



Homestay Family Application Package 2018-2019

Lord, in your light, we see light.

Psalm 36:9b



Thank you for your interest in London Christian High's homestay family program. Hosting an international student is an experience rich in blessings and, at times, challenges, and the decision to become a homestay provider should be made thoughtfully and, most importantly, prayerfully.

London Christian High is an interdenominational school located in the southeast end of the city of London. We have a population of approximately 240 students, who come to us from Huron County, Stratford, Woodstock, Aylmer, St. Thomas, Strathroy, Lambton County, London, and several other smaller communities in between. Our purpose is to provide students with a secondary education that integrates Christian faith, learning, and living, for a life of Christian service. We have experienced steady growth in our international student program over the last few years, and we are thrilled that God is opening these doors for us as we seek to equip this generation to serve Him, both locally and globally.

This package contains information on the homestay family application process. You will find an outline of the application process, the application form, the reference forms, an outline of homestay family expectations, and the homestay family agreement form. If you have any questions regarding these documents, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

It is our desire that the homestay program will enrich the lives of students and families. As a school, we are committed to doing all we can to ensure that your experience during the application process, and potentially as a homestay family, is a positive one.

May God bless and guide you as together we seek His will in the placement of our international students.

In His grip,

Chris Chadwick
Homestay Coordinator
homestay@ldcss.ca

London Christian High - Homestay Family Application Process

Homestay Family Basic Requirements:

- At least one adult, minimum 30 years old, lives in the home and will fulfill the role of the parent/guardian to the student
- Adults in the home are committed Christians
- Student will be provided with a private bedroom with a dresser and a desk and three meals per day

A. Application Package

Families interested in hosting international students will complete and submit the following documents to the International Student Coordinator:

1. Homestay Family Application Form
2. Photographs: the home exterior, the bedroom intended for the student, and all family members living at home (plus any other residents or pets if applicable)
3. Pastoral Reference Form completed by the pastor of your congregation
4. a) Elementary School Reference Form completed by the principal of a Christian elementary school
or, if this is not applicable to you,
b) Personal Reference Form completed by someone who can comment on the Christian character of your family and your family's suitability to hosting an international student
5. Homestay Family Agreement
6. Police Vulnerable Sector Check for all members of the household over the age of 18 years (original copies less than 12 months old) – please apply for this once we have arranged a home visit with you.

B. Home Visit

Upon receipt of the application, the two representatives of London Christian High will visit the family in their home (this visit may occur prior to the criminal record check documentation arriving at the school). A homestay handbook will be given detailing program policies and procedures.

C. Notification of Acceptance

Notification of acceptance into the homestay program will be sent by mail or email.

D. Student Placement

Students are placed with the homestay that is most suitable to the circumstances of both the student and the family. Most students will be placed by mid-August; however, students may enrol on an ongoing basis throughout the school year.

E. Orientation

New homestay parents will attend a student-parent orientation at the start of school in August to familiarize the families with school/program policies and procedures. There will also be a homestay parent orientation in September to meet other homestay families and ask further questions that may arise.

Please answer the questions below. If you require extra space, please attach additional pages to this application.

1. Why are you interested in hosting an international student in your home?

2. Have you hosted an international student in the past? Yes / No (please circle one)

Dates you hosted: _____ Age(s) of Student(s): _____

Nationality of Student(s): _____

Name of Organization You Worked With: _____

May we contact the organization you previously worked with? Yes / No (please circle one)

3. Do you presently have, or may you in the future have, foster children in your home? Yes / No

4. Does any resident of your home smoke? Yes / No (please circle one)

5. Do you have pets? If so, please provide details below regarding the type of animal(s), number of animals, and where in the home they are permitted.

6. Please name the church your family attends, and describe your attendance and involvement at this church.

7. Briefly describe you family's hobbies and interests, and outline how you will involve the international student in your family life.

