

FAQ Homestay

Unless the student is residing with a parent or a relative deemed as suitable by the School, it is expected that all International students will reside in homestay arrangements. The following are the frequently asked questions and the answers related to homestay.

1. How is the homestay different from a boarding school or a hotel?

Students live in a dormitory at a boarding school with their peers while the students who live in homestay will be embraced into the life of a local family. Students do not need to travel to the school at a boarding school. Students are expected to travel on public transport from their homestay to the School.

A homestay is not a hotel. As a member of the family, the student has her own responsibilities such as making her own bed, folding her own clothes and tidying up her own room etc. It is important to make an effort on maintaining a positive relationship with the hosts.

2. The benefits of staying at homestay?

Because the students will be spending their days at school, socializing with their peers and collaborating both academically and in extracurricular activities, they may want to consider the benefits that a more focused, personalized homestay option provides. The one-on-one attention the students will receive by living with a family will help boost language skills, as well as give them an authentic taste of Australian life and culture. The students have more flexibility to arrange their own time and practise to be independent. Living in a homestay provides more privacy.

3. The challenges of staying at homestay?

It can be challenging to have many conversations in English with other family members. However, it is an effective way to practise English and learn to build relationships with others.

There are some homestay rules that the students should follow such as making their own bed, folding their own clothes and tidying up their own room.

Some Australian food may be different from what the students are used to eat in their home countries such as having sandwiches for lunch and having cereal for breakfast.

The students should prepare to travel up to 40 minutes on public transport to the School.

4. What piece of advice can we give a student who moves into a homestay for the first time?

A homestay is a safe and supportive place for our International students. The students spend much time with their hosts during their time at Korowa. A respectful and friendly relationship is a lifelong treasure. Please be open to the difference of cultures, be brave to try new things, be polite to your hosts and actively communicate with them.

5. Who will arrange a homestay for the student?

The School uses an approved agency, Student Accommodation Services (SAS), to organise homestay places for International students. The homestay can be arranged through SAS directly, either by the student or agent. The family can visit the homestay before the student moves in. Our International Student Co-ordinator will visit the homestay before approving it and will visit the homestay every 6 months after a student moves in.

6. How much is the homestay fee per week?

It sits between \$320 to \$350. It is set by the homestay provider, SAS, which can be contacted via their website <http://www.student-accommodation.com.au/>

7. How far away are the homestays from Korowa?

Student must be prepared to travel up to 40 minutes on public transport per trip.

8. What standards does an approved homestay need to meet?

All of the approved homestays need to comply with the minimum standards set by the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA). In addition, they also need to meet conditions as set by Korowa.

- Every person 18 years or over, residing in the home, must have a valid Working with Children Check.
- The homestay provides a separate bedroom for the student that is appropriate for the age and needs of the student which includes a bed, a desk, a desk light and clothes storage.
- The student will have access to a shared or private bathroom. Heating/cooling equipment is available as required.
- The student is provided with a key and access to passwords for alarms. The student will have free access in the home residence, especially the kitchen, the dining/living area and the laundry)
- The homestay provider is given appropriate information regarding their responsibilities and emergency contact details for both the education provider and the parents/guardians of the student.
- The education provider has documented processes to verify that the accommodation is appropriate for the student's age and needs prior to placement, and at least every six months after that. Verifying the suitability of homestay accommodation includes a site visit (unless the particular homestay has been verified by a site visit in relation to another student in the previous three months).
- When visiting a homestay, the International Student Co-ordinator will check on the student's bedroom, general activities and facilities in the homestay and clarify the student's responsibilities. This is to ensure all the standards are met.

9. When would a homestay change request be approved?

Once a student is placed in a Korowa approved homestay, any changes to homestay arrangements are only approved in extenuating circumstances, such as the homestay standards not being met, or there is a child safe issue. Any change of the homestay must be approved by the School prior to the student moving accommodation.

10. How do we make sure that the homestay is safe for the student?

The homestay agency, SAS, has a clear review process when selecting a homestay. Homestay places also need to meet Korowa standards. Our International Student Co-ordinator will visit and check the homestay to confirm the homestay is suitable for our students. Minimum requirements are a valid Working with Children Check and Child Safe Declaration for anyone 18 years old or over.