

HOMESTAY STUDENT GUIDE

Living with a host family provides an enriching cultural exchange and the perfect opportunity to learn the English Language. It is also the ideal setting to gain new skills and to experience the Canadian lifestyle.

Please read the following information to help you get ready for this unique and wonderful experience.

- When you arrive, you will meet your family, this is a good time to go over any questions you may have. For example, How do I arrange my banking, WI-FI passwords, meal times, laundry arrangements, etc.
- You will be given entry/access into the home (house key, and alarm code – if applicable).
- Your homestay family will help you get to the 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. It is important to talk to your homestay family and the homestay coordinator at the College. We are all here to help you adjust and enjoy your experience in Canada.

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 helping make dinner. Feel free to offer your assistance.
- Tell your homestay family about your family by sharing photos or stories. If you like to cook, ask the host family if they would like you to help make dinner.
- Your host family is not a hotel. Please try to participate in the family chores, such as helping with dinner or doing your own laundry.
- Please comply with the family's rules. It is important to communicate with your family when you are going out and to give them a telephone number where they can

reach you. It can be very worrying for a host family if they cannot reach you, they need to know you are safe. Communicating with them is the key to a successful homestay experience.

EMERGENCY

Call 911 for police, fire, or medical attention when an immediate response is required.

The afterhours school emergency number is:
(604-818-6631) or (604-314-1289)

SAFETY

- Write down your homestay family's name and contact information.
- Be aware of the evacuation routes in your home.
- Know where the fire extinguisher is and how to use it.
- Call 911 if you have an emergency that requires immediate help.
- If you have a medical emergency, ensure you are taken to the hospital or call 911.
- We encourage you to come and talk to the Counsellors and the Homestay Coordinator at the College. We are here to support you with any concerns you may have.

The following emergency and medical resources are available for you.

- a) The B.C. children's help line. 310-1234. Or to report a child abuse problem # 1-800-663-9122 *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.*
- b) Kids **Help** Phone at **1-800-668-6868** *Available for counselling and mental health support. Provides kids and teens access to a professional counsellor by phone to discuss their issue or concern 24 hours a day.*
- c) Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre
Resources regarding mental health issues, substance use, medications and healthy living.

HOMESTAY PAYMENT

- You are responsible for paying the homestay fee directly to your homestay parents.

In our efforts to provide the best possible experience for our students and homestay parents, we have carefully evaluated the cost of living associated with different zones. As a result, we will be implementing new rates into two categories based on proximity to Vancouver:

- **Coquitlam: \$1350 CAD** including 3 meals per day.
 - Holiday rate is \$20 CAD
 - Daily rate is **\$45 CAD.**
- **Vancouver/Burnaby: \$1450 CAD** including 3 meals per day.
 - Holiday rate is \$20 CAD
 - Daily rate is **\$48 CAD.**
- Please visit www.coquitlamcollege.com for the published homestay rates.

*A holiday is considered **two weeks or more** where the student is absent from the home. This rate is if the student wishes to hold the room. **

- Homestay families **may not** charge you extra or change the homestay fees from what has been outlined above.

Please be aware the fees outlined above are as of (January 2024) and are subject to change. Visit www.coquitlamcollege.com for the most recent rates.

MOVING OUT OF THE HOMESTAY

- The first month is a trial month and you may move out at the end of this month if you inform the host family and homestay coordinator within the first two weeks. Please call (604) 939-6633 or email homestay@coquitlamcollege.com to inform the homestay Coordinator.
- 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.

- **If you are under the age of 19 years old**, you must provide a letter of permission from your Parents/Guardian and arrange for a new custodian (if the host family signed as your custodian). See the Coquitlam College homestay coordinator for full details on moving out of your homestay.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

The legal drinking age for alcohol in B.C. is 19 years. Drinking underage, excessive drinking, the use of illicit drugs and the use of false identification are strictly prohibited and may result in expulsion from the Program.

CELL PHONE

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

CUSTODIAN

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. Coquitlam College host families may be your custodian, ifrequired.

DAMAGE DEPOSIT

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

EXTRA CHARGES

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

FOOD

Upon arrival, new foods and the time change can be a shock to the system. There are many grocerystores 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.

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

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

MONEY

We recommend using an automatic teller card (bankcards) instead of carrying large amounts of cash.

PETS

Please notify the Homestay Coordinator if you are uncomfortable around your homestay's pets.

SHOWERS OR BATHS

Please keep the length of a shower or bath at a reasonable length so as to share the hot water with the rest of the family.

SMOKING

Smoking is greatly discouraged by the College and is not allowed at the homestay or on the school grounds. The legal age for smoking cigarettes in B.C. is 18 years.

TELEPHONE

You are responsible for any long-distance charges you make on the house line.

Coquitlam College Contact Information and Office Hours

School office hours: **8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday**

516 Brookmere Avenue, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada V3J 1W9

Telephone: 604-939-6633

Homestay Coordinators

Penelope Cruz

Telephone: 604-939-6633

homestay@coquitlamcollege.com

After Hours Emergency

604-818-6631 or 604-314-1289

Please come and visit the homestay coordinator upon arrival.