
Homestay guidelines

This is a list of points to consider to organise your life together. It is a non-exhaustive list of details you can discuss.

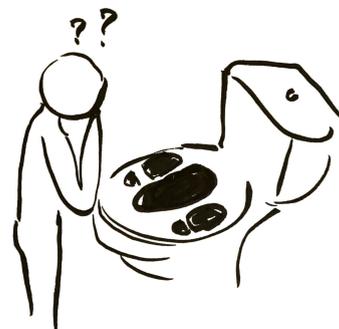
You will be sharing a home together. Be considerate of differences and cultural norms and practices. What is “normal” for you is not necessarily “normal” for someone else.

It is good to talk about your broader expectations around the sharing of time and space: Do you expect to eat together each night? Would you rather spend your time in your room? Would you like to cook together? - but also about practical aspects of sharing and organising the chores.

1. Access and presence



- What will be the arrangements regarding the access to the house? What will happen during the absence of the host? (holidays etc.)
 - How will you deal with the provision of the keys?
 - Does the guest have to inform the host in advance when they are going away on a vacation, and vice versa?
- You may want to discuss whether it is suitable for visitors to come over. There may even be requests of visitors staying overnight, and you may want to talk about this before any arrangements are being made.



2. Schedules

- At what time do noise limitations apply, if any? What are the agreed normal hours in the home to use the kitchen, listen to music, etc? This is also a good point to talk about night routines and expectations around late night arrivals.





- Times and rules for using the bathroom, the heating and air con, length of showers, etc.
- Bear in mind the time differences between countries and possibility of late night calls. You may want to discuss any noise limitations.

In any case, it is important to negotiate limitations on noise and time.

3. Facilities and usage

- What areas of the home do you feel comfortable with sharing? For example, if you have a common area, are you happy for guests to use it?
- Any rules to follow regarding opening and closing windows, doors, shutters, gates, heating systems, gas, lighting, etc.
- Taking into consideration cultural norms, particular sanitary habits may need clarification. This may be something you want to discuss in private with your buddy or Project Facilitator.
- The guest will strive to maintain good relations with the neighbours.
- Smoking : accepted or not, and if so, where? (inside the home, on the balcony, outdoors only?)
- Are alcoholic beverages allowed to be consumed in the house?



3.a Cleaning arrangements



You may want to discuss any particular cleaning arrangements. Of course, this is a private arrangement between both of you:

- Rules about home maintenance of both shared and private spaces. How often should cleaning be done and how? People have different ideas of cleanliness, please share yours.
- Can shoes be worn in the home ?



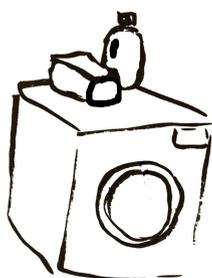
3.b Pets

If there are pets in the home, communicate whether there can be any issues with respect to allergies, fear and cultural beliefs.

3.c Home phone and Internet usage

Ask your host if there are any limitations on home phone usage - including making international calls.

If the home has limited wireless internet usage, it is good to discuss the limitation of usage. For example, downloading movies may not be appropriate if the internet usage is minimal. Likewise, if data is limited, it is recommended to discuss the usage, especially with reference to online communication.



3.d Laundry

If there is access to laundry facilities, is it necessary for you to discuss the times and days suitable to use the laundry? Will you be sharing the cost of laundry detergent?

4. Meals and food

Dietary restrictions

There may be some dietary restriction that either host or guest may have. For example, the host's family are vegan or the guest only eats meat that is halal. It would be recommended for both host and guest to discuss this matter and if the storage space in the fridge or pantry needs to be rearranged.

Cooking arrangements

You may want to discuss the common use of kitchen utensils and cooking ingredients. For example, would you prefer to share the cooking and the costs? Or, would you rather cook independently? It is also recommended to talk about meal times.

5. Financial contribution

- Is the guest expected to contribute? If yes, how will you both contribute financially? Is there a possibility to contribute to regular costs, such as electricity and internet usage? Are there any other costs that you would like to discuss, such as groceries, parking fees?
- Similarly with groceries, who will cover the cost of basic groceries, such as washing detergent, cleaning products, garbage bags?



6. Transport

You may want to discuss logistics around the usage of public transport or shared car use if this is an option. For the latter, you should talk about insurance, usage and petrol costs. Also, if you often carpool together, perhaps financial contribution to cover petrol costs could be considered. If there is on-site parking, you may want to discuss the use of this.



7. Buddies

You are assigned a person who acts as a buddy for both of you. The buddy is your 'go-to' person for basic assistance such as referrals to service providers. You may both want to talk to your buddy about the best means of communication and the frequency of contact. You may decide to meet with your buddy each week for a casual catch-up. Don't forget, your buddy is there to be your friend.





8. Privacy

Your privacy is an important matter to discuss. Sharing information such as photos and narratives has to be strictly with consent only - this also applies to Facebook and social media platforms. Each party has to commit to respecting the privacy of the other, his or her personal spaces (cupboards, room), his or her possessions, peaceful sleep time and moments of calm.

Please respect the personal boundaries and respect that the other may be unwilling to share their life experiences.

