



Elgin Community College
International Student Homestay Program

Application for International Students



Elgin
Community
College

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Community College District 509, commonly known as Elgin Community College, ("ECC") is pleased to offer the International Student Homestay Program to qualified F-1 international students enrolled full-time at ECC in a degree program or the Intensive English Program, and/or J-1 exchange visitors where ECC is the sponsoring institution. Please complete all fields of this application. Incomplete applications will not be processed and will delay your placement into the International Student Homestay Program.

Applying for the International Student Homestay Program:

International students and J-1 exchange visitors who have been accepted to ECC may apply to the ECC International Student Homestay Program. To apply, you must complete all items on the following checklist:

1. Read, complete, and sign the *Application for International Students* for the ECC International Student Homestay Program.
2. Read and sign the *Program Information, Policies, and Agreement for International Students* for the ECC International Student Homestay Program.
3. Submit a letter of introduction with a current photograph.
4. Apply online at international.elgin.edu, by email to homestay@elgin.edu, or by postal mail to:

Elgin Community College
Center for Global Engagement
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
United States of America
5. Once a homestay placement has been made, pay a one-time, non-refundable placement fee of \$100.00 USD prior to arriving in the homestay. Payments can be made in person at ECC Student Accounts, online at elgin.edu/AccessECC, or via international bank wire through Flywire at flywire.com (if student is outside the U.S.).

The homestay application will only be processed once all above materials are received by the ECC International Office and after you have been accepted into ECC as an F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor (ECC must be the sponsoring institution for J-1 exchange visitors). For questions regarding eligibility, please contact the Homestay Coordinator. **You should submit your homestay application, agreement, and required documents no later than 60 days prior to your arrival in the U.S.** The International Student Homestay Program does not guarantee a homestay placement. However, most students are matched with a host family if they submit their application by the application deadline. Applications for homestay placement received after the application deadline will be filled based on availability.

Please complete all fields of this application. Incomplete applications will not be processed and will delay your placement.

Biographical Information

Date of application: _____
(month/day/year)

Requested Semester for Homestay: ____ Fall ____ Spring Year ____

Family Name/Surname: _____

First Name/Given Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Name you wish to be called: _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Gender Identity: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____
(month/day/year)

Country of birth: _____ Country of citizenship: _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____

Email address: _____

Emergency contact name and phone: _____

Relationship of emergency contact to student: _____

Native language: _____ Other languages spoken: _____

English conversation level: ☐ None ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

General Housing Information

Homestay placements are assigned for a full semester. If you arrive for studies mid-semester (e.g. enrollment in the Intensive English Program), you will be in the homestay for the number of weeks remaining in the semester.

Please indicate the type of homestay placement you require (note: homestay fees are the same regardless of a shared or private room):

- ☐ Homestay *without* transportation: \$750.00 per month
- ☐ Homestay *with* transportation to and from school: \$950.00 per month
- ☐ Special Programs *with* transportation: \$32 per night

Many students who participate in the International Student Homestay Program may share a room with another international student. Are you open to sharing a room? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference
If no, please understand we may be unable to place you with a host family and/or meet all of your homestay requests.

Would you prefer small children in your host family? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you prefer teenagers in your host family? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you prefer living with a host family that has no children? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you be comfortable living with unmarried or same sex partners?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you be comfortable living with a single individual? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you be comfortable living with a host family that has a pet? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Many Americans have indoor pets such as dogs, cats, etc. Please note that requesting a homestay without a pet may limit the opportunity to be placed with an American family.

Do you have any pet allergies? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, to which animals are you allergic?

Do you smoke? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please note that most of our hosts do not allow smoking inside the home. If you smoke inside the homestay, you may be asked to move immediately. All smoking must be done outdoors. When smoking outside, please dispose of your cigarette remnants properly.

Are you willing to live with a host or family member that smokes? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you be comfortable living with a host family that owns a firearm? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ No Preference *(Many Americans may legally own a firearm).*

Do you have any dietary restrictions (medical, religious, vegetarian, vegan)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

Arrival Information

Airport pickup from Chicago O'Hare International Airport or Chicago Midway International Airport is provided by your host family if requested well in advance and based on availability. The fee for airport pickup from Chicago O'Hare is \$50.00 USD; the fee for airport pickup from Chicago Midway is \$75.00 USD. This fee is payable directly to the host family along with the homestay fee. If airport pickup is requested, your host family will meet you at your flight's baggage claim area with a sign with your name on it. Flight information must be received at least 21 days prior to your arrival date.

Do you need airport pickup? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, how do you plan to get to your homestay?

Will anyone be accompanying you to the U.S.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide name, relationship, and duration of stay in U.S. for each individual accompanying you.

Note: Family members and/or friends who accompany you to the U.S. must make hotel arrangements for their stay. The Center for Global Engagement is happy to assist with hotel recommendations.

Transportation

If you choose a homestay that provides transportation, you will be driven to and from ECC for classes and activities and one weekly trip to the supermarket. Any other transportation needs must be discussed with your homestay family. If you choose a homestay that does not provide transportation, you will be responsible for making your own arrangements for local transportation. Few homestays are within walking distance of campus, and public transportation is limited.

Do you plan to drive? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you plan to get a U.S. driver's license? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you plan to buy a car? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please discuss with your host family where you will park your car. Additionally, you are required to maintain automobile insurance in accordance with state and local law.

Are you comfortable using public transportation (buses, trains)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you understand that ECC does not provide individual transport to and from the campus?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Lifestyle and Interests

Write brief comments on the topics below.

Your personality:

Work/career experience:

Travel experience:

Special interests and/or hobbies:

What religion do you practice (if any)? _____

Are you willing to live with a host of a different religion than your own?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No Preference

Would you decline placement with a host of a specific religion? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please specify:

Although we will do our best to match you with a family meeting your preferences, ECC cannot guarantee placement with a family of a particular religion.

Do you have any medical or physical conditions? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain:

Do you need any accommodations to live independently in a homestay (for instance: a homestay that is adapted to a wheelchair)? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain:

Do you have any psychological or emotional conditions that would affect your placement with a host family? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain:

Are you currently taking any medications? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please list and explain:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Medication: _____ | Condition: _____ |
| Medication: _____ | Condition: _____ |
| Medication: _____ | Condition: _____ |
| Medication: _____ | Condition: _____ |

Have you made arrangements, or plan to make arrangements, to have your medication filled in the U.S.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any special requests or needs your host family should know about? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please explain:

What questions or concerns do you have about living with a host family?

Please include a letter of introduction of yourself for your host family. This is a great way for your host family to get to know you. Your letter may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Details of yourself and your family.
- What you like to do in your spare time?
- Why you want to live with an American family?
- Describe your personality – do you like spending time alone or with others? Are you serious or outgoing?
- Any other information that may help your host family learn about you.

Although all attempts are made to promote a positive and safe homestay experience, Elgin Community College is not responsible for the lifestyle, schedule, behavior, philosophy, religious affiliation or occupation of the homestay family. By signing below, I certify that I understand the above and give my permission for any of the information contained in this form to be released to my homestay family and have my housing information released to my parents, guardian and/or agent. I understand that once I am assigned a host family, I am obligated to remain in the homestay for the duration of time as specified in the Homestay Agreement.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____
(month/day/year)

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____
(if student is under 18 years of age) (month/day/year)

This form must accompany your *Program Information, Policies, and Agreement for International Students* for the ECC International Student Homestay Student Program in order for your application to be processed.