



Information for Homestay Hosts

This leaflet has been produced to help you understand what it means to be a homestay host and what you can expect out of the experience, but also what is expected of you. We hope you find the following information helpful in making your decision to become a homestay host.

What is Homestay Accommodation?

A homestay accommodation is perfect if you have a spare room and a caring nature. You could host an international student for a short stay of just 2 weeks or up to a full year. It's an exciting opportunity to welcome a new culture into your home, give a student a truly authentic experience - and learn a lot along the way, too!

At Itchen College, we truly value the wonderful hosts who welcome our international students into their homes. You're offering so much more than a place to stay - you're giving them a chance to experience everyday English life, culture, and language in the best possible way.

We carry out a simple yearly check to ensure everything's in place and that the necessary documents are up to date (more on that below) as well as offering 24/7 support.

Thinking of Becoming a Host?

If you're warm, welcoming, and curious about other cultures, you might be the perfect homestay host! We're looking for people who are caring, open-minded, supportive, and ready to share their home with kindness and enthusiasm.

If this sounds like you, then homestay hosting may be for you! We ask that you take an interest in your student as if they were your own child, caring for their welfare and attendance. You must respect confidentiality, whereby you will not disclose any student's personal information, health or other issues to anyone not related to Itchen College (excluding emergency/medical services).

What do you need to provide?

Bedroom: The student's room should be clean, well-decorated, and comfortable - somewhere they can truly feel at home. It should include a single bed, storage (like a wardrobe or drawers), and a desk and chair or access to a suitable study area in the home.

To support their wellbeing and studies, the room should also have:

- Internet access
- Good lighting
- Ventilation (such as an opening window)
- Enough floor space to move around comfortably
- Central heating (or a suitable alternative)

Meals: Homestay is offered on a half-board basis - breakfast and dinner on weekdays, plus lunch on weekends and during Easter/Christmas holidays. We just ask that students have a bit of kitchen space for their lunch ingredients.

Sometimes, students may have dietary requirements due to allergies or religious reasons. If that's the case, we'll always check with you first to make sure you're happy to accommodate them. In most cases, a small weekly supplement is provided to support this.

Facilities:

- **Laundry** - We ask our hosts provide your student with fresh towels and bed linen weekly, and let them know when wash day is for both their linens and personal clothes. You can decide if you'd like your student to do their own laundry, but kindly make this clear when they arrive.
- **Bathroom** - Students need private access to bathroom facilities, with a lock on the door. If you have a busy household, it's a good idea to agree on bathroom times. We recommend informing your students of maximum time they can spend in the shower.
- **Kitchen** - Students should have access to communal areas, including the kitchen, to prepare and enjoy their meals as needed. It's important to establish clear guidelines for kitchen use and what appliances they can use. Please provide instructions on how to operate any appliances they are permitted to use. Additionally, students will need space to store their lunch ingredients, so please ensure there is room in both a cupboard and the fridge for their use.
- **Keys** - Students should be given their own door key allowing them free access to your home.
- **Communal Areas** - We ask that host families allow their students to feel at home and welcome to use communal areas of the house such as the lounge. It is also asked that hosts allow students to take part in family activities where appropriate and treat their student as a member of the family, conversing in English with them as much as possible.

Good to Know!

Payment: The rate of pay for the academic year 2025-2026 will be rising to £680 per student per month. Should your student have any dietary requirements, you will receive a supplement of £20 per week to cover extra costs of specialty foods. If your student stays with you over the Christmas or Easter period, you will receive an extra £10 for each weekday. The College Finance Department will pay directly into your account, every 4 weeks.

Tax: Under the government's "Rent a Room Scheme", you are legally entitled to earn up to £7,500 in rental income per year before you have to start paying tax. This allowance applies to revenue made from your home. If you earn more than this amount, you will need to declare your earnings and complete the appropriate tax form.

(Correct at time of print 17/4/25. You are advised to check if this figure is still current)

If a student is studying full time they will not be required to pay Council Tax. The International School Office will be able to provide a letter confirming this, if necessary.

Queries

Should you have any questions with regards to becoming a homestay host, please get in touch with the International Department and we will be happy to assist.

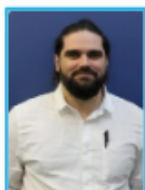
@: international@itchen.ac.uk

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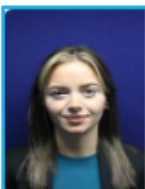
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