HOMESTAY PROGRAM

The University of Regina ESL Homestay Program is designed to provide an opportunity for people of different languages and cultures to live together and learn together. It is designed to enhance the English language acquisition of international students and to promote friendship between Canadian families and international students.

You may be interested in providing a home away from home for an international student enrolled in the English as a Second Language Program (ESL) at the University of Regina.

Please do not take students for monetary reasons only.
While it is important that our homestay families are compensated, we have learned through experience that if people are in it only for the money, it simply doesn’t work. Homestay is more than just renting a room — it’s about inviting someone into your life.

Benefits include the opportunity to:
* share Canadian culture and our way of life with an international student,
* introduce your family to another culture,
* form lasting friendships, and
* receive competitive compensation.

Please consider applying for the ESL Homestay Program if you:
- have a willingness and interest in learning about cultures from all over the world;
- have regular time to spend with students placed in your home, usually during meal times and evenings;
- can provide 3 healthy meals a day and snacks and are willing to accommodate students with special dietary requirements and/or allergies;
- have a private, furnished room that has passed a fire inspection (see note below*);
- have the required house accessories such as phone, TV, DVD player, internet, and stereo, and are willing to allow students to use these especially if it is for homework purposes; and
- will ensure English is spoken in the home at all times, and help students with their English pronunciation, grammar, etc.

For more information please visit www.uregina.ca/esl
or email eslhouse@uregina.ca
or call 306-585-4896
Fire Inspection Policy

In order to participate in the Homestay Program, your home must pass a fire inspection performed by the City of Regina’s Fire & Protective Services Dept.

Please contact Regina Fire & Protective Services by sending an email to fast@regina.ca.

Following information is required in order to properly process your requests:

Subject line stating: University Homestay Request
Name:
Phone number:
Address of property to be inspected:

As per the standard policy, there is a wait of 1 to 4 weeks for a response from an Inspector.

Please note the City of Regina charges a per visit fee of $95 (subject to change) for fire inspection.
Homestay Host Responsibilities

1. Have a fire inspection done on your home by the City of Regina's Fire and Protective Services. Note: Only those homes that pass this inspection can participate in the Homestay program. This is a requirement **before** hosting students.

2. Pick up your student at the airport, and drop off them when they depart.

3. Provide a private room with a window, bed, chair, desk, dresser, alarm clock, lamp, and heater (if needed in winter months). The room the student stays in must be the same room inspected/passed by Fire and Protective Services.

4. Provide a house key and take the time to patiently show your student how to open and close the doors, turn on and off the alarm system. (This responsibility is new to most of our students).

5. Provide 3 meals a day and snacks (breakfast – student can prepare his/her own, lunch – student can prepare his/her own, and supper – must not be prepared by student and should be eaten with the family when possible).

6. Acknowledge that your home is their home – treat them as you would your own family members (check to see if their birthday occurs during their stay with you – if so, a small note or card would make your student feel extra special).

7. Help your student adjust to their new life in Regina on a day-to-day-basis:
   - assist with opening a bank account
   - take your student shopping for personal products and **cultural foods**
   - show your student how to get to/from the University of Regina and home by bus – please do this **with** your student – we do not want anyone else to do this for them
   - show your student the nearest mailbox, mall, grocery store, cultural food store, health clinic, etc.

8. Pickup your student at the airport when they arrive – remember to bring a **BIG SIGN WITH THEIR NAME ON IT**. Also, please take your student to the airport and assist with their departure at the end of their stay (if they are going back home at the end of their contract).

9. Discuss your house guidelines with your student upon arrival.

10. Provide a list of important and emergency phone numbers – post on your fridge or in a common area in your home.

11. Spend at least an hour each day with your student speaking English. Although many families use their suppertime to socialize and get caught up on the activities of the day, keep in mind that this may be a very stressful time for your student – keep the atmosphere relaxed.

12. Occasionally do something special with your student. Perhaps going to a movie, a sporting activity, a visit to the family farm, a special treat out to dinner, etc. (2 or 3 special events throughout the semester).

13. Inform the ESL Homestay Program Coordinator if there are any changes to your living environment or family structure. For example: home renovations, family holidays or vacations, new pets, smoking restrictions, number of people living in your home, students from other programs, moving to a new address, etc.

14. Submit a renewed Criminal Record Check (CRC) every three years for each person living in the home, 18 years and older. If a person residing in the home reaches the age of 18, he/she is then required to submit a CRC to the ESL Homestay Office immediately. Also, should another person(s), 18 or older, move into the home, he/she is required to submit a CRC to the ESL Homestay Office immediately.

15. Request another fire inspection if your home has undergone renovations since the most recently passed fire inspection. This is especially important if the renovations altered the room where the student resides or other living areas.

