

Brief Description and Rates

Homestay

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. This will become the students “home away from home”.

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

All meals are prepared and provided for the students.

The cost for a homestay ranges from \$700 to \$850 per month. Rates may be subject to change without notice.

Room in a House

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, dresser and desk. Students will be provided regular access to laundry facilities and access to the telephone for local calls.

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

The cost for a Room in a House ranges from \$425 to \$550 per month. Rates may be subject to change without notice.

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 Registered Landlords

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.

Student Interaction

Host families should help students to feel at home by interacting with them regularly and inviting them to join in family events. Your home is now their “Home away from home.” Students are encouraged to practice their English as much as possible.

Rooms

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

Meals (Homestay only)

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.

Laundry

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

Phone

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

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.

Home Access

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

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.

Communication

Communicate with the 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.

Guidelines and Expectations of Students

Student Arrival

All students who have arranged for airport pickup 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.

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.

Rooms

Students are expected to keep their rooms neat and tidy.

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.

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.

Phone

Students will be provided with phone access for local calls. Students are encouraged to purchase phone cards for any long distance phone calls or arrange to make collect calls unless other prior arrangements have been made with the host family.

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.

Home Access

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

Orientation to Household Routines

Students can expect to be oriented to their new home as well as to be given instructions by host family for proper use of all appliances.

Communication

Students should communicate in an honest and respectful way with their host family. If any issues or concerns arise, please address them directly with the family. If there is no resolution, contact the International student off-campus housing office and we will do our best to help resolve any issues.

Rent

Students should be given a receipt by landlord when rent is paid. Seneca College is not responsible if the student is unable to get rent receipt.

Damages to Student's Property

If the members of the host family or persons in the host's home cause damage to the student's property, it is expected that the host will compensate the student for the loss. The host hereby agrees to release and indemnify Seneca College from all liability for such damages.

Other Important Information for Students

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. Students can expect a receipt from the landlord each time that rent is paid.

One Month Notice

If a student decides to move out from their homestay, a notice of one month must be given to the landlord.

Computer and Internet

Most homes will have internet access; however, you are encouraged to have your own computer. Please speak to your host family about your 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 outdoor smoking. 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.

Visitors/Overnight Guests

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

Conflict Resolution

In the event of a conflict or disagreement between the host family and student, we encourage both parties to openly discuss any problems. If these issues cannot be resolved, we invite you to contact a staff member in the International Student Service. We 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 issued new health cards that should be carried with them at all times.

For more information please visit www.ismpln.com or call 1888-509-7797

Other

Students are responsible for paying for all repair and/or replacement costs to their host in the event that they cause damage to their host's home or property, and agree to indemnify Seneca College from all such liability.

If members of the host family or persons in the host's home cause damage to student property, the student agrees that their recourse is against the host family or other person's involved in the damage, and hereby agrees to release and indemnify Seneca College from all liability for such damages.

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 landlord, 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 landlord 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 landlords will receive a copy of the International Student Housing Guidelines.

The landlord 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 landlords to comply with our Canadian Human Rights Policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

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

Only landlords 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 may be requested at any time.

Contact us at International Student Centre:

Newnham Campus

Seneca College

1750 Finch Avenue East

Toronto, M2J 2X5

Telephone. 416-491-5050

Fax. 416-502-9104

Stan White

Ext 2947, stanley.white@senecac.on.ca

Sergio Vazquez

Ext 2367, sergio.vazquez@senecac.on.ca

WWW.STUDYATSENECA.CA