

Hosting Information, Guidelines & Expectations

Information for prospective Homestay Hosts



Wintec carefully selects its Homestay Hosts for their friendly and caring attitude towards international students, hosts who aim to treat students as 'one of the family' and who have a good standard of accommodation. All hosts receive ongoing support, training, and supervision to ensure that this is an enjoyable experience for students and hosts.

Support, guidelines and best practice processes are based on the Code of Practice which sets out the requirements Wintec and other education providers must meet in order to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all learners. For more information, click [here](#).

Students leave behind their life, home, family, friends and all they know, in order to take up the opportunity of study in NZ. Many will suffer some degree of homesickness and/or culture shock and will need support and guidance to settle and overcome these initial feelings of apprehension. Student can stay for short term placements, or stay long term, becoming a part of the family.

What is Homestay?

Homestay accommodation means that students live with a homestay host or family.

The environment provides a safe, stable and supportive space that allows students to settle well into NZ.

A homestay is more than just a room rental – students live as part of the household and should be included in 'normal' everyday activities, such as meals, family celebrations, religious practices, and sporting events.

Who can be a Homestay Host?

There is no such thing as a 'typical' NZ family, so homestay hosts can vary greatly. We have young families with children, single parent households, retired couples, or single host households. All students are different and so are all of our hosts.

Some homestay hosts have made lifelong friends with their students and other hosts in the community. It is an amazing way to make friends, make connections and learn from others.

Physical Requirements

Homestay homes require:

- A clean & comfortable home
- A bedroom for each student
- Each bedroom should have a bed, study space and storage

- Pillows, bedding & towels
- Access to shared spaces, e.g. lounge, dining, backyard etc
- Laundry access
- Internet access / Wi-Fi



Supportive Requirements

Hosting is more than just providing furniture, food and bedding. Hosts are expected to...

- Be kind, open and & supportive
- make time to welcome them and help them settle
- Be patient and understanding
- Keen to learn about others and their culture
- make time & have energy to include the student

If you are not walking distance to campus, we ask that hosts travel to Wintec with their student by bus at least once so that they know which bus to take and how to navigate the Hamilton bus system.

Homestays are fully catered

Homestay accommodation includes the provision of meals.

Breakfast: Students might need initial support but should have access to the kitchen to make their own breakfast.

Lunch can be made either by yourself or the student – taking leftovers from the night before works well, but discuss this with your student as this varies from home to home and student to student.

A hot **dinner** is often shared and a great time to talk with your student about the day, learn about them, teach them about NZ etc.

Students should have access to snacks / fruit etc.

If students want to have some of their own snacks, show them the local or international supermarkets around Hamilton so they can purchase these.

Special Dietary Issues: Students may require a special diet and this is checked with you prior to confirming a placement.



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Placement Length & Payments

Wintec has long-term programmes and short-term study tours:

Long term placements: These are for a minimum of 4 weeks. This can be extended if you and your student are happy with the arrangement.

Wintec pays host families for the first 4 weeks of placements. If the placement continues past 4 weeks, students will pay host directly.

The weekly homestay fee will remain same amount as set by Wintec for the duration of the student's stay

Short term study tours: Students attend Wintec for a specific study tour which can range from 10 days – 3 months. We want these students to remain with you for the duration of their time at Wintec. Wintec will pay hosts for the duration of their stay.

Homestay Charges

The fees for 2025 are:

Students under 18 years	
	\$360 per week
	\$1,440 for 4 weeks
Students aged 18+ years	
	\$340 per week
	\$1,360 for 4 weeks

Placements

When a student applies for homestay accommodation, we review the database for a good match.

We will ask a few questions to get to know you best, who would suit your home best and who you want to have in the home. Please be honest so we can try and get this right.

Leaving the Homestay

If your student wants to move, or you want your student to leave, you must give each other at least 2 weeks' notice.

Students under 18

All students aged under 18 must follow additional rules (see email attachment).

Students are aware of the rules prior to arrival and have agreed to adhere to them. They will also have regular check-ins with our dedicated under18 student advisor to ensure their safety & wellbeing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do you accept hosts from other nationalities and cultures.

A: Yes! NZ is very multicultural, and we therefore have families of all nationalities registered with us. This can work great for students who might be homesick.

We do require families to speak English as the main language at home. Students are here to improve their English language and don't want to feel excluded from conversation at home.

Q: We have a pet. Is that ok?

A: Many NZ households have pets that live as part of the family. Some students will love this, others might be nervous. We check this with them before we match a student and host family.

Q: Who are your students and when do they arrive?

A: Students who select homestay accommodation are often from China and South/East Asia. We also have students from Europe, Africa, South

America and North America, but many are from Asia.

Our two semesters start in February & July, but students can arrive to study English anytime throughout the year.

Q: Can I have house rules?

A: Yes, we actually recommend this. Reasonable house rules (for example about noise late at night, dinner times, communication etc.) can help set expectations in the home. These should apply to everyone in the home. Please take time to discuss these with your student.

Q: Do I have to supply personal care items for my student?

A: No, students should bring their own shampoo, toothpaste, moisturizer etc, or purchase these when they arrive.

Q: Once my application is complete & I am a registered homestay, how long before I can host?

A: This depends on the time of year - most students arrive in February and July, but we also have students who need homestay accommodation mid-year for various reasons.

Q: If we go to the movies, do I have to pay for my student?

A: No – students should cover their own entertainment / entry-fees. Talk to your student the costs prior to the activity, but taking them along to family activities is often one of the best things about being in homestay.

Contact Details:

For information, advice or questions, please contact us:

Homestay.hosts@wintec.ac.nz