



International Student Homestay Program Student Booklet



We hope that the information provided in this booklet will help you to understand the Homestay program. If you would like to become involved in the program, please contact the Homestay Coordinator at eric.chu@sait.ca

We would like to thank you for your interest in SAIT's Homestay Program.

Revised July 12, 2010

Please pay the **Homestay Search Fee** when you submit your application or your request will not be processed. See page 2 for fees.

Welcome

to the SAIT Polytechnic Homestay Program for International Students

SAIT is dedicated to the academic success of our International students. We understand that success is directly linked to the International student's ability to adjust to their new environment. By providing a Homestay program, with caring homestay families, SAIT attempts to ensure an easier transition for these new students. SAIT offers homestay matching merely as a service to both the student and host and is in no way responsible for any misunderstandings between the student and the host.

The Homestay program has been in existence for many years. SAIT currently hosts international students from over 120 different countries. These students take a variety of programs. Their length of studies will vary from a few months to up to 3 or 4 years depending on their program. Potentially the student could participate in the homestay program for the duration of their studies while in Canada.

The definition of a Homestay family is those persons living together in the home. We include a full range of families in our program, from singles to dual parent families. Families can have from one to four children; some families have adult children who have moved away. As an International Student, you will be invited to become a temporary member of a Canadian family.

International students are placed in a Canadian home for the main purpose of having a safe, supportive and welcoming place to live while studying at SAIT. The student can learn about Canadian lifestyle and Canadian culture, while the host family can learn about the culture and lifestyle of the student's home country.

Cost of the Homestay Program

- Homestay Search Fee 18+years old \$175.00
- Homestay Search Fee 17 years old \$325.00
- Less than 2 weeks' notice (additional cost) \$100.00
- If you require airport pick up \$60.00
- For stays of less than one month \$25.00/day
- Rent per month (September 1, 2010) **\$700.00**
- Homestay Hosts determine the amount of damage deposit

Hosts cannot charge you more than \$700.00 per month. The cost has been determined with input from current homestay families and Calgary market trends. Some factors considered when establishing a fair fee are monthly cost of food, water, heat, inexpensive entertainment and long term costs such as rug cleaning, etc. The student is responsible for paying homestay fees at the beginning of each month.

Damage Deposit

The Homestay host has the right to charge a damage deposit. This damage deposit is intended to cover the costs of any unusual damage caused in the home by the student. If the student does not leave any damages, the deposit is normally refunded on the student's last day in the home. If a damage deposit is charged, an inspection by the student and the host should be made of the home when the student arrives and when he leaves. The Homestay Hosts determine the amount of the damage deposit. Normally it is less than one month's rent. **SAIT is not responsible for any damages caused by the international student; this is between the student and the host.**

The Goals of the Homestay Program include the following:

- To allow the student to practice English in a supportive, informal English speaking home
- To provide the student with a warm and friendly family environment in which to live while in Canada
- To allow the student to participate in Canadian culture, lifestyle and family life

- To assist the student in his/her adjustment to Canadian culture
- To allow International students the opportunity to meet, live with and learn from Canadian families.

Along with the Homestay families, there are a number of people involved with supporting international students. In the International Centre the team includes:

Homestay Coordinator – Eric Chu
International Centre Office

403 210 5709
403 284 8852

The Homestay Coordinator is the main contact for both International students in the Homestay Program and Homestay Hosts and is the initial contact and referral for any issues that may arise. The Homestay Coordinator visits each potential family to evaluate their suitability for the Homestay program. Host families are accepted where Hosts are interested in international cultural exchange rather than supplemented income. Willingness to spend time with the student and include them in family life is an important component in the selection of families. As well, homestay hosts must be able to provide a private bedroom for each student with a comfortable bed, reasonable storage, a closet space, an area suitable for study and internet access.

Every attempt is made to match lifestyles and personalities between the student and the homestay family. Those students requesting a homestay prior to arrival in Canada will fill out an application form indicating their preferences. For some students it is important to be near to SAIT, others want a quiet home where they can study, and still others desire a large family so they will have plenty of opportunities to practice their English. Some students may require vegetarian meals or ask for a home that either has or doesn't have any pets.

Guidelines for Homestay Hosts

The following are guidelines that have been set for Homestay Hosts who are inviting an international student to become a temporary member of their family.

