

Welcome to Homestay!

Important Information before your arrival



You have made a great choice by requesting a Homestay family. Homestay provides for a safe, affordable, and far better cultural and language experience than any other alternative. There is no better way to see what San Francisco is really like. We are sure that you will have a great time with your host family.

Please read the attached Homestay Guidelines before you arrive. They include important information about your Homestay participation and the cultural adjustment. Becoming familiar with the guidelines before your arrival will ensure that you will have a great experience.

We are here to assist you with any questions or concerns before or after your arrival. Please do not hesitate to see us at the front desk at Brandon College or email us at admissions@brandoncollege.com

We are all looking forward to welcoming you to San Francisco.

Have a nice trip!

Howard Do

Brandon College Admissions Team



Communication is important!

Please always communicate with your family – this solves many problems. If you have a question – ask the family – they are there to help you settle into the home as well as into the American lifestyle. If you can't solve the problem, please let us know right away.



Homestay Guidelines

Important Information before your arrival



Respect the Homestay Family

Please be polite, respectful and friendly to all members of the Homestay family and respect their privacy. It is customary and polite, to say "please," when asking, and "thank you" when taking.

Americans generally do not have locks on their doors inside the house; please do not enter other people's bedrooms without permission, even if the door is open.

Do not enter the bathroom if the door is shut, knock first to make sure that no-one is using the bathroom.

Please communicate with your family regarding watching TV, playing music, eating etc.



General Cleanliness

Please keep your bedroom tidy and clean at all times. Your bed should be made daily. Please keep your possessions tidy and do not leave them around the house. If you are preparing snack's for yourself, please leave the kitchen clean afterwards. Also leave the bathroom clean and tidy after use.

- Please do not "squat" on the toilet seat. Sit with feet on the floor.
- Please do not put your used toilet paper in the waste basket; put it in the toilet only.
- Dispose of sanitary pads properly – wrap them and put in waste bin provided. Do not put them in the toilet! If you are not sure, ask your homestay mother.
- When showering do not allow the water to go onto the floor outside the shower cubicle.
- As we have a shortage of water in California, please keep your showers short (5 minutes).
- Be considerate – do not spend too much time in the bathroom, remember other family members are waiting to use the bathroom as well.
- Help with tidying the table after meals and assist with washing the dishes.
- The homestay family is not your servant and you are not living in a hotel where everything is done for you. You are living as part of a family and are expected to contribute to light duties around the house.



Laundry or Washing of Clothes

Each host family has their own laundry rules. Please talk to your host after you arrive to get the necessary instructions when you need to do your laundry. Not all families have their own washer/dryer in their house or apartment. If they do, please ask your host if you can use their washing and dryer and how much soap powder or liquid to use. Many host families use coin-operated laundromats near their home. Students are responsible pay for their own laundry.



Phone Calls

Most students nowadays bring their own cell phones or purchase one when they arrive. We can assist you with the best choice for your needs.

If you need to use the host family's phone for some reason, you must pay for all your telephone calls. Please discuss the telephone arrangement with the family prior to making calls.

It might be a good idea to purchase an international phone card from the local shop to use when ringing home – do not ring mobile (cell) phones from the host family home – it is expensive. Please remind your family back home of the time difference and ask them not to call you after 10pm San Francisco time as it is not acceptable to most families to receive late night calls.



Meals

Depending on the homestay choice you booked, your host family will provide you with breakfast and dinner everyday. Note that breakfast usually consists of toast or cereal, and you will probably have to "help yourself." Cooked breakfasts are not common in America. Please call the homestay family, at least one hour before meal time, if you will not be home for the dinner or you will be late for dinner. It is a good idea to inform them before you leave for school in the morning.



Visitors

Please ask the homestay family, in advance, if you wish to have friends visit you at home. Your visitors must leave the house before 10pm at latest, or earlier if requested by the homestay family. Visitors of the opposite sex are not permitted in your bedroom unless approved by the homestay. Friends will only be allowed to stay overnight with the family's and the school's permission, which must be requested in advance.