Bellevue University Host Family Program

Information for Hosts

What kind of hosts participate in your program?

Our host families reflect the diversity of our community: some are single, others are married; some are two-career families, others are retired; some have children, others do not. All share an interest in learning about other cultures and a willingness to help international students learn about American culture.

How important is it to be close to the University?

Most of our students will not have cars and do not wish to be in locations that are inaccessible to campus. You need not live within walking distance of campus – although that is certainly desirable. If you do not live close, you will need to provide the student with transportation to/from campus.

I have room for a student in my home, but I don’t have much time to spend with him/her due to my schedule. Would this be a suitable agreement for the Host Family Program?

Most of our students look forward to living in an American home to learn about our culture and practice their English skills. They are eager to interact with their host and become part of the household. These students seek to be more than “boarders” – for most, this type of homestay would not be appropriate.

How long do homestays last?

We have three types of homestay arrangements: 2-3 days upon arrival to the US, 2-3 weeks for special exchange programs, or long-term placement. For long-term placement, students usually plan to spend from three to nine months in a homestay. However, the time frame could vary.
How much rent should we charge and what do we need to provide?

The 2-3 day temporary stay is a volunteer program, no stipend is provided. The 2-3 week special programs usually offer a pro-rated stipend, agreed upon up front. For the long-term stays, hosts receive $600 per month for room/board directly from the student.

All hosts are asked to provide the following:

- Private room, including bed, desk, closet, and dresser
- Use of laundry facilities and bathroom
- Shared living spaces (e.g. T.V. room, kitchen, etc.)
- 2 meals per weekday and 3 meals per weekend
- Household supplies like toilet paper, tissue, laundry soap, and cleaning products
- Internet connection

What are the expectations for household responsibilities?

Cooking of food isn’t required for all meals, but the groceries for meals are required. Inclusion in family meals is encouraged, but students may choose to eat on their own occasionally. Communication around dietary needs and preferences is a must; students will want to try American food, but also need the comforts of home. If you invite a student to dine out with you, be sure to communicate who is paying for their meal up front.

Students are expected to do their own laundry and clean up after themselves. Some instruction and encouragement may be required. Open communication is a must!

Students will be required to provide their own toiletries and hygiene products (i.e. shampoo, body wash, hair products).

Hosts and Students are responsible for establishing house rules for curfew, guests, and behavior up front.

If you have questions about the Host Family Program, please email internationalstudentservices@bellevue.edu.