The Homestay Hosts will advise the student of certain expectations, rights and responsibilities or rules of the house (e.g. late telephone calls, rent, etc.) There are, however, a few host responsibilities that the Homestay program requires. They include the following:

- to involve the student as a family member in their activities
- to assist the student to engage in experiences that help them adjust to Canadian culture
- to provide a furnished private room
- to launder linens and towels once per week or to allow the student access to the machines
- **to provide 1 cooked meal a day and provide food for the student to make their own breakfast and lunch.**
- to provide the student with a written list of house rules

Guidelines for Homestay Students

As a member of the Homestay program you are considered to be a guest member of a Canadian host family. There are certain responsibilities that are required of you as a participant in the Homestay program that include:

- pay all fees promptly and when due. Rent is normally due on the first day of each month.
- a damage deposit may be due before you move in
- pay for all long distance telephone charges that you make
- give 30 days notice if you are moving out of your host home
- keep your room clean and tidy and help with family chores
- inform your host family if you will not be home for dinner
- students are expected to make their own breakfast and lunch with food provided by the host.

Please note the following suggestions in regards to your long distance telephone calling:

- 1) Many students use a pre-paid phone card for all long distance calls.
- 2) **You are responsible to pay for all long distance calls that you make.**

If you become ill and are no longer able to study at SAIT your Homestay family is not responsible or liable for your wellbeing. You may have to return home until you are well enough to study.

After the student arrives in homestay, the host and the student must sign an agreement outlining the homestay monthly cost of \$700 per month. This form can be picked up at the International Centre. The student and host must sign the form and return it to the International Centre office. Periodically, the monthly fee will be re-evaluated and if changes to the fees are approved by the International Centre, the homestay host and the student will be notified in writing of any changes.

Finally, if any problems with your homestay should develop, discuss it first with your homestay family and try to resolve the issue. If this is not successful or if you are not sure of your rights, then talk to the International Homestay Coordinator. They will attempt to help you to resolve problems and will answer any questions you may have. If you decide to leave the homestay program, please contact our office so we can update our records. We hope you enjoy your stay in Canada and wish you much success with the Homestay program.

SAIT International Centre



Homestay Application Form

We want your stay in Canada to be a pleasant and memorable one. Please provide us with as much information as possible about yourself and we will make every effort to place you with a suitable family.

Homestay Search Fee is non refundable and is required at the time application is submitted

Placement and Search Fees for students 18 and up: **\$175 CAD**
Placement and Search Fees for students 17 years old: **\$325 CAD**
If you give less than 2 weeks notice for homestay search: **\$100 CAD** (Additional)
If you require airport pick up **\$60.00** (can be paid on arrival)
Monthly Fee (September 1, 2010): **\$700.00CAD** (this is payable directly to the host family)

Application Date: _____ Payment Method: _____
Do you require Airport Pick-up Yes _____ No _____

Student Personal Information (Please write clearly)

Last Name: _____		First Name: _____	
Nationality: _____		Male	Female _____
Date of birth: _____ / _____ / _____	Age at time of application: _____		
Day Month Year			
Home Address: _____			
City: _____		Country: _____	
Phone Number: _____		Fax: _____	
E-mail Address: _____		Languages Spoken _____	
Program of Study: _____		SAIT Student # _____	
English Ability: Low _____ Good _____ Excellent _____			
When will you need your Homestay to start: _____ / _____ / _____			
Day Month Year			
Credit Card # _____		Expiry Date: _____	



Parent Personal Information

Mother

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ E-Mail: _____
Day Month Year

Father

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ E-Mail: _____
Day Month Year

Home Address (if different from above): _____

Phone Number: (if different from above): _____

About You

Do you like children? _____ If so, what age(s) do you prefer? _____

Do you have any allergies (i.e. food, animal, medication)? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please specify: _____

Do you have any medical conditions? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you smoke? Yes ___ No ___

What are your favourite foods? _____

What foods do you dislike? _____

Hobbies/things you like? _____

Things you dislike? _____



Tell us about your own family (i.e., family members, what you like to do together, etc.)

What are your duties at home? _____

How would you describe yourself (check all that apply to you)?

Outgoing ____ Studious ____ Quiet ____

Enthusiastic ____ Independent ____ Shy ____

Cooperative ____ Motivated ____ Dependable ____

Personable ____ Sensitive ____ Adaptable ____

Other: _____

Any special information/requests that would help us to make the best homestay match possible? Feel free to attach a separate sheet if necessary _____

Office use only:

Fee Paid: _____ Date Received: _____

Placed on: _____ Family: _____

Airport Pick Up: _____ Teal Coach or ISA

Please read through the Homestay Program Booklet. If you have any questions please contact us at international@sait.ca