

Living in Homestay Accommodation

Homestay accommodation is intended to provide a home environment for students. It is an arrangement made with a family who is committed to caring for, and encouraging, you to participate in household activities and to make the most of the opportunity to experience life in Australia. You will live as a family member and will be expected to be considerate, to share some of the household duties, and to abide by the homestay rules.

Breakfast and dinner are provided on weekdays and all meals over the weekend. The evening meal is shared with the host, while you may prepare your own breakfast from food supplied by the host. You will have your own room, which is fully furnished and includes a desk and study lamp.

Many students prefer to do their own laundry using the host's washing machine. However, if you wish, your host will usually agree to do the laundry for you for the additional charge of \$20 per week.

All College rules apply when living in homestay, and your host is responsible for your safety, welfare and discipline out of school hours. It is important that you understand that homestay hosts in Australia have a legal responsibility for you and they also have an obligation to ensure that you follow the College rules.

Many students really enjoy the homestay experience and sometimes hosts become friends of the family. Some students stay with the same host for all of their College years while others enjoy a change after a period of time. It is important that you accept that you need to participate in the home and make every effort to fit into the household and that you realise that the household is not expected to make large changes to suit you.

Under Visa condition 8532, students who are under 18 years of age are required to live in accommodation which is approved by Murdoch College. If students do not have a responsible family member in Perth they are required to stay in homestay accommodation which is approved by the College.

EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

Australian households may operate differently from what you are used to. For example, the evening meal may be served earlier than you are used to, and all members of the household will be expected to assist with some of the household duties. It is essential that you understand that you need to adjust to living with the host and be considerate. These expectations and rules include:

Going out and coming home

Homestay hosts accept legal responsibility for you on behalf of your parents and the College. At all times hosts should know where you are and be able to contact you. You must ensure that your host has your mobile phone number and that your phone is charged and switched on at all times. If your mobile is not functioning – you may not go out! If you are delayed coming home you must telephone your hosts so that they do not worry about your safety.

Personal study after school is an important part of learning so you are NOT permitted to go out socially on 'school evenings', that is Monday to Thursday evenings. For instance if your friend's birthday is on a College day, you should ask them to celebrate at the weekend. There is one concession. With the prior approval of the homestay host you may go late night shopping for a few hours on some Thursdays.

Please note: Homestay hosts are required to advise the Student Services Manager every time you are late returning home.

The following conditions apply to College days:

1. In order to be home for the evening meal and personal study you MUST return to your homestay by 6.00 pm on school days, Monday to Thursdays. Where you have prior approval to go late night shopping on Thursday evenings. You should return home after school and change out of uniform. You should then return from late night shopping by the time that has been agreed with your homestay host.

2. You must not wear your school uniform if going late night shopping on a Thursday evening. You must return to your homestay to change out of uniform before you go out.

The following conditions apply to weekends:

1. Students who are aged 12 years and under may only go out if accompanied by their homestay host or another responsible adult approved by the homestay host. Students aged 12 and under may not travel unaccompanied on public transport.
2. Students who are aged 13 years may only go out on either Friday or Saturday and they must return to the homestay by 6 pm. Students who go out on Friday or Saturday may in addition attend a church service on Sunday if they wish.
3. Students must return to their Homestay by the following times:
Students aged 14 years 8 pm
Students aged 15 years 9 pm
Students aged 16 years 10 pm
Students aged 17 years 11 pm
4. Students must not wear their school uniform if going out on socially on Friday evening. Students must return to their homestay to change out of uniform before they go out.

Staying overnight with friends

As homestay hosts are responsible for you while you are not at College it is important to follow these rules.

1. You are not allowed to stay out overnight from your homestay during the week, Sundays – Thursdays. You may only stay over on either Friday or Saturday nights.
2. You are not allowed to stay overnight with your friends unless there is a parent, guardian or homestay host living there who will be in the house, flat or apartment when you stay there.
3. As you are under the age of 18 years you may not stay overnight with a Murdoch College or PSS student who lives independently in their own house, flat or apartment.
4. You *MUST* ask your host, for permission in advance if you wish to stay overnight at another student's homestay or family home. Your host will require the name, address and telephone contact number of where you will be staying.
5. You may only be given permission to have a sleep over twice a term.

Courtesy in the Home

As a homestay student you become a family member of the household and are expected to be considerate, to share some of the household duties, and join in family activities. There are some courtesies that you need to observe.

