay than they intend to take up risk having no accommodation available after the end of their request dates.

Students can only book ELH homestay accommodation through ELH and are not allowed to make their own private arrangements with ELH homestay families.

Students who agree to ELH homestay accommodation agree to abide by the ELH terms and conditions governing homestay. This includes appropriate behaviour in homestay accommodation. ELH reserves the right to remove a student from homestay accommodation if the student behaves inappropriately or does not abide by the terms and conditions agreed. No refund will be available in this instance.

Before you are given the homestay family's name and address, you must pay your "accommodation Finding Fee" (£45) and the "accommodation fee" in full for the duration of your stay.

Once you have paid for your homestay accommodation and been given the name and address of the hosts, this means you have agreed to stay with them during the dates you selected. This means that you will be charged if you don't stay or if you leave early. If there are any problems please talk to Tatiana or Mihaela in the ELH Office. If there is an emergency, use the 24 hour telephone line for help. ELH wants to know about any problems.

Leaving the homestay early

We hope you will be happy in your homestay and we hope the hosts will be happy to have you to stay with them. In the exceptional situation that you want to leave early, you should give one week's written notice to the hosts and to the ELH Office. If the hosts want you to leave early they too must usually give one week's notice but, if there is an emergency they may have to ask you to leave immediately – in this case, please contact ELH for help.

Before arriving at your homestay

- As soon as we have given you the details of your host family, **contact the family by phone, letter or email to introduce yourself** (say 'hello'). Please don't just go to the house without first contacting them.
- **When you contact the host family, ask what time and day/date** would be convenient for your arrival at their house and make sure you arrive at the agreed time.

HOMESTAY Terms and Conditions:

ELH can provide students with homestay accommodation if

- The student is 18 years old or over and ELH has received all the necessary documentation and full payment no less than 3 weeks before the student's arrival date
- The student is under 18 and ELH has received all the necessary documentation and full payment no less than 6 weeks before the student's arrival date
- The student is studying at least 10 hours per week at ELH
- The student wants the accommodation while they are studying. **ELH cannot provide homestay accommodation during the holidays, or while the student is taking a break from their studies.**
- The student can pay for their accommodation in advance

ELH recommends that students apply for ELH homestay accommodation for the maximum period of time they wish to live in homestay. We cannot guarantee that students will be able to extend their accommodation beyond their initial request dates and students who request less time in homestay than they intend to take up risk having no accommodation available after the end of their request dates.

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We check all homestay to make sure it is safe for our students.

SAFETY in HOMESTAY:

Gas Safety Regulations:

ELH will check that homestay providers have a Certificate to show that their gas appliances (ie gas cookers, gas heating system etc) are safe.

Homestay providers' checks:

ELH will check the Homestay providers' homes to make sure that they are suitable to house our students.

Homestay providers' training:

ELH will provide Homestay providers with training in Safeguarding and Prevent to make sure that students who live there will be safe.

DBS checks

When we place under 18s in homestay ELH will carry out DBS checks to make sure that adult homestay providers can safely accommodate under 18s.

Curfew times:

16 year olds must be back in homestay by 9.00pm
17 year olds must be back in homestay by 10.00pm

Over 18s must tell the family if they plan to return to the home after 10.00pm or if they plan to stay overnight elsewhere.

Personal Details

Family name/ Surname:

First name:

Homestay form: Part 1 Student Questions:

1. Why do students want homestay accommodation?
 - i. a) it's cheaper than a hotel b) it's a good way to learn English
2. Is homestay like a hotel? a) Yes b) No
3. How are students treated by the homestay hosts?
 1. a) as friends b) as lodgers - they just use the bedroom and have meals there
4. There are never any animals in homestay accommodation? a) True b) False
5. If you are not planning to eat with the hosts one evening, what should you do?
6.
7. If you watch an English television programme with your hosts, what might you talk about after the programme?
.....
8. If you are cold in bed, what should you do?
9. a) Ask to change to another homestay b) Ask the hosts for more blankets
10. If you have an electric heater in your bedroom, should you put your clothes over it? a) Yes b) No
11. After a meal, is it polite to offer to help to take the dirty plates to the kitchen? a) Yes b) No
12. If you want a shower, should you a) use the shower b) ask before you use the shower
13. What should you do if you break a cup in the homestay?
14. If you want to use a computer at the homestay, what should you do?

NOW READ THE HOMESTAY TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND MAKE SURE YOU AGREE TO THIS BEFORE YOU FILL IN THE APPLICATION FOR HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION:

Homestay form Part 2 Request for accommodation:

I have read the "accommodation information for students part 1 and part 2".

I have answered the questions Part 1 and part 2 and I am signing to show that I agree to abide by the Homestay Rules and the Terms and Conditions governing homestay.

I understand what homestay means and **I would like ELH to find homestay accommodation for me.**

I would like to arrive at the accommodation on: [date]and leave on: [date]

Smoking Yes I smoke No I don't smoke

Pets: I don't mind pets I don't want a house with the following pets No I don't want a house with any pets

Food Yes I can eat everything No I cannot eat (write the foods you cannot eat).....

Will you have your own computer? Yes No

Will you need to use the internet? Yes No

ELH will discuss your computer needs with you and your hosts.

Is there anything else which you think ELH or your hosts need to know about you?

Signed by the student to show agreement: **Dated:**.....