

HOMESTAY HANDBOOK
for STUDENTS



KAI JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL

KAI HOMESTAY PROGRAMME

Homestay Manual (for Students)

< GENERAL >

- ① Your host family warmly welcomes you as their family member. Please relax and enjoy your time with them.
- ② Please follow the rule of each host family about drinking, smoking, curfew, air conditioning, staying out, etc. Please confirm all the rules with them on your first day as they have their own rulebook at home. Do not hesitate to consult with either your host family or KAI staff if there is anything you cannot understand or you feel uncomfortable.
- ③ Host families often act as bridges to link you with Japanese culture and society. You will probably encounter cultural differences while living with your host family, but just try experiencing the Japanese way of life during your stay with them. However, please be sure to inform your host family when there's something you can't accept.
- ④ Host families speak to you in Japanese at home, and you are encouraged to speak with them in Japanese as much as possible. Even if you cannot understand at first, you will gradually be able to communicate with them.
- ⑤ Students are expected to look after themselves. Taking initiative in assisting your host families' household chores will help to create a good relationship with them.
- ⑥ Please inform your plans for each day to your host family in advance.
- ⑦ Host families are not obliged to take students on outings. Please make your own plans for your days off, but they will be happy to assist you in gathering information related to tourist sites and the like.
- ⑧ Host families will provide you general daily supplies such as face & bath towels, sheets, soap, shampoo, hair dryers, etc. Please purchase anything else you might need yourself.
- ⑨ In general, students are not allowed to invite other people such as friends or acquaintances into the host family's home.
- ⑩ In order to prevent potential trouble or misunderstanding, please avoid behaviours such as wearing highly revealing clothes or being alone in your room with just one family member or having drinks while being alone with just one family member.

< MEALS >

- ① If you have any special dietary habits or needs, please inform us the detail in advance. We will try our best to accommodate your request.
- ② Do not hesitate to inform your host family if there are any foods you can't eat.
- ③ Dinner & Breakfast will be provided everyday. You are expected to purchase lunch. (The same condition will be applicable on Saturday & Sunday.)
- ④ As a general rule, you will not be permitted to use your host family's kitchen.
- ⑤ In case your host families can't prepare you a meal, you may be required to eat out or heat up a premade meal. The family is responsible for the cost of eating out.
- ⑥ When you find you don't need dinner, please inform your host family promptly (ideally by 15:00 at the very latest). However, the homestay fee will not be refunded.
- ⑦ Please inform your host family as soon as possible when you intend to be away from home over night due to travelling, etc. In this case, the homestay fee will not be reimbursed. When you inform your temporary leave in advance at the contract, you will not be charged.

< FACILITIES >

- ① If your host family lends you their house key, please take special care of it. And make sure to return it upon the completion of your stay. Should you lose it, you may be expected to bear the expense for the home's lock replacement.
- ② Japanese families often have particular customs or routines with regard to bathing. Please check with your host family about it.
- ③ Please clean your room and keep your belongings neat and tidy by yourself while staying with your host family.
- ④ As a general rule, you are not allowed to use your host family's phone. Ask for their permission in advance if you really need to use it. Even in that case, make it a collect call or use a prepaid card if possible.
- ⑤ As a general rule, students are not allowed to use host families' PCs.

< OTHERS >

- ① Please avoid borrowing or lending money.
- ② The homestay fee includes casualty insurance during your homestay, however, the coverage is limited. Please be sure to purchase travel insurance in your country to cover the entire period of your stay, too.
- ③ You will be expected to pay for your medical expense. You can claim for reimbursement after you pay if you are covered under travel insurance.
- ④ Please do not hesitate to consult with the school staff if you encounter any problems.

<Contact Person>

Tamao Iwasaki (Homestay Coordinator)

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FAQ

How do you choose a host family for me?

A more suitable host family is selected while considering the requests on your homestay application form and those of the potential host families. We will do our best to accommodate your requests, however, please note that we cannot guarantee all your requests can be fulfilled. We put the highest priority on health related matters such as smoking, allergies, etc.

What kind of people are the host families?

They are common Japanese families with various backgrounds. The occupation, the family structure and other aspects are various, however, all of them are interested in cultural exchange and welcoming to foreign students.

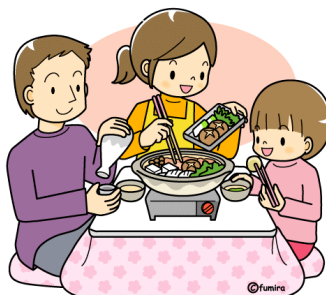
Is there a curfew?

Some families have a curfew but some do not. Students are expected to follow each family's rule. Inform your family in advance if you get home late at night even though there is no fixed curfew with the family.

I understand that the students are not allowed to use the host family's PCs. Is it possible to bring my own PC and use the Internet access?

You can access the Internet with your PC if your host family has the facility. However, some families have no Internet access.

Wi-Fi and some PCs for students are available free of charge at school.



Who will do my laundry?

It depends. Some families do the laundry for you and some don't. If they don't, you have to do it by yourself with their washing machine. Please ask them how and when to use it in advance.

Which facilities are available with my own room?

A desk or table to study, desk light, closet or shelf, and bedding will be provided. The table and bedding may be Japanese-style. The Japanese-style table is low and you have to sit on the floor to use it. You have to spread FUTON, the Japanese-style bedding, on the floor to sleep, and fold and store it in the closet every morning. Please ask your host family how to handle it.

I have sensitive skin. Can I request my host family to prepare a body wash and shampoo of a particular brand?

Your host family will provide a shampoo and body wash for you, however, you cannot specify the brands. If you need to use special ones for some reason, please purchase on your own.

Is there a shower in the Japanese bathroom?

Most of the families have a shower in the bathroom. But please ask your host family how to use it since it might be different from the ones in your country.



- Can you tell me the approximate time and cost to commute to school?

Tokyo is a big city. It is common to spend more than 1 hour for commuting. All of KAI host families are located within 90-minute-away range from school. The commuter pass for one month is around 10,000 – 30,000 yen in general.

The public transportation in Tokyo is highly developed and very convenient. On the other hand, it is relatively complicated. Please ask your host family how to get to the school in advance.

We recommend getting a commuter pass if you intend to stay for a month or longer. The IC card with the functionalities of both a pre-paid card and a commuter pass such as SUICA or PASMO is often used these days. Your host family can give you the information about where and how to purchase one.

- Under what circumstances can I ask the homestay coordinator for help?

Not only when you encounter serious problems, but also when you have small questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the coordinator. We will be happy to do our best to make your homestay experience marvellous.

(Last updated : 24/06/2011)