



Johnson County Community College

JCCC Homestay Program



Information and Application for Hosts

Introduction

Each year, JCCC welcomes hundreds of international students to its campus. The International and Immigrant Student Services (IISS) at JCCC provides area residents like you with the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with these men and women from around the world through participation in the JCCC Homestay Program. A homestay is a living arrangement in which an international student resides in a host's home as a member of the family.

A true appreciation is gained of how people live and view the world through the homestay experience. This intercultural learning is invaluable and can rarely be achieved without living abroad. By opening your home and your heart to an international student, you also have the unique opportunity to see your own culture through someone else's eyes. If you have children in your home, participation in a homestay will allow them to gain an early understanding of cultural differences, an exposure to other lifestyles and an appreciation of diversity. In many ways a greater understanding of the world can result from the experience of hosting an international student.

Students who apply to the JCCC Homestay Program are interested in forming new friendships and learning firsthand about American culture and lifestyle. Although student participants pay a monthly stipend to their host/host family to cover the cost of room and board, a homestay is much more than the rental of a room in someone's home. Students typically choose a homestay over other housing options because it provides them with the opportunity to truly immerse themselves in American life, perfect their English language skills and most importantly to become part of an American family.

The IISS at JCCC takes pride in the potential its Homestay Program holds for increasing global understanding and for creating lifelong friendships between international students and residents in our community. Enclosed in this brochure is material that will inform you about JCCC's Homestay Program. If after reviewing the information you are interested in hosting a student or of learning more about the program, please complete the application in the back of the brochure and return it to JCCC's IISS. Thank you for your interest in welcoming the world into your home through JCCC's Homestay Program.

The Homestay Student

Students who participate in JCCC's Homestay Program come from countries around the world. Typically, they are adults ranging in age from 18 to 25 who have graduated from secondary school with strong academic credentials. While most speak and comprehend English well, some students may have lower levels of English proficiency. Typically about one-third of the students in the Homestay Program are attending JCCC on scholarships they were awarded through U.S. government exchange programs. The remaining portion of students in the program come on their own to study in the U.S. Not all students participating in a homestay are new to the country. Each year several students who apply to the program have transferred to JCCC from local area colleges or from colleges in other parts of the United States.

Students most suited for a homestay are those who are mature, adaptable and considerate and who have a willingness to share their culture and traditions with others. Because a homestay requires sharing space with others, it is also important that students interested in this form of living arrangement be willing to partake in shared household duties and follow certain established rules within the family.

Aware that not all students possess the disposition and attitude required to successfully reside with a host family, IISS does not accept into its Homestay Program all students who apply. In order to be considered for participation in the Homestay Program, interested students are required to complete an application, write a personal letter of introduction and also be interviewed by the Homestay Program coordinator to assess their suitability for the program.

The Homestay Host

Hosts come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds which parallel the diversity found in the U.S. Differences in family composition is also reflected in the Homestay Program as hosts include:

- Couples with no children
- Families with young children and/or teenagers
- Retired couples
- Divorced parents with children
- Blended families (couples with children from previous marriages)
- Widowed, divorced or single individuals

Although our hosts vary in ethnic heritage and family composition, what they all share in common is a strong interest in international students. JCCC's Homestay Program looks for hosts/host families who are genuinely interested in sharing their lifestyle in a positive and a mutually rewarding way with an international student. Individuals who are most suited to serve as homestay hosts are those who:

- Have a sincere interest in international exchange
- Are open-minded, empathetic, patient and flexible
- Keep open the lines of communication with a student
- Are accepting of different customs and ways of doing things
- Have a stable home life
- Are willing to share and spend time with a student
- Are capable of expressing clearly their expectations

What Hosts Provide

Homestay hosts are expected to provide a nurturing and supportive home away from home to their student. As much as possible, every effort should be made to integrate the student in one's household by participating in shared activities together such as shopping, visiting local sites and conversing on a daily basis. Because one of the reasons students participate in a homestay is to perfect their English language skills, hosts/host families are expected to converse in English in the home.