1. You must always ask to use your host's telephone. You should also ask your family and friends to phone you early in the evening and not too late at night as this can disturb other people in the house.
2. Mobile phones and personal computers must not be used after 11 pm on school nights without special permission from the homestay host.
3. You must ask your host's permission before inviting friends into their home – some homestay hosts are uncomfortable to have strangers in their home. You must not expect your homestay host to provide meals for your friends.
4. Families in Australia do not have servants. You are expected to keep your own room clean and tidy and also tidy and wipe down the bathroom each time you use it.* You may also be expected to assist with small tasks around the house, for example setting the dining table prior to eating and helping with the washing up and clearing up after meals.

* However, if your host is prepared to clean your room for you then you must expect them to go into your room when you are not there. Please discuss this with your host.

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5. Heating is expensive and electric fires can be dangerous. Homestays do not allow students to have their own heaters in their bedrooms. You are expected to turn off all electrical appliances and lights when they are not in use and especially when you leave the home each morning.
6. Western Australia is suffering from several years of drought and water usage is monitored. Many Australians have made conserving water a way of life and some get upset at what they regard as waste. Your host will ask that you only shower for between 5 – 10 minutes and do your laundry once a week when you have a full load.
7. You are responsible for your own house keys and for shutting doors, windows and setting the security system (if fitted) when you leave the house. Lost keys must be paid for and if they are security keys for the house this can cost up to \$300 if the locks have to be changed as well.
8. You **MUST NOT** smoke inside any homes in Australia – not even in your own bedroom. Murdoch College is a totally non-smoking campus. This applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookahs or hubble bubbles.
9. You must never take a PET into a homestay without the host's permission.
10. You must make arrangements to pay your homestay host every 2 or 4 weeks **IN ADVANCE**. It is important that you receive a receipt from your host for all money paid.
11. You may not entertain friends of the opposite sex in your bedroom.

Murdoch College Expectations and Requirements

In order for you to obtain a Student Visa Murdoch College has made a declaration to the Australian Government agreeing to take responsibility for your accommodation and welfare. As a result it is essential that you observe the following:

1. You must provide the Student Services Manager with your parents' written consent, in advance, if you intend to travel anywhere away from your homestay either for a weekend or during holiday periods.
2. In order to retain your room, you are required to pay 50% of the weekly Homestay fee whenever you are away from the homestay for periods of 7 days or longer. This includes the summer holiday period.
3. If you do not wish to retain your room over holiday periods you must request Student Services to place you in a new homestay on your return to the College and you will be required to pay the Homestay Transfer Fee of \$290 for this service. You will also have to arrange storage for any belongings left in Perth.
4. If you wish to move from homestay or transfer to another homestay you must contact a Student Services Officer before making any arrangements.

General Information

1. It is **ILLEGAL** in Australia for anyone under the age of 18 to buy cigarettes.
2. It is **ILLEGAL** for anyone under 18 to buy or drink alcohol.
3. It is also **ILLEGAL** for anyone under the age of 18 to go to the Casino, or any clubs or bars where alcohol is sold.
4. It is a criminal offence for anyone to be in possession of any illegal substances (this includes marijuana), or drugs, other than those prescribed by a doctor for personal use.

Murdoch College expects homestay hosts to work closely with the College and to take an interest in your studies. Homestay hosts are asked to speak to your parents on the telephone on a regular basis so that they are able to act in your best interests.

STUDENT DECLARATION

- I have read and understand the above Rules for living in Homestay.
- I understand and agree to follow these expectations and rules.
 - I understand that if I lose my house keys that I will need to pay for replacements and also to have the locks changed.
 - I understand that if I break these rules my homestay host is required to inform the College. The College may impose consequences which could include: being grounded – that is not allowed out on weekend nights.
 - If the Homestay rules are broken frequently or continually I understand that this may result in the cancellation of my enrolment with Murdoch College and that DIAC may cancel my student visa. When a student is advised by the College of their intention to report them to DIAC, they are entitled to appeal that decision using the College appeals procedures.
 - I also understand that if at any time I breach visa condition 8532, DIAC may cancel my student visa. This refers to the requirement that students under the age of 18 years live in College approved accommodation.

Signature of Student _____

Student Name _____

Signature of Parent _____

Date _____

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