

Enhance your Experience - Live in a Homestay with a Canadian Family

St. Lawrence College provides a Homestay Program, which is an economical and personable way for students to be introduced to Canada. We find that our first-year students who stay in homestay adjust to their academic life more successfully. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Canadian culture and to practice their language skills with Canadian family! Communication is vital, and we encourage all students to talk regularly with their host families. We strive to make everyone's experience positive and rewarding. Our homestays are checked in advance and are regularly monitored to provide a variety of services to support the student.

The Host Family will provide the following:

- A private room with bed, linens, dresser or wardrobe, nightstand, lamp, and appropriate amount of space for the student's belongings.
- A safe living accommodation (smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, main exit ways properly cleared)
- Healthy snacks and nutritious meals. As much as possible, dinner will be served in a family gathering.
- Use of common areas in the house (living room, bathroom, etc.) and laundry facilities.

Note: The Homestay program aims to giving our international students and host family a great experience through a cultural exchange. Treat the hosts like your own family. In order to get the most out of your Homestay experience, you should try to partake in the family activities and be part of the family.

Expectations of Student & Host Family

- 1. Room and Living Accommodation:** You will be provided a private room with all basic living accommodations (bed, linens, dresser or wardrobe, nightstand, lamp, and appropriate amount of space for the student's belongings). Students are expected to keep their own room clean. Students are responsible for providing their own shampoo, shower gel, and other hygiene/toiletry products.
- 2. Laundry:** Laundry facilities and detergent are included in the price of Homestay. Students are responsible for washing their own clothes. Laundry instructions/expectations should be communicated and shown to the student. If you get placed in a Homestay in an apartment and there are coin operated machines, you will be provided with money to use laundry machines.
- 3. Internet:** Provided with a stable internet connection. Reasonable usage is expected. If usage is extreme, additional charged may have to be paid. Please discuss this with the host at the beginning of your stay.
- 4. Alcohol usage/smoking:** Some families may drink alcohol on occasion. If you are not okay with the use of alcohol, please indicate this in your application and we will place you in a home where alcohol is not used. Please indicate if you smoke on your application form. Smoking may not be allowed in the home or surrounding areas and we need to be able to find an appropriate placement for you.

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- 5. Food:** Students will be provided with three nutritious meals and snacks. As much as possible, dinner will be served in a family gathering. If the family goes out for a meal (which should have been provided in the home), the Homestay family should pay the bill. The family should discuss with the students how to proceed for breakfast and lunch. Students should inform the family if they cannot be home for dinner. Homestay families need to be aware of dietary restrictions (preferences, allergies, etc.). The Homestay Host may want to take the student with them to the grocery store occasionally so that they can get a sense of what kind of foods you like to eat.
Please keep in mind that students will need to communicate their preferences (e.g. portions, likes and dislikes). It is important to discuss this with the family. The Homestay family will do their best to accommodate you, but students will need to keep an open mind with regards to trying new foods.
 - 6. Safety:** Students are provided a safe living accommodation (smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, clear exit routes)
 - 7. Placement length:** Our Homestay contract requires students to sign a minimum 4-month contract. You are welcome to stay longer. This must be discussed with the Homestay family.
 - 8. Curfew:** Curfews are not enforced by the Homestay family. Students should discuss with the Homestay family if they plan to be home late, and be respectful of Homestay families' schedules.
 - 9. Houseguests:** Students should ask their host families permission when wishing to have a friend come over for the day, or stay for the night.
 - 10. Cleaning:** Students are responsible for keeping their room clean, and are also encouraged to help the family with light household chores such as helping clean up after dinner, doing their dishes, etc. For some students, participating in house chores may be something new. However, this helps create a sense of family cooperation and shows appreciation to the hosts. Instructions may be needed on how to do certain chores and your Homestay family will communicate this to you.
 - 11. Distance from the College:** Must live at a reasonable distance from the College and live near a bus route.
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Homestay Placement Details

- 1. Fee Payment:** The Homestay fee is CAD\$30.00 per day. Homestay fees are due on the 1st of each month. The student must pay the homestay family directly. The payment methods should be discussed between the student and family (cash, email transfer, etc.). There is a CAD\$10.00 per day late fee for each late day after the payment deadline.
 - **Early Arrival:** If you arrive prior to the first day of the month, you will pay your Homestay CAD\$30.00 per night for the number of nights that you stay in the home before the 1st of the month.
 - **Trial Period:** The first 2 weeks is a trial period. If you decide that this placement is not suitable for you within the first 14 nights, the Homestay Coordinator will attempt to help you look for other accommodations. Student will be allowed to move out only if really necessary. This will be at the discretion of the Homestay Coordinator. **After the trial period**, you must commit for the rest of the 4 month stay.

