ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE@UVIC

University of Victoria

UVIC HOMESTAY

Student Information Sheet

Please read the following Homestay information. If you require further information about UVic Homestay, please contact our office at HomestaySupport@uvic.ca

All students should review the Homestay Student Guidelines document as it outlines your responsibilities while living with a Canadian family.

YOUR CONTRACT

- **Please review your placement details carefully; the Placement Contract you received stipulates your commitment to the homestay family for the hosting dates listed. In consideration of your participation in UVic Homestay, you agree to adhere to and be bound by the UVic Homestay Student Guidelines.**

INTRODUCTION LETTER TO HOST FAMILY AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

- **Write a letter to introduce yourself to your host**, describing yourself and your family as soon as possible. Your host family will also send an introduction letter to you.
    - Complete all sections of the ***Arrival to Victoria Information Form*** on the letter you received and send it directly to your host family. It is your responsibility to ensure that your hosts have your arrival information so they can pick you up.
- **Please note that you must make travel arrangements to Victoria.** Acceptable arrival locations include the Victoria International Airport, the Victoria Bus Terminal, the University of Victoria, a Victoria Hotel or Hostel, or another host family residence in Victoria (Capital Regional District). Hosts cannot pick you up at the Vancouver Airport. When you arrive at the Vancouver Airport, it is a 25-minute plane ride to the Victoria International Airport or a 3-hour and 40-minute bus and ferry ride to the Victoria downtown Bus Station. Please make sure your travel arrangements bring you to Victoria.

If you need to arrive earlier than the arrival date listed in your placement contract, please:

- Ask your host if they can accommodate you earlier than the arrival date listed above or arrange your own accommodation until the arrival date listed above (see *Accommodation in Victoria* at https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/pdf/elc/hp/student/accommodation-in-victoria.pdf)
- Contact your host to tell them where you are staying, so they can arrange to meet you and bring you to their home.

    - Students should aim to arrive between 8:00am and 10:00pm on the weekends, or weekday evenings (and not during the weekday work hours) so that your hosts can make the necessary arrangements to pick you up.

- We suggest that you carry your host's cell phone number with you so you can phone or email them if there are changes or delays to your travel arrangements while you are travelling. If you have a cell phone, please provide your host with the number in case they need to call you.

YOUR ARRIVAL IN VICTORIA

When your host family meets you at the arrival location**,** they will hold up a sign with your name on it. If you have shared photos, you might be able to recognize one another.

In the very rare occasion that your host family is not at the agreed upon arrival location when you arrive:

- Call their home/cellular phone numbers and leave a message to tell them where you are waiting for them. They may have a delay in getting to the location to meet you.
- If you are at the Victoria Airport, go to the Airport Information Booth (Red Coats Volunteers - located in the centre of the Arrivals area, phone: 250-953-7533) and ask if your host family has left a message for you.

If your host family is not at the arrival location to meet you and you cannot contact them by phone:

- Take the Airport shuttle bus from the Victoria Airport to downtown Victoria.
- Stay at one of the hotels or hostels listed on the *Accommodation in Victoria* sheet https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/pdf/elc/hp/student/accommodation-in-victoria.pdf
- If you arrive in the evening or weekend and have not been able to contact your host family, please contact the UVic Homestay Office on the next business day (Monday to Friday), during office hours (8:30am to 4:30pm) at 250-472-4268 or visit our office located on the second floor of the Continuing Studies Building at the University of Victoria.

WEEKEND BEFORE YOUR PROGRAM BEGINS

- Before your program begins, your host will instruct you on how to travel from their house to both the University of Victoria and downtown by city bus.
- With your host, please make sure you have all their contact details including their name, address, and telephone number and add to your phone or address book. Be sure to also include bus route information.

HOMESTAY ORIENTATION

- All students in homestay are required to attend a Homestay orientation session.
- We will show a video about living with a Canadian family and talk about the challenges and rewards you will experience living with your new family.
- We will make every effort to provide you with the information and resources you might need to have a wonderful homestay experience. Homestay staff is available if you need assistance with any Homestay problems.

COMPUTER USAGE and WIFI

- All students are entitled to unlimited computer/Internet access in the computer labs at the University of Victoria.
- Host families are <u>not</u> required to offer students computer access at home.
- Students will have access to ***basic*** internet/wifi in their homestay.

TWO WEEK NOTICE

- If hosts and/or students decide to terminate the hosting relationship during the scheduled term, a Two Week Notice Form must be completed, by host and student. The form must be submitted to the UVic Homestay office. Students are required to pay hosts for no less than two weeks from the day the Two Week Notice Form is signed. Two Week Notice forms can only be given once a student has been living in the home for at least two weeks, so that the student completes one full month/payment period in their first homestay.
- A Two Week Notice Form can be obtained by contacting the UVic Homestay office.