8. Have you, or any members of your household, ever been convicted of a criminal offence? If so, please explain.

Thank you for your interest in being a host family for an international student. We will contact you to arrange a home visit.

**London Christian High
Homestay Family Application**

Pastoral Reference

_____ has/have applied to host an international student in their home. It is important that our host families be strong and positive “ambassadors” of Jesus Christ and our school. Your responses on this form are critical in helping us determine the applicant family’s suitability for hosting an international student. Thank you for taking the time to complete this reference form.

1. Briefly outline how long you have known the applicants, and how well you know them.

2. Please describe the applicants’ church attendance and involvement. How often does the family attend?

3. Please describe why you believe the applicants would, or would not, provide a safe, nurturing home for an international student.

4. Please describe how your church will welcome and nurture the international student who may be placed with the applicants.

Thank you for completing this reference form. Please mail it directly to London Christian High (24 Braesyde Avenue, London, ON, N5W 1V3), or email it to homestay@ldcss.ca.

Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**London Christian High
Homestay Family Application**

Christian Elementary School Principal Reference

_____ has/have applied to host an international student in their home. It is important that our host families be strong and positive “ambassadors” of Jesus Christ and our school. Your responses on this form are critical in helping us determine the applicant family’s suitability for hosting an international student. Thank you for taking the time to complete this reference form.

1. How long have you known the applicants, and in what capacity?

2. Please outline the applicants’ contributions to your school community.

3. Do the children of the applicants have any behavioural issues that we should be aware of?

4. Please explain below why you would, or would not, recommend the applicants as a host family.

Thank you for completing this reference form. Please mail it directly to London Christian High (24 Braesyde Avenue, London, ON, N5W 1V3), or email it to homestay@ldcss.ca.

Name: _____

School: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**London Christian High
Homestay Family Application**

Personal Reference

_____ has/have applied to host an international student in their home. It is important that our host families be strong and positive “ambassadors” of Jesus Christ and our school. Your responses on this form are critical in helping us determine the applicant family’s suitability for hosting an international student.

1. Briefly outline how long you have known the applicants, and in what capacity.

2. From your observations, please describe the dynamics and interactions among the members of the applicant family.

3. Please describe why you believe the applicants would, or would not, provide a safe, nurturing home for an international student.

4. Please describe how the applicants live out their faith and the role their faith plays in their lives.

Thank you for completing this reference form. Please mail it directly to London Christian High (24 Braesyde Avenue, London, ON, N5W 1V3), or email it to homestay@ldcss.ca.

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

London Christian High

Expectations and Responsibilities of Homestay Families

Thank you for partnering with London Christian High in our International Student program. God has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with students and families from other countries and cultures, and it is our desire to be good stewards of this opportunity. It is our hope and prayer that hosting an international student will be a positive experience for your entire family and that your student will be enriched by his or her time in your home.

The homestay family is expected to provide consistency between the home and the school so that the Christian worldview is communicated clearly to the student. Homestay families will encourage the student to abide by the school rules and respect the authority of all staff members at the school.

The homestay family is expected to share their faith with the international student, both during family devotions and whenever opportunities arise to show the hand of God at work. The family will ensure that the student develops a relationship with a local church and becomes involved in its programs.

The homestay family is expected to help the student achieve academic success. This will include accommodating the student's attendance at extra-curricular activities that happen after school (e.g. sports teams). This will also include attending Parent-Teacher Conferences (held once per semester) on behalf of the international student. It may also include answering a student's questions regarding class assignments or monitoring the completion of homework.

The homestay family is expected to treat the student much like one of their own children when it comes to setting rules and guidelines, always being mindful of the school's legal obligation to ensure the safety of the students. Permission should not be granted to participate in any activity/event that makes the homestay parent uneasy or wary.

Overall, the homestay family is expected to cultivate a healthy mentoring relationship with their international student, and to nurture and care for their student's well being physically, academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Any concerns regarding the student should be communicated to the Homestay Coordinator immediately.

