



Gower College Swansea  
International

## Homestay Guide for Students

Welcome to Gower College Swansea, we want you to know that we take your safety, well-being and happiness very seriously. If you are 16 – 18 you will be placed with one of our carefully selected and approved host families for the duration of your studies.

### What is Homestay?

Homestay accommodation provides you with the benefit of feeling supported and part of a family and will help you integrate into life in the United Kingdom (UK). Living with one of our homestay families will enable you to improve your English and experience British culture in a comfortable environment. These are all important skills for you to learn for your time at Gower College Swansea and University life in the UK.

We want you to make the most of your experience and encourage you to spend time with your host family. Meal times are important and every effort should be made to sit with your host family and discuss your day. It's also important to participate in social activities, whether it is a trip to the shops or a day out to the beach. Getting out and exploring your surroundings will really enrich your overall experience.

### What does homestay cover?

All homes have Wifi, you will have your own bedroom, with a wardrobe, storage and study space and your host will treat you as a member of their family. Breakfast and evening meals are provided each day including holiday periods. Your host families will try and cater for any specific need or personal wishes, however, you should try to eat the same food as the family which will enable you to become accustomed to British Cuisine.

Your host will provide you with your own key to the house, however it is important to abide by the college rules of being home by 22:00hrs on weekdays and 23:00hrs at the weekend and if you think you are going to be late for meals or getting home you must inform your host family.



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Your homestay host will wash your clothing and you will be provided with clean bedding and towels every week. You will have your own privacy but your host will also need to have access to clean your room.

### Who provides Homestay?

The Host family could be a couple or an individual, some have children and some have pets. Each host has a profile which will include details of their profession, family, interests and the location. Their profile will be sent to you and we will send your application form to the family, you should include as much information about yourself on your application form to help us in the matching process. Once placed it is important that you make contact with your host before the start of term.

Many of our hosts are very experienced and have enjoyed sharing their homes with students from all over the world and they often keep in touch with each other for many years. Host families provide a vital link between you, the college and your family at home and assist you in gaining your independence and social skills needed for life at college and university in the UK.

### Pre arrival information

The International Team and your host will need to know when you will be arriving in the UK and also in Swansea, you will need to forward the following information:

- Arrival Date
- Flight Details (flight number, landing time)
- Arrival Airport
- Travel Arrangements from the airport to Swansea
- Agree a time and location in Swansea for your hosts to collect you.

If you require help in organising transport from the airport to Swansea the International Office can assist you.



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After settling in, you and your family will go through a Homestay Agreement Form, stating the roles and responsibilities of the family, yourself and the College which will be signed by all parties. These are important for everyone as you settle into to your new environment.

### Wellbeing and Health

When you arrive at college you will be given a letter from the international team for you to register with a doctor. In the event of you feeling unwell and therefore unable to come into college you must tell your homestay host, ring the international office and report your sickness on the college website. If necessary we advise you to also make an appointment with your doctor. If you become ill in college we have a nurse on campus, there are also first aiders in the International Team.

### Other Support

The International Team are always available to help you with any issue that it is bothering you, whether it is about homestay, studies, illness or general day to day matters. Your safety, academic success and happiness is our priority.

Here are some comments from our hosts.

*"Being a host is a very rewarding undertaking. It's nice to give a home to young people from overseas who may be away from home for the first time". Sue Morris*

*"We thoroughly enjoyed having the international students stay with us. We loved learning about their culture and enjoyed helping them settle into our way of life. I think it was great for our children to interact with people from the other side of the world! We would definitely recommend this experience to other families".*

Roz James

*"We like to provide a ' home from home' environment and ensure that our homestay guest feels part of our family during their stay. We enjoy learning about their country and culture whilst passing on our knowledge and experience of the UK and especially Wales". Sue Dinnage*



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*"I decided to become a host family after my daughter left home and I retired after 45 years of full time work. I was allocated with 2 lovely, well behaved Chinese girls. It has been a rewarding experience. They are good company and fill an empty house. I've enjoyed watching them grow with confidence and noted how their English has improved. We have learnt so much from each other. I love hearing about their culture and way of life. They have a great sense of humour and we laugh a lot.*

*They are dedicated, hardworking girls who want to do well academically therefore it's been an honour to provide them with a base where they can feel at home and relaxed. Hopefully they will do well and achieve their goals and I'd like to think that I will played a part in their success, by providing them with a home, help and support."* Noela Williams



After a celebration for her pet dogs birthday, Jasmine Yang said *"Happy Birthday Louis on your 7<sup>th</sup> birthday Jasmine will always love you"*

#### Useful Contacts:

Gower College Swansea

Main Reception Gorseinon Campus: 01792 890700

Main Reception Tycoch Campus: 01792 284000

Main Reception Llwyn-Y-Bryn: 01792 284021

International Office: 01792 284007

International Office (Out of Hours / urgent matters): 0746369995