

Housing options and Rates

Homestay

In this option, students will be placed in a home with a local family. They will be invited to interact with the family and may participate in family activities and learn the customs and culture of their host family. This will become the students “home away from home”.

A homestay will include a room with a bed, linens, a dresser and a desk. Students will be provided regular access to laundry facilities, and to the telephone for local calls.

Three meals per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided by the host family for the students.

The cost for a homestay is \$900 per month including internet access and utilities (water, heat and electricity). Rates are subject to change without notice.

Room in a House

In this option students will be placed in a home with a local family. They will be invited to interact with the family and may participate in family activities and learn the customs and culture of their homestay family.

Students will be provided with a room including a bed, a dresser and a desk. Students will be provided regular access to laundry facilities and to the telephone for local calls.

Students are responsible for the purchase and preparation of their own meals. They will be given access to a kitchen in order to prepare their meals as well as space to store groceries.

The cost for a Room in a House is \$600 per month, which includes internet access and utilities (water, heat and electricity). Rates are subject to change without notice.

Homestay or Room in a house placement is for a minimum of two months. If you do not complete a minimum of two months stay. You will not be eligible for any refund. You must give your homestay family 30 days notice before leaving.

Other Considerations

Toronto is a very diverse and multicultural city. While all students will be placed with a local family, we cannot guarantee that students will be placed with a Native Canadian Family.

Guidelines and Expectations of Students

1. Student Arrival

All students who have arranged for Seneca's airport pickup services will be greeted at the airport by a Seneca College staff member and transported to their new "home" where they will be welcomed by the host family.

2. Family Interaction

Students are encouraged to interact with their host family as much as possible to gain a better knowledge of their culture and customs. Students whose first language is not English are encouraged to practice speaking English.

3. Rooms

Students are expected to keep their rooms neat and tidy.

4. Meals (Room in House Only)

Students are responsible for the purchase and preparation of their meals. Space will be provided to store groceries. Students should also clean up after their meals including dishes.

5. Laundry

Students can expect to have clean sheets provided to them weekly. Access to laundry facilities will be provided on a regular basis to launder any personal items. Students are responsible to purchase their own laundry soap.

6. Phone

Students are encouraged to purchase a cellular phone.

7. Safety

Seneca is concerned about our student's safety. All homes will have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well as adequate external lighting.

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8. Home Access

All students will be provided with a key to their home and instructions on any security devices in the home.

9. Orientation to Household Routines

Ensure that students are aware of household routines and provide proper instructions to operate all appliances. Seneca does not accept responsibility for any damage incurred by the student.

10. Communication

Communicate with student in an honest and respectful way. If any issues or concerns arise, speak to the student directly. If there is no resolution, please contact the International Student Services Department and we will do our best to help resolve any issues.

11. Rent Payment

Unless otherwise specified, students are required to pay the first and last month's rent directly to their hosts on the first day of arrival. Rents must be paid to landlord during vacation periods.

Other Important Information

Computer and Internet

Most homes will have internet access; however, you are encouraged to have your own computer. Students should speak to their host family about their computer/internet needs upon arrival. Seneca College has computer labs on campus for students to access.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in homes; however, some families may allow smoking outdoors. Students must respect and follow the rules of their host family regarding smoking.

Pets

Many families will have pets, usually dogs and/or cats. In Canada, dogs and cats are very clean and friendly and make great companions. If you would like to live in a house with pets, please inform the International Student Centre.

Visitors/Overnight Guests

If you wish to have visitors or overnight guests, you must first get permission from your host family.

Conflict Resolution

Communication is very important to any relationship. If there is conflict between the student and the homestay family, make sure you discuss the problems as they arise and deal with them.

In the event of a conflict or disagreement between the host family and student, we encourage both parties to openly discuss any problems. If this issue cannot be resolved, we invite you to contact a staff member in the International Student Centre. We will speak with the host family and the student to discuss the conflict taking place. We will ask that both parties keep an open mind so that we may resolve all problems with a fair and respectful solution.

Health Insurance

All international students studying at Seneca College are covered by health insurance. At the beginning of each term, students will be directed to print access cards that should be carried with them at all times. For more information on how to print access card or understanding the health plan, please visit:

www.morcare.ca

International Student Emergencies

The International Student Centre wants to be notified in the event an international student has an emergency. We have a 24 hour 'Emergency' phone number to notify Seneca staff and seek their assistance (416) 560-8306.

Guidelines and Expectations of Registered Host Family

1. Student Arrival

Homestay hosts are asked to be at home when the student first arrives to ensure a positive transition for both the student and hosts.

2. Student Interaction

Help students to feel at home by interacting with them regularly and inviting them to join in family events. The host's home is now their Home-away-from-home. Hosts should encourage students to practice their English as much as possible.

3. Rooms

Provide Students a clean room with a bed (including linens), a dresser and a desk.

4. Meals

Provide students with healthy balanced meals including breakfast, lunch and dinner. In those instances where students prepare their own meals, space to store groceries will be provided.

5. Laundry

Provide students with clean bed sheets weekly and reasonable access to laundry facilities for personal items.

6. Phone

Provide students access to phones for local calls. Students will have phone cards for long distance calls unless other arrangements are made.

7. Safety

Provide an environment where students feel safe. Have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the home. Ensure there is adequate external lighting in the evenings.

8. Home Access

Provide students with a key to your home and if applicable, instructions on using security devices.

9. Orientation to Household Routines

Ensure that students are aware of household routines and provide proper instructions to operate all appliances.

10. Communication

Communicate with student in an honest and respectful way. If any issues or concerns arise, speak to the student directly. If there is no resolution, please contact the International Student Services Department and we will do our best to help resolve any issues.

Seneca College Off-Campus International Student Housing Registry Policy

An international student housing registry will be maintained for the provider of this service, known as the host family, who will provide accommodation for the user of this service, known as the tenant.

Seneca College reserves the right to accept and/or remove providers registered in this international registry at their own discretion.

A host family registered on the International Student Off-Campus Housing Registry will have his/her name, address and phone number made available to the user of this service.

Upon registration, all host families will receive a copy of the International Student Housing Guidelines.

The host family and tenant will pay no fee for the use of this service.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 42b and 42c, the information on the Housing Registration Form is provided by you to the Seneca College International Student Off-Campus Housing Registry to be accessible to the international student for the provision of housing accommodation. This information will be available and retained by the College until notification is received from the College to remove the listing.

Seneca College expects all host families to comply with our Canadian Human Rights Policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

A host family will be removed from the registry if valid complaints are received including, but not limited to complaints that the host family is violating the Canadian Human Rights Policy or there are proven Health and Safety violations.

Only host families who have signed the Acknowledgement, Waiver and Release Portion of the Housing Registration Form will be listed in the Registry service.

All persons living in the home where an international student is renting space shall not have a criminal record. Criminal background checks will be requested upon registration. This is mandatory for all family members (Parents, Children, Grandparents etc.) living in your home, 18 years of age or older.