London Christian High Homestay Family Agreement 2018-2019

1. The Homestay Parent(s) will provide a clean, orderly, pleasant, and safe living environment for the student.
2. The Homestay Family will meet with the Homestay Coordinator once/year for a home inspection.
3. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees to provide the student with his/her own private bedroom including a window, bed, dresser, closet, desk and chair (for study purposes), as well as necessary items such as linens, curtains, and towels.
4. The Homestay Parent(s) will provide the student with three meals per day, consisting of a variety of nutritional, well-balanced foods. Dinner will be eaten together as a family whenever possible.
5. The Homestay Parent(s) will involve the student in family activities and outings, including at least one group activity per week, such as playing a board game or watching a movie together.
6. The Homestay Parent(s) will attend church with the student every Sunday **or** ensure that they attend a church service in their first language if that is more preferable to the student.
7. The Homestay Parent(s) will communicate with and inform the Homestay Coordinator of any misunderstandings or conflicts between the Homestay Parent(s) and student.
8. The Homestay Parent(s) will obtain appropriate medical care for the student in case of illness or injury.
9. The Homestay Parent(s) will ensure that on each level of the home, there is a working smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, and access to a fire extinguisher, and will instruct the student on the course of action to take in the event of a fire and other emergencies.
10. The Homestay Parent(s) will not allow the student to operate any of their vehicles and/or farm equipment.
11. The Homestay Parent(s) will not require the student to maintain their house or yard, babysit their children, or cook their meals, with the exception of keeping their bedroom and all other areas used by the student, such as the kitchen and bathroom, clean and orderly.
12. The Homestay Parent(s) will not leave students home alone overnight, nor will they allow a student to sleep anywhere else without parental supervision. The Homestay Coordinator must approve of all overnight supervisors, both in and out of the homestay residence.
13. The Homestay Parent(s) will not allow students to take out-of-town trips (with or without the homestay family) that have not been previously arranged with the Homestay Coordinator.
14. Household members will not abuse alcohol or drugs.
15. Household members will not make improper advances toward the student. Romantic or sexual interactions between any household member and the student are forbidden.

16. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees to host for a minimum of one school year. If it is impossible for the Homestay Parent(s) to continue with this agreement, the Homestay Parent(s) will give the school a minimum of two months' notice. If the student is relocated at any time during the school year, no further compensation will be provided to the homestay; a per diem rate may apply calculated from the number of days the student resides at the home.
17. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees that remuneration will be \$870.00 per month, payable by cheque on the last day of each month, for the ten months of the school year (September – June).
18. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees that that their property insurance provider has been notified of the homestay arrangement and sufficient insurance coverage has been obtained while hosting an international student.
19. The Homestay Parent(s) has fully read the Abuse Policy document and agrees to abide by the procedures.
20. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees to provide unlimited and high speed internet.
21. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees that no additional payments or costs may be charged to or collected from the student without the agreement of the Homestay Coordinator and/or the international student's family.
22. The Homestay Parent(s) will promptly notify the International Student Coordinator of any changes with regard to number of household members (e.g. family members moving in or out).
23. The Homestay Parent(s) will not welcome any additional residents into their home (e.g. boarders, renters).
24. The Homestay Parent(s) agrees to attend the Orientation evening (late August/September) and Parent-Teacher Conferences (Fall and Spring).
25. The Homestay Parent(s) gives consent for their contact information (names, phone numbers, emails, home address) to be distributed to other homestay parents and used within the school community, and also for biographical and home information collected in the application to be shared with international students and their families for placement purposes.
26. The Homestay Parent(s) will make themselves aware of all expectations, policies, and procedures regarding both international students and homestay parents and will both follow these and encourage their student to follow them.
27. If the Homestay Parent(s) **do not** meet program standards at any time, the student may, at the discretion of the International Student Coordinator, be moved from the home of the Homestay Parent(s), **without** notice or lieu payment.

Signature (Applicant)

Signature (Co-Applicant)

Date