



Welcome to your Bloomsbury International homestay!

A homestay is a great choice of accommodation for students who wish to experience the 'life with the locals'. All of our homestays have been inspected, they meet British Council regulations and are regularly checked. We work with homestays of individuals and families of all ages, sizes and ethnic backgrounds.

As soon as you arrive, you will receive a warm welcome and be treated as part of the family. Please remember that you are also a guest in their home so be polite and respectful to their lifestyle, as they will be to yours. Being part of the family also means that you will need to help with the chores and keep things clean and tidy.

What to expect

On arrival, your host will show you your room and give you a tour of the house. They will also inform you of the house rules and some hosts provide an informative welcome book. If not, or if you have any further questions, please just ask your host or feel free to speak to us at the school reception.

The rules

Free time: You are more than welcome to spend time with your host, watching television or listening to the radio. If you wish to listen to music, watch TV or speak on Skype in your bedroom, please keep the volume down as to not disturb others in the house, particularly when others are sleeping.

Curfews: All students: if your family has young children, they may ask for you to return home before a certain time. Whatever is decided, please remember to be quiet when arriving home as if late, people may be sleeping.

- under 16s must return home every evening by 9pm (at the latest) and MUST always be accompanied by an adult.
- students of 16 and 17 years, you must return home every evening by 10pm (at the latest).

Internet: many UK homes have internet or wifi so we can usually meet your request at the time of booking. Some hosts have limitations on connection times so please always check with your host before using it.

Laundry: your host will show you how to use the washing machine, which you are allowed to use once a week.

Washing powder is usually provided but please check with your host beforehand. If you wish to do more than one load of washing, please ask your host and a small extra fee may apply.

Bed Linen and Towels: these are provided by your host family and are changed once a week.

Cleanliness: it is your responsibility to keep your room tidy and your host will clean it once a week. Please do not keep any food in your bedroom; but ask your family where you can store it.

Telephone: As a rule, you are not allowed to use the host's telephone. If you need to use it, please always check with your host beforehand.

Keys: adults will be given their own house key. Students under 18 may not as this will be at the host's discretion. If you lose your key, please inform your host immediately for security reasons.

In the UK, it is not usual to have a separate key for your bedroom.

Smoking: the majority of our houses are non-smoking. If you wish to smoke, please check with your host on arrival for a suitable outside area.

Guests: are not allowed without the host's permission. Please check with your host first and then inform the school in order to make payment.

Heating: is usually switched off during the night. If you are cold, please let your host know and they will help.

Bathroom: please always leave the bathroom tidy and the toilet clean:

- do not put your feet on the toilet seat
- always put toilet paper in the toilet and everything else in the bin/s provided
- never put food down the toilet or in the sinks
- use the sink to wash your hands thoroughly but please do not use it to wash your hair, feet, or anything else - ask your host for the best time to have a shower or a bath every day. Remember not to spend too long as other people in the house may be waiting to use the bathroom.



- many houses in the UK have the shower inside the bath. Please stand in the bath whilst using the shower and ensure the water does not go on the floor.

Kitchen use: depending on your booking, you will have varied access to the kitchen facilities. Please read the rules below and if you are still unsure, check with your host.

Valuables & Insurance: neither your host family nor Bloomsbury International can accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to your belongings so we advise that you organise student insurance. We recommend Endsleigh

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Insurance, please visit

<https://travel1.endsleigh.co.uk/internationalstudent.aspx?companyID=TVLINTR&agent=80333>

Extending your booking: all bookings must be arranged by Bloomsbury International. Please speak with us at reception and we will check availability so you can extend your stay. If you do wish to extend your stay, we advise that you do it as soon as possible – families soon get booked up, especially in the summer months!

Study area: your host will show you a quiet area in the house (if not in your bedroom) with a table/desk and a chair where you'll be able to do your homework and study.

Meals

Half Board and Bed & Breakfast

Your host will usually show you where everything is so you can help yourself each morning. At times you may need to eat alone, depending on your host's timetable. (Light access to the kitchen only – please check with your host what you can use and at what times).

Half Board Continental Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jam, Tea/Coffee, Juice. Evening Meal: Main meal to include a meat or fish dish.

Bed & Breakfast Continental Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Jam, Tea/Coffee, Juice.

Self-Catering

You will have access to the kitchen to prepare your own meals and have your own storage space for your food. Please do not use any of your host's food. Please arrange the times of when you can use the kitchen with your host.

Dietary requirements

If these were not given at the time of booking, please inform your host before or on your arrival so they can cater for you. Similarly, if there is anything you do not like to eat, please let your host know.

Meal times

Dinner time in the UK varies between families can be anytime from 17.30 and 20.00! Please discuss meal times with your host and also let them know if you have plans to eat out or arrive home late. Evenings meal times are a good opportunity to sit down to practise your English and make friends with your host. If your host is out for the evening, they should let you know and leave everything prepared for you.

What to bring

Toiletries and Medication: are widely available in London but if there is anything specific that you would like or if you need any prescribed medication, please bring it with you.

Charger / Adaptor: In the UK, we use appliances with 220 volts, this may be different to your home country, especially outside of Europe.

Study items: you may like to bring stationery, a dictionary or translator, but you can also buy these items in London.

A map of your homestay's neighbourhood and/or directions to the house: Please use the useful Journey Planner section on the following website <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/> This is also helpful when planning your journey between the house and Bloomsbury International – please also ask your host for advice and remember, buses are a great way to travel around London. **E111 card (EU citizens)**

Insurance documents



BLOOMSBURY INTERNATIONAL

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Before you come to the UK

Please remember to email your arrival details and mobile number to both Bloomsbury International and your host family. This will ensure that the family will be at home to meet and welcome you and also give you a chance to introduce yourself.

If you have any questions or concerns before your arrival or during your time in London, please do not hesitate to contact the **Registrar Team** as we are always here and happy to help. The phone number is: +44 (0)207242 2234 and the school is open Monday to Friday 08.30 – 18.00. If you need to get in touch with us outside of these hours, we also have an emergency phone +44 (0) 7762 425 376.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and we hope you enjoy your stay in London.

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