



Upper Madison College

100 Upper Madison Ave. Toronto, Ontario, M2N 5K1, Canada

HOMESTAY

HOMESTAY GUIDE

By keeping your expectations reasonable – and clear – you will better enjoy the homestay experience.

Some misconceptions that are common:

Canada is glamorous and everyone is rich – just like in Hollywood movies.

In fact, you will probably be living an ordinary life with a family that is neither rich nor poor. It probably, for example, won't have a maid to look after your needs.

Canadian families are all white and headed by a mother and father.

In fact, Canada is quite multicultural and as we've said the nature of families is quite varied.

The homestay will be like a hotel.

In fact, you will have your own room but likely be sharing all the other facilities.

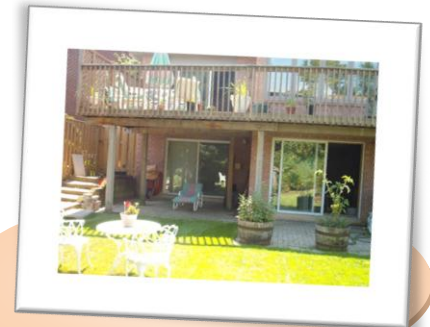
Meals will be like a restaurant. You will have a large breakfast with a convenient choice; several options for lunch; and a full-course dinner, with soup and dessert.
In fact, meals tend to be hurried and often quite casual.

You will be the only homestay student in the household.
In fact, often more than one student will be living with the family. That may be an advantage, as it gives you somebody with whom to share your experience.

The homestay is a convenient stop to wait while you search for another place to stay. In fact, that is highly unfair to the homestay family who could

have taken another student for the full term. It also cheats yourself, because homestay is an important part of the experience of learning a new language and culture.

Some students think that after homestay they will be able to speak English like a native. English is a very complex language and speaking it well takes considerable time. But rest assured, you will improve your English dramatically.



MEALS

Most homestay hosts provide breakfast and dinner. Usually, you can make a lunch to take to school. The food will be very different from what you are accustomed to and the manner of eating will probably be as well.

During the school / work week, breakfasts are informal, as everybody quickly eats something before rushing out the door. Most students take a bag lunch – a sandwich, or perhaps some leftovers in a plastic container, along with a drink, and fruit or cookies. Most likely, you will prepare your own lunch.





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Dinner will be more like what you are accustomed to, in the sense that everybody tries to eat together and a parent usually cooks. But it's probably at a much earlier hour and sometimes rushed, because family members may have events to attend in the evening. Again, we stress it's your responsibility to be home for dinner on time. Don't expect the mother to be patiently waiting, with the food still warm, if you arrive two hours later. Instead, you will have to reheat any leftovers or make a sandwich.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

1. Clean your own room. Your room is your private space in your house. Your host family will give you clean sheets but they are not responsible for cleaning your room.
2. Doing your own laundry. Some host family will do your laundry for you, but your host family will tell you how and when they do laundry.
3. Turn off all the lights when you leave a room.
4. Limit your showers and baths to no more than 20 minutes.
5. Lock all windows and doors wherever you leave the house. Homestay family will give your own house key, which means that your homestay family trust you. Do not give your key to anyone else. If you lost your key, the homestay family might change main key.
6. Please do not give you homestay house phone number to people you just meet or people you do not know well.
7. You are responsible for paying for long distance calls.

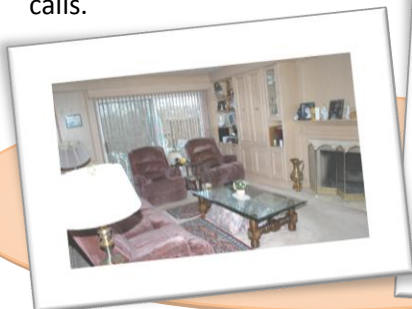
8. Do not be on the phone too long. Respect other members in the house and be courteous.
9. Do not use numbers that begin with 1-900 or 1-976. These can cost up to \$10 / min.
10. Ask your host family about inviting friends over. Different host families have different rules.



APPLY FOR CHANGING HOMESTAY

Once you have some problem with your homestay family and would like to change your homestay, you should report it to the homestay coordinator or receptionist as soon as possible.

1. After 5 days of your arriving, it is not possible to apply for changing homestay family. We assume that every students can easily find any critical problems in several days of staying.
2. Uncomfortable can not be a reason for changing homestay. Living with totally new family can cause tension to you but it happens every international students during their first month in Canada.
3. If you can find some differences between the family and homestay information you received in your country, it can be a good reason for applying to another homestay. For example no children, no pets, smoking, and so on.
4. If the school approved your homestay changing application, the homestay coordinator will find a new homestay family for you in three days from the approval.



UMC Homestay Application Form



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Please provide the following information to help in your placement with a suitable homestay host. Be sure to answer honestly with as much detail as possible. Every attempt will be made to meet as many of your preferences as possible, but it is rarely possible to match all of your preferences exactly.

Personal Details			
Family Name		Given Name(s)	
Preferred Name		Date of Birth	day month year
Nationality		Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Email			
Address			
City	Province	Country	Postal Code
Telephone (Home)		Telephone (Cell)	
Course Start	day month year	Course Name	
What is your current level of English? <input type="checkbox"/> non-speaker <input type="checkbox"/> beginner <input type="checkbox"/> intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> advanced			
Accommodation Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Homestay (3meals/Single bed room)		<input type="checkbox"/> Homestay (3meals/Double bed room)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homestay (2meals/Single bed room)		<input type="checkbox"/> Homestay (2meals/Double bed room)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Room Only (Single bed room)		<input type="checkbox"/> Room Only (Double bed room)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Seneca Residence		
Accommodation Start Date		day month year	Accommodation Finish Date
			(min. 4 weeks) _____ wks
Medical Insurance Type (required)			
Arrival Details			
Arrival Date		day month year	Arrival Time
Flight Number			
Please provide the name and telephone number of the person collecting you at the airport.			
Name:		Phone Number:	
Student Request			
Do you prefer a family		<input type="checkbox"/> no preference <input type="checkbox"/> a single person <input type="checkbox"/> a couple <input type="checkbox"/> other students	
		<input type="checkbox"/> adult(s) with infants <input type="checkbox"/> adult(s) with children age 6 to 12	
		<input type="checkbox"/> adult(s) with children 13 or older	
Can you live with pets?		Are you vegetarian?	
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Do you smoke?		If yes, are you willing to live in a non-smoking home?	
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Do you have any other dietary requirements?			
Do you have any allergies or health problems we should be aware of?			
Religion		Hobbies/Interests	
How would you describe your personality?		<input type="checkbox"/> quiet <input type="checkbox"/> shy <input type="checkbox"/> outgoing <input type="checkbox"/> cheerful <input type="checkbox"/> active <input type="checkbox"/> aggressive	
		<input type="checkbox"/> a leader <input type="checkbox"/> a follower <input type="checkbox"/> studious <input type="checkbox"/> independent <input type="checkbox"/> dependent	
Do you have any other requirements?			

UMC agrees to place the student in suitable homestay care. Regular checks are made to ensure that both student and host family are compatible. These checks are made in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students and results are available on request. Students must agree to abide by the rules of the homestay agents, host family and school. While attending high school, students must stay in homestay accommodation and not own a motor vehicle. Refunds of accommodation will be followed the homestay fee refund policy.

Name in Full: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____