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- **Student Absences:** In the event you plan to be away from the home for more than a week, a reduced daily rate will apply beginning on the eighth day at CAD\$15.00 per day.
 - **Homestay Change:** If you desire another Homestay placement without a valid reason to move, you will have to pay the CAD\$250.00 Homestay Placement fee again.
 - For this reason, please use the 14-night trial period to carefully consider whether or not the placement will be satisfactory for the remainder of the semester.
2. **Placement length:** Minimum stay of 4 months required.
 3. **Moving Out:** If you decide to leave the home before the end of the semester, a 30-day notice must be given to the homestay host, and a CAD\$15.00 per day fee will be paid to the homestay host for the period remaining (except in very unusual circumstances and by agreement of the host).
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Application Process

1. Fill out the **Homestay Application form**.
2. Provide a **recent photo of yourself**. This will be given to the host family.
3. Pay the **CAD\$250.00** Homestay Placement Fee. (This is **non-refundable** and is **not a partial payment** of the monthly homestay fee). Include copy of your payment confirmation with application.
4. Send your application package to the International Student Advisor.
Carolina Palmer: CPalmer@sl.on.ca
5. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to your arrival.

Please Note:

We will not accept your application form until your study permit has been approved. Please wait before applying.

Applications are processed on a first-come-first-serve basis. Families are limited.

Payment Instructions

BY Flywire: <https://www.flywire.com/school/stlawrencecollege>

Flywire allows students to:

- Pay from any country and any bank
- Save money on bank fees and ensure payment is received in full
- Obtain excellent foreign exchange rates with a best rate guarantee
- Receive piece of mind with 24x7 multilingual customer support
- Track their payment from start to finish



If you have questions or need help, no matter the time zone, Flywire provides a dedicated multilingual customer support team available to you via live chat, email and phone to answer any of your questions.

Email: support@Flywire.com

Web: <https://www.Flywire.com/help>

Arrival

Once you have been matched with a Homestay family, the Homestay Coordinator will send a Family Introduction email to you, introducing you to the family. At that point, arrival plans should be made. Students are expected to get to a Kingston or Cornwall transit point (train, bus and airport) and arrangements will be made for either the homestay family or the Homestay Coordinator to pick you up at that location. Our Homestay Coordinator will communicate this information to the student. We recommend communicating with the family before you arrive. This helps create a relationship early on, and you will get to know the family better before arriving.

Early/late arrivals must be indicated on the student's application form for planning purposes so that the homestay family can ensure they are available for your arrival.

Please note: Homestay arrivals are only permitted between 7:00 am to 11:30pm. Please contact Carolina Palmer: CPalmer@sl.on.ca to make alternative arrangements if your arrival time is between 11:30pm to 7:00 am.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the minimum stay?*

- The minimum stay of our Homestay Program is four months (one semester).

2. *What kind of housing is available in a Homestay?*

- There are various types of houses from host to host. It could be a house, an apartment or a townhouse. Please note, we cannot guarantee a specific type of home.

3. *Are utilities included?*

- Yes, it is all-inclusive (electricity, gas and water).

4. *Will there be any other students in the Homestay?*

- There may be other students in the house if the host families have suitable space for more than one student.

5. *Will I have my own bathroom?*

- It depends on the number of bathrooms in the house and the number of people living in the house. Usually, students share the bathroom with other students or the host family.

6. *Can I have a guest come to my Homestay?*

- Yes, but you should discuss this with your host family first.

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7. ***Who is the first point of contact if a problem arises?***

- Your homestay coordinator should be your first point of contact for advice, or if a problem arises. Usually the homestay coordinator will liaise with the International Student Advisor on the appropriate campus for further action. If you cannot reach the Homestay Coordinator, or they are on vacation, please contact the International Student Advisor.