16. Keep in touch with the ESL Homestay Program Coordinator with any issues or problems throughout each semester you are hosting your student.
CHECKLIST

☐ Contact the City of Regina Fire & Protective Services Dept. to arrange for a fire inspection of your home. Email FAST@regina.ca and state you need a fire inspection for the U of R’s Homestay program; provide your name, address and phone number. The City of Regina charges a per visit fee of $95 (subject to change) for fire inspection.

☐ Three letters of reference with phone numbers: two may be character references from friends / non-family members who have known you for approximately 5 years; the third should be from your employer or the pastor of your church. They can be mailed to the ESL office to the attention of the ESL Homestay Program Coordinator or they can be emailed to eslhouse@uregina.ca

☐ A recent picture of you and the other members of the household living in the same home, a picture of your house, and of the student room.

☐ Original Criminal Record Check (CRC): Each person 18 years of age or older, living in the home is required to submit a CRC from the Regina Police Service. Please contact the police service directly. When inquiring, state that you are applying for the ESL Homestay Program (not a volunteer position). Your cost for the CRC is about $45.00 per person and the originals must be submitted to the ESL Homestay Program Coordinator. Please be advised that the record check process has changed and it may take longer, so please begin this process as soon as possible. Copies of the CRC or CRC’s addressed to other organizations are not acceptable.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _______________________________ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): ______________________

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male Home Phone: _______________________________

Address: __________________________________________ Postal Code: _________________

Email: ____________________________________ Secondary Email: ______________________

Occupation: __________________________ Employer: _____________________________

Work Phone: ___________________ ☐ ok to call Cell phone: _______________________

Work Schedule: ________________________________

Social Insurance Number: ____________________________(Required for payment purpose)

FAMILY INFORMATION

Partner name (if applicable): __________________ Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): ______________________

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male Work phone: ___________________________ Cell phone: ______________________

Occupation: ___________________________ Employer: ___________________________

Work Schedule: ________________________________

Names of other people living in the home who are not listed above:

**Please note: If you have other students living with you from another school, please include them here too.

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<th>Full Name</th>
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<th>Relationship</th>
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CONFLICT OF INTEREST
To the best of your knowledge, do you or a closely associated person have a personal interest in any entity within university that could affect the hosting relationship with a student?  □ Yes (please describe below)  □ No
Name of Person ___________________________  Relationship with you ___________________________  Position at University ___________________________

BACKGROUND
Countries visited: __________________________________________________________
Languages other than English spoken: ____________________________________________
Have you ever hosted or billeted a student?  Y  N  If yes, name/date of program: ___________________________________________
Have you applied for, or been a U of R Homestay host in the past?  Y  N  If yes, when? ___________________________
Why do you want to be a homestay host? __________________________________________

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION
Please describe your home (size, style, levels, etc.)
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Number of bedrooms in the house: _____ Number of bathrooms: ____ Location of student’s room in home: ________
How many student rooms are available? ________ Would you prefer a male or female student or either? ________
Furnishings in the student’s room (size of bed, desk, lamp, etc.): __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Note: Each student room must pass a fire inspection.

Additional amenities available to the student:
□ In-room telephone  □ Computer  □ Internet  □ TV  □ DVD  □ Cable TV  □ Bicycle
□ Pool  □ Exercise equipment  □ Musical Instruments
Do you have another other amenities available to the student (musical instruments, games, etc)? __________________________

Pets (number/type/names): _____________________________________________________

Does anyone in your household smoke?  Y  N  Do you have allergies or a strong aversion to smoke?  Y  N
Is smoking permitted in your home?  Y  N  Is smoking permitted outside your home?  Y  N
Do you have a smoke alarm installed in your house? ________ Does your house have an emergency fire procedure? ________
Describe your household (i.e. busy, quiet): __________________________________________

Ver Feb 2015
List your family’s hobbies and activities (We try to match based on common interests) ___________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What foods does your family regularly eat? ________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Does your family have any special dietary practices? _____________________________________________________________

Which dietary requirements you are willing to accommodate:  
☐ Lactose Intolerant  ☐ Gluten Intolerant  ☐ Seafood/Fish Allergy  
☐ No Pork  ☐ Vegetarian  ☐ Vegan  ☐ Nut Allergy

Travel time to the U of R from your home:  
☐ Walking distance from your home to the bus stop _____ minutes
☐ Take Bus Route #1: _____ for _____ minutes  ☐ Transfers at (location):________________________________________
☐ Take Bus Route #2 _____ for _____ minutes

For Bus route details: call 777-7433 or visit www.reginatransit.com

Are you willing to provide periodic transportation for your homestay student? ________________________________

By signing this form, I agree that I have read the Homestay Host Responsibilities and that I agree to abide by them. I agree that all information provided is accurate.

Signature___________________________________ Date: ______________________________

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Homestay Program Coordinator, ESL
SR114, University of Regina
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK  S4S 0A2
Fax: 306-585-4971

For questions call: 306-585-4896 or email: eslhouse@uregina.ca

For ESL Office only: Date received application______________ Signature: ______________________________