

NEWFOUNDLAND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES LTD.

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Host Family Handbook - NIS

Welcoming an International Student into Your Home - An Experience of a Lifetime

Becoming a host family to a young student from a different country and culture is both an enriching and challenging experience. Welcoming an international student into your home helps develop friendships that will last a lifetime. By sharing your home and offering guidance to an international student, your family becomes an important part of the student's life.

The Newfoundland International Studies Ltd. (NIS) Educational Program

NIS works with the schools within the Eastern and Western School Districts for the public school system and with select private schools for those students who prefer an independent school. NIS provides students from other countries with education programs and the opportunity to learn our language and our culture.

Marketed in various countries, NIS uses international education fairs and contracted education agents to recruit potential students to the program. The agents act as representatives of NIS not only in recruiting the students but in helping them with their applications and travel arrangements. They also act as the liaison between NIS and the student's parents while the students are in Canada.

A student's acceptance to the program is based on school performance, adaptability, English language ability, and good health.

After students apply to study in Newfoundland, NIS reviews the applications and, if approved, assigns them to one of the schools within the participating school districts. The availability of a suitable homestay placement in the region plays a major role in the success of the program.

The Students' Countries....

NIS works throughout the world to bring students to the province. Students may come from different countries including Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Becoming a Host Family....

Families interested in hosting an international student should contact one of our NIS representatives. The NIS representative will follow up with the family and organize a home visit.

The home visit is an opportunity for families to ask questions and gather more information on the program. The NIS policy requires families to have references and police checks.

The NIS representative will match a student with a host family. Matches are based on family and student interests and preferences.

Host Families Agree to:

- provide a private bedroom
- provide food for three meals per day
- invite and encourage participation in family events
- show local culture and visit some highlights of the area
- explain family rules and expectations
- become familiar with program rules
- provide use of common areas in the home (living room, family room, etc.)
- allow use of telephone and computer according to family house rules
- encourage involvement in daily functions of family life (meal preparation, clean-up, etc.)
- provide guidance and advice for school and social issues

Students are Responsible for:

- **Student finances** - students are responsible for setting up their own bank accounts. Host families are not responsible for providing an allowance, monitoring spending, or lending money. However, families should pay their students if they babysit the family's children.
- **Individual items** - students are responsible for purchasing their own toiletry items, school supplies, club memberships, social events, etc. However, if the family takes their student to dinner or a social event, then the family may choose to cover the cost.
- **Monitoring food** - families are not responsible for ensuring that the student maintain any kind of diet including one for personal or religious beliefs. Families are however, responsible for providing healthy meals and snacks.

Preparing for the Arrival of Your Student

A successful homestay occurs when all members of the family agree that taking an international student into the home is a good idea. If any family member disagrees with the concept of becoming a host family, then that family may wish to reconsider.

Once a student is placed, families can begin preparing the bedroom for the student. Necessities for your student include a bed, a desk and somewhere to store clothes and other personal effects.

Other useful items:

- clock radio
- bulletin board (especially if families do not want items attached to the walls)
- calendar
- reading light
- extra blankets
- any other small touches
- set of keys
- list of important phone numbers (police, emergency contacts, etc.)

It is a good idea to start corresponding with your student immediately after NIS has assigned a student to your home. This communication helps to give your family better insight to the student's personality, likes and dislikes, and expectations. In return the student's family learns more about the family with whom their child will be living while attending school in Newfoundland and Labrador.

NIS recommends that families do some research on their student's home country. The information gathered will provide some insight into the culture, language, and environment of the international student.

It is useful to contact students in the area who are of the same age and grade level as your student. Ask them if they might take the new student around the school and community, to a few social events, and to introduce them to some young people in the area.