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1 Application Information

- Please Complete this application form, print it out, sign it, scan it and send it back by email, along with the **CAD\$250.00** Homestay Placement Fee payment details.
- Our Homestay Coordinator will contact you with your host family information after we have received proof that your study permit has been approved and that you have purchased your airline ticket to Canada.
- The homestay placement fee payment fee is **non-refundable** and will be processed once a host family has been assigned to you.

Please Note: Applications are due a minimum of two (2) weeks before your first day of classes and there is a minimum of four (4) months (one semester) participation in the Homestay Program.

2 Personal Information

Family Name:	Given Name:
Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD):	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Nationality:	Passport Number:
Native Language:	Other Language(s):

Immigration Status in Canada

- Canadian Citizen
 Study Permit
 Permanent Resident/Landed Immigrant
 Visitor Visa

3 Home Country Address

Street Address:	
City:	Province/State:
Country:	Postal Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
E-mail:	

Emergency Contact Information

Contact person in your home country. (Parent or Legal Guardian preferable)

Family Name:	Given Name:
Relationship to Applicant:	E-mail:
Home Telephone Number:	Mobile Number:
Street Address:	
City:	Province/State:
Country:	Postal Code:

4 Personal History

- How long do you plan to stay in the Homestay Program?
 4 months 8 months over 8 months
- How would you rate your oral English skills?
 Poor Fair Good Excellent
- What type of host family would you prefer?
 Any type of family is OK
 Family with children
 Family without children
- Many Canadian families have pets. Do you have pet allergies?
 Yes Please describe: _____
 No
 Are you willing to live in a house with a: cat _____ dog _____
- Do you smoke?
 Yes (Are you willing to smoke outside only?) Yes No
 No
- Would you live in a house where someone smokes?
 Yes
 No
- Do you drink alcohol?
 Never Almost Never Sometimes Often
- How would you rate your health condition?
 Poor Fair Good Excellent
 (Explain:)
- Are you currently on any medication or have any health problem(s) that your homestay family should be aware of? (failure to disclose all health problems will result in the immediate cancellation of your homestay)
 Yes Please describe:
 No
- Do you have any food allergies?
 Yes Please describe:
 No
- Is there any food type that you cannot eat due to dietary or religious reasons?
 Yes Please describe:
 No
- Are there any types of food that you do not like?
 Yes Please describe:
 No
- Would you live with a family hosting another international student?
 Yes (If the student was from another country & I have a private bedroom)
 No

7 Homestay Agreement & Medical Authorization

I, am an applicant for the St. Lawrence College Homestay program,

Agreement

I understand that my participation in the Homestay Program depends upon my following the rules and standards of the Homestay Program, and the instructions given to me during the Program. Failure to follow these rules, standards and instructions, may result in the immediate termination of this service, expulsion from the home and loss of any paid fees. My participation in the Homestay Program may be terminated at the sole discretion of the International Office at St. Lawrence College.

In addition, I specifically agree:

- To pay for all phone call charges incurred by me, when authorized to use the family's home phone / mobile phone. (Please make sure to obtain detailed information about the costs involved before making any calls);
- To participate in the Homestay Program for a **minimum of four months**;
- To give my host family **thirty days written notice** before I leave the Homestay Program.

General Conditions

The daily rate is CAD\$30.00 and this includes a private furnished room, 3 meals per day and access to the home's internet and laundry services. Monthly fees are paid directly to the Homestay host family.

Note: Do not carry large amounts of cash with you when you travel to Canada. You can withdraw funds from a Canadian Bank ATM once you are here to pay for your first month's homestay fee.

