



THE FOUNDATION FOR WORLDWIDE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

HOMESTAY AGREEMENT

This purpose of this document is to provide information about the policies, terms and procedures for participants in the homestay program through the Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange (WISE). Please read this document completely, sign it indicating your consent to the terms, and return it to WISE prior to your arrival in the US.

PROCEDURES PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

- Send your application, along with the signed copy of this Homestay Agreement and your placement fee to WISE (see below for payment and mailing instructions). WISE must receive all items prior to assigning the host family.
- When the host family has been selected, WISE will send a profile with details about your new family. Placement is normally not confirmed earlier than 1 month before arrival. Students will receive host family confirmation as soon as it is available. Students who apply less than two weeks before arrival will receive confirmation as soon as possible. In these instances, placement may not be confirmed before arrival in the US; therefore, participants should make arrangements to stay in a hotel for the first few days.

FEES

WISE PLACEMENT FEE

This fee is due prior to placement, is non-refundable, and is subject to change. The fee covers:

- One host family placement.
- Proper recruitment and screening of host families.
- A clean, comfortable and safe homestay environment, with a private bedroom that includes a bed, desk with adequate lighting for studying, a place to store clothing, and some closet space. Host families are required to be proficient in English and speak English at home.
- A detailed host family information profile.
- Post-arrival homestay orientation and a Homestay Manual.
- On-going support throughout the period of homestay.

Placement fee for 4-week programs (or less): \$225.00

Placement fee for programs 5-10 weeks: \$325.00

A continuing fee of \$100 per quarter is charged for each additional quarter in homestay.

Fees may be paid by Visa or MasterCard (please request a credit card authorization form from WISE), or by check made payable to "WISE" and drawn on a US bank. Send payment to: WISE, P.O. Box 73853, Davis, CA 95617

Please indicate the party responsible for paying the placement fee:

_____ Student _____ Agent _____ Other (please specify: _____)

A student wishing to be moved to a new host family must base the request on a clear indication that the old host family is not meeting WISE standards. If this is the case, a new family will be found at no additional charge; otherwise, an additional relocation fee of \$150.00 will be charged if there is no foundation for a move. The legitimacy of an issue will be determined after careful consideration and research done by the WISE staff. A move will only occur with the approval of the WISE Program Director; unless it is an extremely urgent situation, in which case it will be responded to immediately.

HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATION FEE:

Students pay the host family directly, on a monthly basis by cash, traveler's checks or checks (drawn on a US bank). The initial payment is due on the evening following the day of the student's arrival. Fees are determined by the meal plan chosen. Payment should be made after the Homestay Contract has been signed.

Students who are traveling and away from their host family's home for 6 days and 5 nights *consecutively*, pay their host family the room rate only.

students initial _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

WISE reserves the right to change the host family before or after the participant arrives. Students receive room and board according to the habits and traditions of the host family. Students are responsible for preparing their own breakfast and lunch. It is not guaranteed that a specific type of food will be served, or that there will be a specific schedule for meals. However, dinner typically involves all members of the family, and students' participation will be greatly beneficial to their experience. When away from the host family's home, participants are responsible for their own meals.

Students are not expected to work for room and board; however, participation in daily home life is expected. Participants are expected to clean up after themselves in the kitchen and common areas, and to clean their own bedrooms and bathrooms.

Most of the families do not live within walking distance to campus. WISE guarantees that families will be within a 55 minute commute by bicycle, bus, walking, car, or combination thereof. Host families are available to assist their student with how to use the bus, however, transportation is the students' responsibility. WISE does not accept requests for close proximity to campus and a private bathroom, since placements are based on availability and preferences of host families.

WISE makes every effort to match students with families according to the student's expressed preference; however, WISE does not guarantee that families will be available who meet all the student's criteria. At the discretion of the WISE Program Director, a student may be removed from homestay if the student exhibits seriously inappropriate or dangerous behavior.

All students applying must put an additional credit card form on hold. A student participating in a program that is 10-weeks or more will be required to turn in a holding amount of \$95 (equal to a continuation fee). If the student stays an additional *3 nights and 4 days consecutively* after their given departure/move-out date WISE reserves the right to charge this amount. A student participating in a program that is 4-weeks or less will be required to turn in a holding amount \$100 (equal to the remaining 10-week fee). If the student stays an additional *3 nights and 4 days consecutively* after their given departure/move-out date WISE reserves the right to charge this amount.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Students in homestay with WISE families must commit to the placement for the entire program session, and are required to complete and sign a Homestay Contract with the host family. This contract details the expectations between the host family and the student.

1. Students must respect and obey the host family's household rules. These rules will vary from family to family.
2. Students may not bring guests to the Host Family's home without prior permission.
3. It is illegal in California to consume any alcohol, including beer and wine, if you are under 21 years old. Drug use, other than medication prescribed by your physician, is strictly forbidden.
4. Long distance telephone calls are made at the student's expense either by pre-paid telephone card, or by collect call.
5. Students are responsible for any damages to the Host Family's property that were incurred by the student.

HOST FAMILY CHANGES

The decision to live with a host family should be made with the understanding that a successful homestay experience requires the student's willingness to adjust to the customs and traditions of the host family. Families in our program represent many ethnicities, and cultural groups. Each family has been screened to ensure that they meet WISE standards of a safe, clean, comfortable living environment, and speak English as the primary language in their home. WISE families represent the diverse cultural heritage of the United States. We do not accommodate special requests with regard to a family's ethnicity or cultural background; and students who feel uncomfortable about this should consider alternatives to homestay.

Most difficulties in homestay arise through misunderstanding. Students who are experiencing difficulty should see WISE staff during the regular counseling hours on campus. The Program Director is also available to advise and counsel by special appointment. We strongly encourage students to talk directly to their host parents about any problems they may be experiencing. If the family is clearly not meeting WISE standards, the Program Director will find a new family at no additional charge.

A student wishing a new host family for reasons other than that the family is not meeting WISE standards, and who is not actively working to develop a positive relationship with the family, will be charged an additional fee. The WISE Program Director will assess the student's goals and expectations for homestay to determine if their needs and desires can be reasonably accommodated with a different host family. Students terminating homestay early under these circumstances must give the host family 30 days notice, or pay a fee equal to 30 days rent. If the host terminates the homestay prior to the anticipated last date of occupancy, the host will refund pro-rated amounts paid in advance with no deductions. It will be the students' responsibility to collect amounts owed by the host family.

I have read and understood the Homestay Agreement and agree to be fully bound by the terms, conditions, rules and regulations of the program as outlined in this document.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Printed Name (please print in English) _____

students initial _____