In terms of tangible items, hosts are expected to provide students with:

- A private furnished room with study area
- Linens and towels
- Meals, if desired
- Kitchen access as arranged with the host (student is responsible for clean up)
- Access to laundry facilities including detergent
- Telephone access for local calls
- Television and possibly computer privileges

Students are responsible for their own personal expenses such as:

- Toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
- Snack foods
- All school-related fees
- Health insurance
- All car maintenance fees and gas
- Entertainment fees
- Long-distance calls

Host Stipend

Homestay hosts receive a monthly stipend from the student to cover the additional expenses they incur by adding a member to their household. The JCCC Homestay Program does not set a specific rate for a homestay. In the case of students who come to study at JCCC on their own, the amount of the monthly stipend is agreed upon by the student and host/host family. Typically, the cost ranges from \$300 to \$450 per month. For international students who attend JCCC through U.S. government-sponsored scholarship programs, the stipend is a set amount and varies depending on the funding organization. Persons should contact the JCCC Homestay Program coordinator if they are interested in learning more about hosting a student who is attending JCCC on a full scholarship.

JCCC's Homestay Program looks for hosts/host families who are genuinely interested in sharing their lifestyle in a positive and a mutually rewarding way. Although hosts are paid a stipend to cover the cost of providing room and board, those wishing to host a student primarily for the monetary benefits they will reap should not apply to the Homestay Program as these motives quickly become evident to the student and are counter to the program's primary goal of providing a safe, secure, nurturing and welcoming environment in which a student can learn and grow.

Length of Stay

Homestay placements vary depending on the preference of the hosts and the need of the student. Placements are usually arranged for one semester. One month before the end of the semester, the Homestay Program coordinator contacts the hosts and the student to determine whether there is an interest in extending the homestay into a second semester. This is done to ensure that neither the host nor the student feels pressured into a long-term placement. The student and hosts must both be in agreement for the placement to be extended.

If a Problem Arises within a Homestay

The Homestay Program coordinator conducts orientation sessions for hosts and students to prepare them for participation in a homestay and also has regular contact with them throughout the duration of the homestay to ensure that the experience of sharing a home is an enjoyable one. As with any family, small annoyances or conflict can occur. If a problem arises between the student and the host, they are encouraged to first speak with one another in an effort to overcome the issue. Most conflicts result from misunderstandings and can be resolved through open communication. If a problem persists in spite of the student and host discussing the issue together or if a host family member feels uncomfortable dealing with an issue involving a student, the coordinator should be contacted and mediation will be provided. Should a conflict not be able to be resolved, a reassignment to a different host will be made.

Early Withdrawal from a Homestay

Hosts typically expect that students will remain in their home until the end of the semester. Should a student decide to leave before this time, he/she is required to give two weeks advance notice to the host/host family and the coordinator before moving out. Students who fail to do so will be responsible for paying two weeks' worth of stipend to their hosts/host family. Waivers of the two-week departure notice will be at the discretion of the coordinator.

Vacation Policy

Students who stay for more than one semester with their host/host family are not required to pay for the days they are away from their homestay during the winter break or the summer semester as long as they inform their host one month in advance of their departure. If a student is away for fewer than two weeks, there is no reduction in the monthly stipend.

Homestay Application Procedure

If you are interested in hosting a student, please complete the host application found at the back of this brochure and return it to JCCC's International and Immigrant Student Services (IISS). Once your application is received, it will be reviewed carefully by the Homestay Program coordinator in order to identify the type of activities and hobbies you and your family enjoy and also to find out more about the type of student you would be interested in hosting. The homestay coordinator will then contact you to arrange a home visit. This meeting will allow the homestay coordinator to provide you and your family with additional information about the program and also to answer any questions you might have about the Homestay Program. The home visit also provides the coordinator an opportunity to learn more about you, view your home and assess your suitability to serve as a homestay host/host family.

After meeting with the coordinator, your application will be placed on file. Once a prospective match is found, the coordinator will contact you to verify that you are still able and interested in hosting. If so, the coordinator will provide you with information about the student who is seeking a homestay. If after speaking with the coordinator you are interested in learning more about the student, a meeting will be arranged between you and the prospective homestay student. In the case of student applicants who have not yet arrived in the U.S., contact would be made between you and the prospective homestay student by phone or through e-mail.

Once you have made contact with the student applicant, the coordinator will speak with you to find out if you accept or decline placement of the student. Should you decline, your application will remain on file until another prospective match is identified.

A homestay may begin at any time. August and January, however, are the two months of the year the greatest number of students start a homestay.



Expectations of Hosts

A large part of the success of a homestay rests on both the student and the host being well informed of the responsibilities they undertake when they choose to participate in a homestay. Below is a list of expectations you should be prepared to meet in order to optimize the success of the homestay experience. It is followed by our program expectations of students.