- Monthly homestay payments are due on the **1st** day of every month. There is a **CAD\$10.00 per day late fee** for each late day after the payment deadline. Please make sure to pay the **FULL** amount **ON TIME**, since we cannot arrange a new homestay if a student has been asked to leave a homestay due to late payments.
- If you arrive prior to the first day of the month you will pay your Homestay Host on arrival a prorated payment based on **CAD\$30.00 per night** for the number of nights that you stay in the home that month.
- If you are going to be away from the homestay for more than 7 days, a fee of CAD\$15.00 per day will be charged for your room while you are away instead of the usual CAD\$30.00 daily fee.
- The first 2 weeks (14 nights) of Homestay are a trial period. If you decide that this placement is not suitable for you within the first 14 nights, the Homestay Coordinator will attempt to help you to find other accommodations. A CAD\$30.00 charge per night that you stayed in the home will be deducted from the total that you paid upon arrival, and you will receive the balance as a refund.
- At the end of the second week, if you decide to stay in the home that was arranged for you, you are making a commitment to stay until the end of the semester.
- After the first 14 nights, a move may only be requested under extenuating circumstances. **If you feel unsafe or if a very serious problem occurs, which cannot be resolved, please speak to our Homestay Coordinator, who will help you find other accommodations immediately.**
- **If you decide to leave the home before the end of the semester, a 30-day notice must be given to the homestay host, and a CAD\$15.00 per day fee will be paid to the homestay host for the period remaining** (except in very unusual circumstances and by agreement of the host).

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Note: In the event that you request to move to a new Homestay family, without a valid reason to move, **you will have to pay the CAD\$250.00 Homestay Placement fee again**, in addition to **paying the Homestay Fee for your new family hosts**. For this reason, please use the 14 night trial period to carefully consider whether or not the placement will be satisfactory for the remainder of the semester.

Only in the rare case that you have a legitimate reason for leaving before the end of the semester (to be determined by the Homestay Coordinator and the Director of International Recruitment & Student Support) a new Homestay will be found for you at no additional Placement fee.

Release from Liability

I understand that there are risks associated with travel and living in a foreign country in addition to the normal risks of daily life. I understand that I should obtain insurance to ensure coverage against loss or damage to myself or my property. I understand that I must maintain medical insurance, the cost of which is **included** in the tuition fees for my program at St. Lawrence College.

I hereby fully release and discharge St. Lawrence College, its agents, employees, officers and Board members, and the host family, from any and all claims, causes of action, expenses, damages and demands of any and every kind and nature whatsoever, at law or at equity or pursuant to any statute, which I may have for any injury, loss or damage to any person or property arising in any way from: (a) my participation in the Homestay Program; or (b) my actions outside of the Homestay Program, including but not limited to, independent travel or absences from the College.

I shall indemnify St. Lawrence College, its agents, employees, officers and Board members and the host family from any and all claims, damages, financial obligations or liabilities which may be brought or made against them as a result of any loss, damage or injury to any person or property caused by my acts or omissions.

Medical Treatment

If I become incapable, in the opinion of a registered medical practitioner, of consenting to medical treatment, I nominate the Homestay Coordinator, International Student Advisor, Associate Director –International Education, Director – International Education, or an adult member of my host family to consent to medical treatment on my behalf when a registered medical practitioner advises that such treatment is in the best interests of my health and well-being.

St. Lawrence College International Office Staff, the Homestay Coordinator, or the host family may take reasonable actions in the event of my injury, illness, or incapacity, including transporting me back to my home country at my own expense.

I waive and release all claims against St. Lawrence College, its agents, employees, officers and Board members, the Homestay Coordinator, or the host family, for any decisions or actions made relating to my incapacity, illness or injuries.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THIS AGREEMENT WITH ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE.

.....
Applicant's signature

.....
Date

.....
Parent or Guardian's signature

.....
Date

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF EACH OTHER

8 Checklist

- I have completed **all** parts of this Homestay Application form.
- I have attached a recent photo of myself.
- I have enclosed the **CAD\$250.00** Homestay Placement Fee.
- I understand that there is a **four (4) month minimum** stay in the SLC Homestay Program.
- This application must be received a minimum of **two (2) weeks** before your first day of classes at SLC.

Please note: The Homestay Placement Fee is non-refundable and is not a partial payment of the monthly homestay fee.

I expect to arrive in Kingston on:

(YYYY/MM/DD):

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9 Payment

Do **not** send cash or a personal cheque from a bank outside Canada.

- **FLYWIRE – On line payment**
<https://www.flywire.com/pay/stlawrencecollege>

Please send your completed application form to:

St. Lawrence College International Office
100 Portsmouth Avenue
Kingston, ON K7L 5A6
Canada

E-mail: CPalmer@sl.on.ca