# All That You Need to Know About Home Stay as a Student by Nathan Brown T

Article published on December 26th 2011 | Education

The world has become a smaller place to live. Travelling cannot be any easier than what it is today. Fast jets, the internet, inter-government programs and cultural programs have thrown open opportunities that we could hardly have imagined even a quarter century before. Most often the inspiration to travel far and wide is the cultural exchange to which we are subjected to through watching TV channels on services like Dish TV.

The single largest benefit from travelling is the way education is disseminated all over the world. So it is common to see young aspirants seeking admission into colleges and universities far away from their home, and for extended periods that run into several years. Once educated, these young men and women settle down in their new home country and peruse professions comfortably. They have little difficulty getting assimilated into their new country all because of the experience they undergo as students.

But not everything is as rosy as one may have imagined, students undergo through a traumatic stage, at least during their initial stages, in the foreign country where they undergo education. And the single most reason why some choose to return back is the cultural shock they receive. It is not rare to see them being ridiculed and even attacked by natives on account of their skin color, religion or belief. However the ingenious amongst the lot choose home stay to staying in college dormitories as a way out of their predicaments.

Home stays have advantages that dorms cannot provide, and on the positive side they help the students to understand local cultures and customs faster, as they relate to living in a society. They get the benefit of counseling from the local family who host them, and sometimes when the local host is from the student's home country, it proves doubly beneficial for both. But not every student can be fortunate enough to find such a host.

Locating a home stay host is easier said than done. You will find many of them if you make an internet search, but not all of them can be to the student's advantage. Unlike in a dorm, students should expect conditions, some of which may not be to his or her liking. There may be restrictions on alcohol consumption, staying late or even bringing home a guest even if they are the student's relatives. So the most sensible thing for the students to do is check the host's conditions, and if some of them are not to their liking, they should find out if it can be relaxed a little bit. Some will be obliging, but it is always prudent to negotiate before hand, rather than regret for having made a wrong decision.

Some home stays are very engaging for the students, they will be allowed to use many of the appliances available there. It means you will have access to the laundry machine, TV, car park, internet and many more. Some home stays on the other hand will be a plain rental plus electricity, water charges and internet charges. Both have advantages and disadvantage. At the end, it is all a question of what you plan to spend. Remember that families accept home stay for the extra money they get from spaces they have no use for. So students must strive to pay their rent promptly, and remember it does not make sense to quarrel over that with the host after they have moved in. If at all they do that, they will be unwittingly bringing a bad name to their fellow countrymen and the person who arranged their home stay.

Home stays are often arranged by mutual friends or a home stay agent who will verify the student's credentials. They will need to have all the travel documents in order and every possible details about the college or university where they are about to take the course. Students should try not to

conceal facts that have an important bearing on their stay in the new country. It always pays to be a law abiding citizen.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/education-articles/all-that-you-need-to-know-about-home-stay-as-a-student.htm - Article Side

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Nathan Brown is a freelance writer and he likes to write on a variety of topics ranging from student, education to home stay. He likes to follow education programs that are aired on various channels offered by a Dish TV.

Article Keywords:
tv dish, dish tv, home stay

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