



HOMESTAY STUDENT GUIDE

Welcome!

As a homestay student, you are taking part in a unique and wonderful experience.

- You will probably be tired from jet lag, and you may be homesick. It is important to allow yourself some rest time.
- When you arrive at your homestay, you will meet your host family and go over any questions you may have: banking, telephone usage, WI-FI passwords, the house rules, meal times, laundry arrangements, etc.
- You will be given entry/access into the home (housekey, and alarm code – if applicable).
- Your homestay family will provide you with a bus schedule/route and explain to you or show you how you'll be getting to school on the first day.
- If you do not live within walking distance to Coquitlam College, the homestay family will show you where to buy your bus pass and how to take public transit.
- Communication is most often the key to avoiding and resolving problems.
- If you have a problem that you can not to your homestay family about, it is important you contact the Homestay Coordinator as soon as possible, we are here to help.

GETTING SETTLED

- Once you are settled, you may want to be included in household duties and activities. For example: setting the table, emptying the dishwasher, taking the dog for a walk, or help make dinner. Feel free to offer your assistance.
- Tell your homestay family about your family by sharing photos or stories. Ask the homestay if they would like you to cook a meal.
- You should try to communicate daily with your host family to ensure you're coping well with the pressures and stresses that come with living and studying in a new country, and learning a new language.

EMERGENCY

- Call 911 for police, fire or medical attention when an immediate response is required.
- After you call 911 and if you want to speak to someone at the school, the after hours school emergency number is: (604) 785 6765

SAFETY CONCERNS

- Write down your homestay family's name and contact information in case of an emergency. Be sure to keep this information with you.
- Be aware of the evacuation routes in your home
- Know where the fire extinguisher is and how to use it
- Make sure you know how to call 911.

- If you have a medical emergency, ensure you are taken to the hospital or call 911.
- You are encouraged to report any significant medical, emotional, or mental health issues to the Homestay Coordinator.
- The B.C. children's help line is available to you 24/7, 7 days a week in case you feel you are being mistreated or unsafe in the home or at school.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SAFETY CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR HOMESTAY PLEASE CONTACT THE HOMESTAY COORDINATOR at **(604) 939 6633**

HOMESTAY PAYMENT

- You are responsible to pay the homestay fee directly to your homestay parents. The current Homestay rate is **\$1100.00** per month (three meals a day) Please visit www.coquitlamcollege.com for the most recent changes in homestay rates. The daily rate for this program is **\$37.00** **Please ask for a receipt for payment.**
- Holiday Rate is **\$20.00/day**. A holiday is considered two weeks or more where you are absent from the home.
- Homestay families **may not** charge you extra or change the homestay fees from what has been outlined above

MOVING OUT

- You must give two weeks notice to your homestay family if you intend to move out. You may give this notice at any time throughout the month. For example; If you pay the homestay fee on Oct 1st and tell your homestay parent on Oct 15th that you will be moving at the end of the month, you have given the correct notice.

Coquitlam College

School office hours are from **8:30AM-4:30PM Monday-Friday**

516 Brookmere Avenue, Coquitlam, V3J 1W9

Telephone 604-939-6633

Emergency After Hours Number: 604 785 6765

HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

Eve Eckford

Telephone: 604 939 6633

homestay@coquitlamcollege.com

Melita O'Neill – Program Coordinator

melita@coquitlamcollege.com

BC Children's Helpline (310-1234) is available to you 24 hours a day for you to speak to someone in situations of abuse or neglect or in need of protection. For emergency situations call 911.

FAQ

Damage Deposit

Unlike a rental agreement or lease homestay families **may not** ask you for a damage deposit or a deposit of any kind.

Extra Charges

It's not acceptable for homestay families to charge extra for items such as soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, or any other common necessity that one might need for day-to-day.

Custodianship

All international students under 19 years of age that are traveling to BC to study without a parent or legal guardian will require a custodianship. A student under 19 years of age will be required to have a guardian/custodian.

Appliances

You will be shown how to use the household appliances, including the washer and dryer. If there is a schedule for washing clothes, your homestay family will provide you with this information.

Telephone

You will be shown how to call collect/make long-distance calls, or be given help in getting an international calling card. You are responsible for any long-distance charges you make.

Cell Phone

You are responsible for your cell phone/cell phone bill(s). The College will not be responsible for any charges.

Pets

You may not be accustomed to being around pets, especially inside the home – and you may feel uncomfortable at first when a dog or cat jumps up. Please notify the Homestay Coordinator if you are uncomfortable around your homestays pets.

Shopping for ethnic food

Upon arrival, new foods and the time change can be a shock to the system. There are many grocery stores in the Coquitlam area that cater to the needs of many cultures. Please keep in mind, it is of great comfort to eat familiar food.

Ethnic stores nearby:

- Korean & Chinese Market on North Road under the Red roof
- T&T Market in Coquitlam Centre
- Henderson Place Mall across from Coquitlam Centre

*Thank you for becoming a homestay student with
Coquitlam College*