



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



WELCOME TO HOMESTAY

EXPERIENCE THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE

EXPERIENCE THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE

Our Philosophy

The University of Newcastle Homestay program is wholly owned and operated by the University of Newcastle. Our Homestay program believes that each person can make a positive difference in the life of another. Our program is an example of this belief as it brings together people from all walks of life and various cultures.

Homestay began in 1998 with a small number of families accommodating mainly study groups. Now the Homestay Program has approximately 200 families and accommodates 500 students per year. Some of our families have been a part of our program since 1998 and several of our students have lived with the same Homestay family for the length of their time in Newcastle. Others use our program as a platform while becoming orientated in Australia, before moving on to live within the community in alternative accommodation or moving to other areas.

Host families

Every family who offers Homestay accommodation has been approved as providers by the Homestay Coordinator. The family is interviewed and the premises are inspected to ensure International students have a safe and caring environment.

All hosts are required to:

- undergo a Working with Children Check
- undertake a one-on-one orientation session where obligations and responsibilities are discussed
- undergo an inspection of their house
- sign the Homestay Contract

Students/Agents are required to:

- submit an online application form
- sign the Homestay Contract

The Homestay Contract

- Homestay Contract is for 4 weeks and not refundable
- at the end of the 4 weeks students can negotiate to extend their stay if they wish or move to alternate accommodation
- students receive a receipt for weekly payment
- students are requested to follow the house rules



TESTIMONIALS

HOMESTAY PROVIDES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN A HOME ENVIRONMENT WHILE STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY.



Daisuke Manabe

The most important reason why I chosen home stay is that I can have a family in Australia. When I was in Japan, I lived by myself and sometimes felt lonely. I realized how important it is to be with a family. They listen to me and eat dinner together. I thought I would not feel alone even though I live abroad. Now, I feel comfortable and happy with my host family. They are my family in Australia.



Francisco Barcellos

I really like my house and family simply because of the fact that they have many interests similar to mine. My mum and brothers are such nice people, they made me feel at home in the first two minutes here. And about the house, it's just amazing, looks like it was built for me! I love every aspect of it, I really have no complaints about anything. Plus, this allows me to constantly practice my English skills, learn about the Australian culture and also have great food every single night (my mum is an exceptional cook, probably the best in Australia).



NG Yu Ting Yvonne

I love my Homestay family because they treat me like a member of their family. They take good care of me, help me if I have any problems and they help me practice my English speaking skills. I am lucky to have such a kind family to live with.



Maria and Milton Ward

Our family has been hosting International students for over 12 years and have always found it to be a positive and rewarding experience.

Through our relationship with our students we have had the opportunity to travel to their Hometowns and visit with their families.

We find that each student we have hosted is different which makes each Homestay experience unique and recommend Homestay as a way of gaining a greater appreciation and awareness for other cultures.



Package options

The Homestay Program has two options available for students to choose.
21 meals per week or 16 meals per week.
Please refer to our website for fees.

Students and International visitors

90% of students requesting Homestay are over 18 years of age with 10% being under age. Homestay is also the preferred choice of accommodation for International visitors from various faculties with Academics undertaking internships or work placements.

Challenges

At times the meeting of two very different cultures in a Homestay situation may be difficult for both students and their hosts. Challenges that arise with a Homestay situation are generally from a lack of communication between host families and their students. Should these issues not be resolved satisfactorily, the Homestay Coordinator will assist in the mediation of any disputes. Homestay provides 24/7 support and assistance in order to minimise unnecessary distress and students are removed within the hour if the situation places the host or student at risk.

Community Networking

Homestay endeavours to promote a positive environment for both the families and the students through social events such as:

- Annual Thank you dinner for hosts only
- end of the year Christmas party for Host families and their students
- BBQs at the local community centres for hosts and their students
- Quarterly newsletters
- Web page
- mentoring program for new hosts with a long term host
- information regarding cultural days or celebrations at the University or community venues

Expenses

Homestay families live within 30-45 minutes by train or bus.
Please allow \$50 p/w for travelling expenses.



Boris Vidal Guiffot Ouabo

I chose to live in Homestay to experience life with a local family and to gain a better understanding of the Australian way of life. I like living with my host family as they treat me like a member of their family and take good care of me. They are funny and helpful and I am learning a lot.



John and Jill Wakeford

We have been involved with the Homestay program for the past 6 years and have always enjoyed hosting International students. The students who stay with us become members of our family and continue to stay in touch with us even after they go back to their hometown.

Some students will stay with us for 2-3 years while others are with us for a short stay.

CONTACT

For more information becoming a host, booking a homestay or general details, please contact our Homestay Coordinator.

P: +61 2 4921 6777

E: homestay@newcastle.edu.au

www.newcastle.edu.au/homestay