

Homestay Policy

The following information is provided to clarify the policies of the Niagara College International Homestay Program.

Welcome to the Niagara College Homestay Program. The program is designed to assist International Students during their educational experience in Canada. Living with a Homestay Family will allow students to gain practice with the English language as well as learn Canadian culture through experience.

Cost of Homestay

On-arrival – 1 st and last months' due	\$1500	Minimum 2 months stay; no refunds. Due on arrival, no later than within 3 days of arriving.
Monthly fee on 1 st of each month	\$ 750	Provide 30 days' notice from the 1 st of the month before leaving. No refund of last month's fee.
Additional days spent in home	\$25/day	Applies to both arrival and departure.

- Homestay fees are Payment can be arranged in advance with your host by wire transfer or paid at arrival in cash or after opening a Canadian bank account. Students are responsible for notifying and working with the Homestay in advance if payment may be delayed.
- The homestay fee includes: a private furnished bedroom, with storage for your belongings and unlimited internet. We encourage students to limit internet use. Instead, practice English with those in your Homestay.
- Your meals are included in your homestay fee. You can expect to have three meals each day. You should plan to prepare your own breakfast and lunch as is common in Canada. If there are special foods, snacks or drinks you like, plan to purchase them yourself.
- The full monthly fee is due for each month including those when a student takes a vacation, chooses to be away from the homestay or chooses to depart before the full month finishes.
- You must give your homestay family 30 days from the 1st of the month notice before leaving your homestay. For example, to leave on Dec. 20th, inform your Homestay on Nov. 1st.
- If you and your host family agree to make a change to the homestay policy, you must consult with an International Housing Advisor for authorization.
- We recommend that moving only take place between terms.
- **Any concerns about your homestay experience should be discussed** with the International Housing Advisor immediately to consider problem solving options.

Pre-arrival Homestay Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation must be received by email at housing@niagaracollege.ca Pay cancellation fees directly to the host family in Canadian currency, no later than 3 days past the Expected Date of Arrival.

<u>Cancellation Period</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee</u>
30 days before arrival	no charge
14 days or less before arrival	\$450 to host
On expected date of arrival or after	\$750 to host

- If notice of cancellation is not received, or the cancellation fee is not paid in a timely manner, the fee will be assessed to your student account based on the above. The cancellation fee will be considered when assessing refunds to the student's account.

Changing Homestay Families

There are procedures in place to assist with difficult situations. Although we do not encourage changes and only a very small number of students require a change in homestay, the following guidelines apply:

- If you have concerns about your homestay or have considered moving, you must talk with the International Housing Advisor to discuss problem solving and the options available.
- Although there is no charge for the first homestay placement, homestay changes after your first placement will require a \$100 fee.
- You must give your homestay family 30 days' notice from the 1st of the month when you plan to leave —your last month fee will apply to the last month you are with your homestay. **You must give 30 days' notice from the 1st of the month. There is no refund of the last month's fee.**
- If it is deemed there is a health or safety issue, the student will be moved without delay or penalty.

In order to ensure that the program runs efficiently and effectively, each family is visited and interviewed by the International Housing Advisor. The International Housing Advisor is available at your campus to assist you with any questions or concerns regarding your housing needs. They can also be reached at housing@niagaracollege.ca