

Stay with a Host Family

Here at New College Durham we have lots of international students who choose the option to live with a host family. **New College Durham** works closely with AAA Host Families Ltd. They are a family run agency who provide government approved host families for international students to stay with while studying at New College Durham.

You will be treated like a family member during your stay. You will receive a complete immersion into the local lifestyle. They will advise and support you as you learn to find your way around a new city and a new culture and will advise and help you if you have any questions or problems during your stay. It is just like having family here, instead of being all alone.

Your accommodation contract will be directly with AAA Host Families Ltd and not the College, however, we have a designated member of College staff who liaises directly with AAA Host Families Ltd and who students can speak to for advice and guidance on any welfare or accommodation issues.



The cost of living with a host family is £530.00 per month and this cost includes the following:

- ☆ Your own room and space to study (this may be in your room or in another part of the home)
- ☆ Breakfast each day – continental breakfast
- ☆ Home cooked evening meal
- ☆ Laundry facilities – some families may do this for you and some will show you the facilities for you to do your own laundry
- ☆ Bedding and towels
- ☆ Wi-Fi Internet - this is provided for the use of study and making contact with your family back home, for example Skype
- ☆ Moral support, local knowledge and the chance to experience life with a family from another culture.

Your host family will not provide:

- ☆ Lunches – these are your responsibility
- ☆ Personal items such as toiletries and clothes
- ☆ Travel expenses
- ☆ Regular meals for your friends, the hosts will always welcome your friends over and occasionally one friend for tea for example, but you should have a discussion with your hosts.

Where will I be living?

Families need to live within a one hour commute of New College Durham Location is chosen based on travel time and not mileage from the College for some locations it is quicker to live in the villages that are 10 miles away compared to 3 miles due to the public transport available).

What to expect from your host family?

Families come in all shapes and sizes and from a variety of backgrounds. What is typical about the families we use is that they are all happy families who want to host students. They have warm, caring homes and are able to offer the support, encouragement and guidance to their students to ensure they get the most out of their stay in Durham.

This experience is not designed to replace your family at home; you will be treated as part of the family while you are here and may be asked to help around the home, for example, washing the dishes after dinner.

You will be living in England and will be expected to respect the changes in culture you will be experiencing.

You will also be expected to communicate with your family and be prepared for your family to ask about your whereabouts. Your host has moral responsibility for your welfare and it is therefore, their responsibility to ensure you're safe.

Your host family will also be communicating with your parents/guardians also to ensure that your best interests are met.

Host Family Application Process

New College Durham will send your contact details to AAA Host Families Ltd who will then send you an "All about you" questionnaire. It is vital that all sections are completed with as much information as possible because AAA Host Families Ltd use this information to assist with the matching process.

Medical information is requested and it is extremely important all information is declared. Any information will be treated confidentially and sensitively. The company have specialist families who can support students with medical issues.

In order to ensure you have the best experience possible the company take great care in ensuring the best matching is made to meet your needs, therefore, knowing the information in advance can also allow them to work in conjunction with the host family and College to ensure the right support is put in place before you arrive.

Once AAA Host Families Ltd have all this information they will proceed to try and match you with the most suitable family.

You will receive your host profile as soon as possible but at the latest 2 weeks before you are due to arrive in the UK. Please ensure you have given us an email address you will be able to access at all times.

Once you receive your profile, we suggest you make contact with your family and start getting to know them, either by email or Skype.



What will my room be like?

All host's home are checked to ensure that they provide;

- ☆ A bed – either a single or double bed.
- ☆ Storage – there will be space to store your clothes in either a wardrobe, a chest of drawers, shelving or a combination of these.
- ☆ Study space – if you do not have a study desk space in your bedroom then AAA Host Families Ltd always ensure there is a large dining table in the home which provides you adequate study space
- ☆ WIFI – all families must have WIFI and this will be accessible in your bedroom. Please respect the use of the WIFI and not use it for excessive downloading, streaming or gaming.
- ☆ Bathroom – there is no guarantee of a private bathroom, however, if you don't have a private bathroom you will have access to a family bathroom.
- ☆ Size – AAA Host Families Ltd cannot promise large bedrooms. All families have a mix of sized bedrooms. What we guarantee is that the room will be big enough for your bed and storage of clothes for example.
- ☆ You will always have access to other areas of the home such as the living room, dining room and some homes have conservatories.
- ☆ AAA Host Families Ltd will support you in negotiating with your family to find solutions to any storage issues.

Can my host parents ask me what I'm doing?

Yes. Whilst your family won't be replacing your parents/guardians in a "loco parentis" capacity, they will have a legal responsibility for your welfare whilst you are here.

Families receive information on Safeguarding and sign an agreement to ensure that these rules are adhered to. The main key adults that will be responsible for your welfare during your stay will have undergone Police checks in line with the new OFSTED regulations that AAA Host Families Ltd is adhering to.

Whilst you are not expected to give every single detail, your family will ask for simple information like; where you are going? Who With? What time will you be back? How are you getting there? They also need to know for things like meal preparations etc.

We always recommend that you share mobile numbers with your family. Please do keep in touch with them. They will be treating you like one of their own children and will be concerned for you.



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New College Durham