



HOST-FAMILY GUIDE BOOK

THANK YOU

Thank you for hosting our Japanese student.

Hosting an international student is a rewarding experience for the whole family. It is an opportunity to share your way of life with others and to increase cultural awareness in your home. It gives your family the chance to develop language and communication skills as well as the prospect of forming a new international friendship.

In an effort to ensure our homestay placements are a rewarding experience for both you and your student, it is important that you contact us if you have any issues which you would like to discuss. Ultimately, Gold Educational Tours is responsible for the duty of care for all international students during their stay.

ABOUT GOLD EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Since 2004, Gold Educational Tours has been dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding through immersive educational experiences. Through our educational student exchange programs, we aim to create open-minded leaders who will have a positive influence in our ever-changing multicultural world.

Our programs offer the opportunity to share traditions, language and knowledge with the aim of closing the gap between Australia and our international neighbours. Respect and understanding for other cultures is an invaluable attribute that can only be attained through experience. We strive to create opportunities for multiculturalism to thrive and promote living in a harmonious society.

OUR INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS

We design immersive educational programs for both primary and secondary students. Our programs are hosted at local schools, providing the international student with an authentic experience of school life in Australia.

We offer the international student the opportunity to engage in a buddy system during school hours. The buddy may be the international student's host brother/sister or may be assigned by the school. The buddy system helps the student to settle into their school environment, develop confidence speaking English and provides an opportunity for the student to develop a lasting friendship with a peer.

We will arrange activities for your student, unless the student is participating in our Individual High School Immersion program. These activities will generally take place on their arrival/departure day or during school hours, however from time to time students will have an activity on the weekend. All activities are compulsory for the visiting students. The activities will be detailed on the itinerary given to you closer to the program commencing, along with your student's profile.

HOSTING 101

LIFE WITH AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

We understand that everyone leads a busy life! After school and on weekends your Japanese student will fit in with your schedule. In our experience, it is the everyday experiences that the students find most memorable and enjoyable during their stay. They love accompanying their host brother/sister to extracurricular activities, for example: sports practice and matches, piano and dance lessons, church, parties, supermarkets and other activities that are normal for your family.

At home, encourage your international student to use English to talk about their day, their family or any cultural differences they have observed. You may like to assign a small daily chore to your student during their stay, such as emptying the letter box or setting the table, to help the student feel like they are contributing to daily family life. Board games, word games and charades are also good to help your student practice English in a fun and relaxed setting.

HOST FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility of a host family is to ensure the wellbeing of the international student's emotional, intellectual and physical needs are met. Broadly speaking, during their stay your international student needs the following:

Emotionally:

- A caring and friendly home environment
- Family members who are eager to learn about another culture and to share their own
- To be included into daily life with your family

Intellectually:

- Opportunities to speak English in an encouraging atmosphere
- Patient and positive listeners
- Conversation starters – be persistent in starting conversations with your student

Physically:

- Three meals a day – while at school and on weekends
- Their own bed
- Transportation to and from school each day – walking, riding, public transport, car
- A clean and presentable household

MEALS

The host family is required to provide meals and snacks in the same way as they do for their own family. You do not need to arrange special meals for your student, unless the student has special dietary restrictions due to medical reasons. Please make sure they have lunch, some snacks and a water bottle every day. You will be advised of any allergies or dietary requirements when you receive your student's profile.

During your student's stay, if you choose to go to a restaurant for a meal instead of eating at home or are planning a canteen lunch, you are expected to cover the cost of your student's meal as it counts towards one of the three meals a day you must provide.

Meal times are a great opportunity to get to know one another. The dining table is said to be the heart of the home and is a great place to initiate conversation with your student. Use meal times to ask your student about their day and talk about yours. It's also a great time for your student to tell you what they like and don't like to eat. Some students may not feel comfortable voicing their dislikes, and may leave things on their plate or avoid taking food they don't like as a subtle way of indicating their dislikes to you.

HOUSE RULES / DAILY ROUTINE

Your international student is expected to follow house rules and help around the house in the same way that your own children do. Upon your student's arrival, please explain house rules such as time limits on showers, meal times, bed time, rules on technology use etc. to ensure they have a clear understanding of what is expected of them.

If your family has weekly commitments that your student will be joining, you might like to explain these to your student using a calendar or with the timetable you will receive from us (which will be sent together with your international student's profile). Having an overall understanding of where they are going and what they are doing on any given day will give students a sense of security.

ENTERTAINMENT

As mentioned previously, we don't expect you to go out of your way to provide special entertainment for your international student as we want the student to have an authentic experience of daily life in Australia. If you choose to take your student on a family outing to the movies for example, then as with dining out, you will be expected to pay.

If your student wants to go shopping or buys a souvenir during an outing with you, this will be paid for with their own money. All students will have adequate spending money to use during their stay.

SCHOOL LIFE

SCHOOL COMMUTE

Your student is expected to be accompanied to and from school with a member of your family at all times. If your student will be catching public transport or a school bus with your son or daughter, please run through the bus numbers, times, stops and costs with your student.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is away from school due to illness or another reason during the Japanese student's stay, please let us know as soon as possible. If your Japanese student is ill, injured or unable to attend school, please contact our office immediately on 6155 2625 or on 0482 076 423 if outside of business hours.