General Behavior and Attitudes

- Treat your student like a member of the family and provide full use of the household including telephone, television, common living areas and possibly the computer.
- Invite your student to participate in family activities and outings.
- Orient your student to the Kansas City area, to the neighborhood and to local services such as banks, post offices, convenience stores etc.
- Help your student to learn about U.S. culture.
- Provide an English language environment to help further develop your student's language skills.
- Inform your student of the rules and expectations within your home. Written guidelines are very helpful.
- Respect the rights, privacy, religious and political beliefs of your student.
- Familiarize your student with the use of household appliances.

Provisions within the Host's Home

- Provide your student with his/her own room which includes bed, dresser, desk, lamp and closet space.
- Provide linens and towels.
- Provide access to laundry facilities and cleaning supplies.
- In the case of a traditional homestay, provide meals for the student. Typically this means the student is provided with food items to make his/her own breakfast and lunch. Evening meals are usually prepared by a family member. In a traditional homestay, students are encouraged to help with meal planning and preparation.
- In the case of a nontraditional homestay where meals are not provided, allow the student to have full access to the kitchen so he/she may cook his/her own meals.

Homestay Payment

- Collect a monthly stipend within a few days of the student moving into your home.
- Collect a stipend from the student on the agreed upon date each month.
- Issue a receipt to the student for payment each month. Payment is to be made in cash.
- Advise the homestay coordinator if your student does not make the stipend payment on time.

Expectations of Students

General Behavior and Attitude

- Communicate with the host/host family. Do not hesitate to ask questions.
- Work hard to adapt to your new home and U.S. culture.
- Show appreciation for what your host/host family does for you.
- Spend time with your hosts and participate in family activities and outings.
- Be respectful and courteous of your host family members and their home. This includes keeping your bedroom and bathroom clean, letting your hosts know if you will not be in for dinner or you will be late coming in at night, being careful of how much noise you make when others are sleeping, learning the “house rules” of your homestay, etc.
- Respect the rights, privacy, religious and political beliefs of each member of the household.
- Ask your hosts to explain to you their “house rules” within a few days of moving into their home.
- Do not invite any visitors or friends over without first seeking permission from your hosts.

Specific Behaviors

- Always use calling cards when making international calls from your hosts' home phone.
- Never borrow your host's/host family's car.
- Do not consume alcohol unless you are over the age of 21 and check with your hosts whether they permit you to drink alcoholic beverages in their home if you are of legal age.
- Do not smoke in your host's/family's home unless they permit you to do so.
- Use of any form of recreational drug is illegal and will result in immediate expulsion from your homestay if you engage in this behavior.
- Do not engage in any type of paid employment that violates the laws governing your visa type.

Household Issues

- Ask how to operate household appliances before using them.
- Offer to help out with general household chores such as meal preparation and cleanup, and tidying up after you have used areas that are shared with family, etc.
- Be careful about use of water, electricity, gas, etc. Limit showers to 10 minutes; turn off lights when leaving a room and turn off TVs and computers when not in use.

Homestay Payment

- Be responsible for paying your monthly stipend to your host in full and on time each month. Make the first payment of your stipend within a few days of moving into your homestay. Then, pay regularly on the agreed upon date each month. Failure to pay your stipend on time will result in holds being placed on your JCCC account which will prevent you from getting your transcripts and enrolling in new classes.
- Pay your monthly stipend in cash to your hosts. Ask that they provide you with a written receipt of each payment you make to them.

International and Immigrants Student Services is pleased to offer its Homestay Program to international students enrolled at JCCC. In an effort to make the best possible match between host and student applicants, it is important that this application be filled out as accurately as possible.

Please sign and return the completed application to:

Johnson County Community College
International and Immigrants Student Services
12345 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS
66210-1299

If you require any additional information please contact the JCCC Homestay Program coordinator at 913-469-7682 or send e-mail to iiss@jccc.edu.

Today's date: ____/____/____ Desired placement date: ____/____/____
month/day/year month/day/year

Gender preference: Male Female No preference

HOST INFORMATION

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr.

Name: First _____ Last _____

Occupation: _____

Date of birth: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Home phone #: _____

Marital status of hosts: Married Separated Divorced Single Widowed Common law Other

Desired type of placement: Semester Year Month Holiday Other

Stipend range expected: \$300-350 \$350-400 \$400-450 \$450-500
 \$500-550 \$550-600 Other: _____

OTHER HOUSEHOLD FAMILY MEMBERS

(Please list anyone who lives in your home full time or part time. This includes college-aged children, grandparents etc.)

First Name	Last name	Occupation	Relationship	Age	Live at Home
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

ACCOMMODATIONS

Are you able to provide the student with his/her own room? Yes No

Will the student be sharing a bathroom with anyone? Yes No If yes, with whom? _____

Will the student be expected to purchase his/her own cleaning supplies, toilet tissue, etc.? Yes No

Are you able to provide the student with a quiet study area in your home? Yes No

Will the student have access to laundry facilities? Yes No

Will the student be expected to purchase his/her own laundry supplies? Yes No

Will the student be expected to wash his/her laundry separate from your/your family's laundry? Yes No

May the student smoke in your house? Yes No If no, would you permit smoking outside of your home? Yes No

Will the student be expected to regularly share meals with you/your family? Yes No

Will the student be allowed to use the kitchen to cook personal food? Yes No

Would you accept a student with dietary restrictions (medical, religious, vegetarian, allergies)? Yes No

Do any members of your family follow particular diets? Yes No If yes, Vegetarian Diabetic Kosher Other

Would you deny placement of a student from any specific country? Yes No If yes, which one(s)? _____

Do you have pets? Yes No If so, which kind? _____

TRANSPORTATION

How far do you live from campus? _____

Is your home close to a bus line? Yes No Don't know

Are you able to offer transportation assistance? Yes No If yes, how often? Regularly Occasionally

Are you willing to help your student in finding a car to buy? Yes No

Are you willing to help your student apply for a driver's license? Yes No

LIFESTYLE

What is your family's religious affiliation, if any? _____

How frequently do you attend religious services? Never Occasionally Monthly Weekly
 More than once a week

If you attend religious services, would you expect a student to attend with you? Yes No

Do you prefer a student of a particular religious affiliation? Yes No If so, which one? _____

Would you deny placement of a student of a particular religious affiliation? Yes No

If yes, which one(s): _____

Does the student's ability to speak conversational English matter? Yes No

Are any languages spoken in the home other than English? Yes No If yes, which one(s): _____

Do you prefer a student who speaks a specific language? Yes No If yes, which one(s): _____

Do any members of your household smoke? Yes No Infrequently Only outside the house

Does any member of your household have any physical or psychological condition that a student should know about?

If so, please explain _____

EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL INTEREST

Have you ever hosted in your home a person from another country? Yes No

If yes, please explain. _____

Have you ever traveled to another country? Yes No

If yes, please explain. _____

Why do you wish to host an international student? _____

Please describe the type of activities and hobbies that you and/or your family enjoy: _____

What types of sites and experiences do you wish to share with the student you host? _____

How are household duties shared? (Please discuss who performs chores such as house cleaning, meal preparation and cleanup, laundry etc.)

What responsibilities/chores would you expect a student to perform? _____

How did you learn about JCCC's Homestay Program? _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ISSUES FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Do you have any expectations or rules that the student should know about in advance?

Are there any specific issues you would like the Homestay Program coordinator to discuss with a prospective student?

HOST/HOST FAMILY SCREENING INFORMATION

In an attempt to ensure that students and hosts participating in the Homestay Program are placed in safe environments where positive interactions and relationships are formed, the JCCC Homestay Program asks that host applicants complete the information found in this section. Based on student criteria, declining to answer these questions or how these questions are answered may result in a match not being made between a host applicant and a homestay student.

Has any person living in your household ever been convicted for any offense other than a minor traffic violation? (Please note that a DUI conviction is not considered a traffic violation.) Yes No

Has the Department of Children Services (or its equivalent) ever made a finding against a member of your household? Yes No

Does anyone in your household have a history of alcohol, drug or sexual abuse? Yes No

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, please provide further information. _____

Please list three references who have known you (and members of your household if applicable) for at least one year.

Reference name	Relationship to reference	Phone number	Known for how long?
Reference name	Relationship to reference	Phone number	Known for how long?
Reference name	Relationship to reference	Phone number	Known for how long?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please note any additional information that may aid the JCCC Homestay coordinator in arranging an optimal placement.

HOMESTAY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

By signing below, I/we certify that:

- The information I/we have provided in this application is true and correct.
- I/we have fully familiarized myself/ourselves with the JCCC Homestay Program by reading all the information contained in the attached JCCC Homestay Program brochure for hosts.
- I/we understand that the application process will include a home visit, an interview conducted by the JCCC Homestay Program coordinator and inquiries about me and members of my household, if applicable.
- I/we have read and understand the Expectations of Hosts section contained in this brochure and I/we agree to abide by the code of conduct it describes when hosting a student.

Host Signature

Date

2nd Host Signature (if applicable)

Date



Johnson County Community College
International and Immigrant Student Services
12345 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS
USA
66210-1299
913-469-7682