UNIFORM

The student will wear their own Japanese school uniform to school. They will bring their own sport uniform for physical education classes. Please ensure both yourself and your student know when these classes are, so they don't forget the appropriate attire.

HOMESICKNESS

Your international student may experience homesickness during their stay. Homesickness may occur a few days after the student arrives, after the initial excitement has worn off, or at any time during their stay. Symptoms may include:

- Spending long periods of time in their room
- Becoming less communicative
- Sleeplessness
- Headaches, nausea, upset stomach, tiredness

In most cases homesickness will pass. If you are worried about your student:

- Talk to the student about how they are feeling – sometimes they just want you to acknowledge how they feel
- Keep your student busy outside of school hours
- Find out about their hobbies at home – sometimes doing an activity they are familiar with can help to make them feel comfortable again

If you have concerns about your international student's welfare, please contact the GOLD after hours support line 0482 076 423. We have bilingual support for both your family and your student.

CULTURE SHOCK

Culture shock is the loss of familiarity in our surroundings. It can create a sense of isolation, diminish our confidence and create feelings of anxiety. Like homesickness, culture shock will be experienced by some students to some degree, depending on their prior knowledge of Australia and their ability to quickly adapt to their new environment.

Experiencing culture shock may result in similar symptoms to that of homesickness and can be addressed in the same way. During orientation, we stress to students that they should not judge Australian culture in terms of right and wrong, but rather simply see things as different and accept them. However, this is not always easy for young people (or some adults) to do. Many students have not been outside of their own country prior to coming to Australia, and although they may have been exposed to western culture through TV and the media, they do not have a strong understanding of the cultural differences between their country and Australia.

COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

Even though your international student has studied English prior to arriving in Australia, being immersed in a fast speaking English environment can be very overwhelming and confronting for them. The Australian accent, coupled with our innate ability to shorten and slur words and sentences can be confusing for a student who has been learning “textbook” English. For this reason we appreciate your consideration of the following points when talking to your student:

Speak slowly and distinctly - Separate each word so that the student has time to process the sentence. “Wa’doyawan’fer brekky?” may sound like a simple enough question, but as you can imagine it’s not what appears in textbooks, so try “What - do - you - want - for - breakfast?”. Use gestures, drawings, as well as objects in your house to help make your communication clear to the student.

Give the student time to answer - It can sometimes take a little time for the student to process conversations and questions in another language. You might experience a few moments of awkward silence before your student answers you. In an attempt to mask their inability to understand, your student may answer “Yes” to any questions you ask, including “Do you understand?” and “Okay?”. For this reason, paraphrasing questions during a conversation to ensure your student understands can be very beneficial.

For example:

“Tomorrow, you need to wake up at 8:30am. Okay?”

“Yes”

“What time do you need to wake up tomorrow?”

“Yes” (8:30am)

COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

Repeating conversations, questions and answers in the moment they arise can help the student engage with meaningful and practical language during their stay.

Overcorrecting the student's English - Correcting a student's English can be demoralising for the student as well as tiring for all, therefore it is better to correct only the major grammatical mistakes. Fear of making a mistake is often what stops a student from conversing, therefore overcorrecting your student can lead to further lack of confidence.

Cut down on using slang - While students will need to learn slang in order to function in everyday life, they will have very little knowledge of it when they arrive. If you and your family use slang in everyday life, it may benefit your student to have some key phrases written down at the beginning of their stay.

Some classic examples are:

Dunno = I don't know

Nah = No

Brekky = Breakfast

Cuppa = Cup of tea

Cut down on using idioms - Idioms can be very confusing for your international student as their meanings can't easily be translated into their native language. You as a native English speaker might also struggle to explain the nuances behind being a "fish out of water" to a non native speaker. Although an integral part of conversing in the English language, idioms are generally taught to students studying English at an advance level due to their complexity. For this reason, we ask that you become conscious of the "turns of phrase" you use around your student.

We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with bilingual support. If you have any issues communicating with your student you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us.

TECHNOLOGY

Please provide students with access to your home Wi-Fi so they can keep in touch with family and get access to our after hours Japanese support service via the Japanese Line app. Although students will use social media to keep their friends and family updated on their journey, we will encourage them not to spend lengthy periods of time on the internet so they can maximise their learning experience.

Ultimately, they're expected to follow the rules of your household so if you set screen time limits please explain these rules clearly, and do not hesitate to reinforce them.

GOLD INTERCULTURAL LEARNING SERVICE & SUPPORT

Gold Educational Tours has trained and experienced staff who are responsible for providing support to the international student, host family, and teachers throughout the duration of the homestay. Please contact us anytime concerns or questions you may have before, during or after your student's stay. We provide bilingual support, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

EMERGENCY

Any illness or injury to your international student should be reported to Gold Educational Tours as soon as possible. Prior to visiting a medical professional or administering any medicine we will contact the accompanying teachers, student's parents and inform them of the situation to ensure the appropriate actions for recovery are taken. In the event of minor illnesses and injuries such as a cold, after informing Gold Educational Tours, you will be authorised to make necessary arrangements for the student, as if they were your own child.

All students are required to have medical, life, personal property, and liability insurance to cover any and all contingencies during the entire duration of the visit. Any costs not covered by the student's insurance are ultimately the responsibility of the student's parents.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Company Name: Gold Educational Tours

Address: 49A Railway Parade, Mount Lawley 6050

Office hours phone number: 6155 2625

After hours support line: 0482076423

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