

Welcome to Global English Centre Homestay !

The Centre staff would like to welcome you to Global English Centre (GEC). We look forward to providing you with a lovely Homestay family to help make your stay in Malaysia both enjoyable and successful. GEC has compiled the following information regarding our homestay pertaining to expectations and rules.

If you have any other further queries please contact us at the Centre:

Global English Centre
No.24-0, Lot 115, Ground Floor, Block D,
Lorong Kingfisher Plaza 6, Plaza Kingfisher,
88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Tel: +6088-426810
Fax: +6088-429810
Email: info@gec.net.my
Website: www.gec.net.my

Living with a Homestay Family

Global English Centre Accommodation Department visits and interviews families in Kota Kinabalu, we choose families who are friendly and are able to provide good quality accommodation.

There are many different kinds of families:

- parents with children or teenagers
- married couples with no children
- single parent family
- elderly couples
- single women

As Malaysia is a multi-cultural country, some homestay families may originally be from another country. Homestay families may live in a house or an apartment and are generally located near GEC. Some families take more than one student so you may be living in the same home as another student. We do not place more than 3 students of the same nationality in the same homestay, unless requested. Homestay accommodation gives you a wonderful opportunity to learn and practice your English. Staying with a Malaysian family is also a great cultural experience as you interact daily with local people.

Please remember:

Homestay is **NOT** a hotel! Your homestay host is **NOT** a servant but rather a person who is offering you a bedroom and facilities in his/her home and wishes to find out more about you and your country. Try to become part of the home by joining in the life of the Homestay family and offering to help where possible. We ask that you behave like a member of the family, being helpful, considerate and pleasant at all times.

What does Homestay include?

When you stay with a homestay arranged by GEC, you can expect:

- a private room with: a bed, a desk or a table, a chair, a lamp, storage space for personal belongings, breakfast and dinner every day, a house key, bed linen, to practise your English with the family on a regular basis in a safe environment. **IMPORTANT NOTE: GEC homestay is available only while you are a student at GEC.**

Homestay Program Student Agreement

Global English Centre (GEC) Homestay program is intended to help international students throughout their stay in Kota Kinabalu. The program's key objective is to offer the best quality Homestay experience for students and families. In addition, the Homestay program provides:

- International students with a real and practical learning environment for studying English and experiencing Malaysian culture
- Homestay families and students, the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures

The following agreement outlines the commitments & expectations of the Homestay student. Please read, sign and return to the Agency Manager/Homestay coordinator. If you do not understand or need further clarification on any of the points below, please ask the Agency Manager/Homestay coordinator.

The Homestay student understands and agrees to:

- Communicate with the Homestay family, and ask questions if anything is not understood. Participate in the family activities and offer to help with household chores such as meal preparation and clean up, tidying up after using living areas that are shared with the family etc.
- Promise to keep the lines of communication open at all times, and give your Homestay family, the same love and respect you would your own family.
- Keep bedroom clean and orderly, not leaving clothes or towels lying around on the floor or under the bed.
- Take extra care with your house key. (i.e. Do not loan your key to anyone else.)
- Use a phone card for making long distance phone calls if calling from the Homestay phone.
- Supply own personal toiletries: toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.
- Ask for permission when attending activities and events outside of the normal scope of the Homestay family routine – like missing dinner, going to a friend's home, having a friend stay over, etc. If you are not sure, please check with the Homestay family or Homestay Coordinator.
- Work hard to adapt to Malaysian culture.
- Respect the rights, privacy and the religious and political beliefs of each of the members of the household.
- If coming home later than expected, you must phone the homestay family as soon as possible to let them know.
- Follow the Homestay family house rules, failure to do so will result in a first warning, any further breach of the homestay rules will result in the student being removed from the Homestay without refund and the student will either be sent home or must find their own accommodation.
- Not smoke or bring alcohol into the home without the permission of the Homestay family. The use of illegal drugs and alcoholic beverages is strictly forbidden. Most families do not allow smoking in their homes. Never smoke in your homestay.
- Inform the Homestay family about your family of your schedule for the day/week and also your estimated time of return when you go out
- Submit homestay payments direct to GEC only, not to the Homestay family. Full payment to be made in advanced prior to your arrival in Homestay or for those already staying in Homestay and extending, outstanding payments are to be made at least 2 weeks before your checkout date, if continuing your stay. See Homestay coordinator for payment due dates.

- Not own or operate a motor vehicle while participating in the Homestay program unless approved by GEC and the Homestay family.
- No Homestay fee refunds will be granted to those students who decide to leave the program earlier than the agreed date or if the student has breached homestay rules.
- Replace or pay for any damage to Homestay home or contents which occurred as a result of your negligence.
- Be enrolled and actively attend full time classes while staying in Homestay.
- Not to share Homestay family details with any other parties without the consent of GEC understanding that it is private information protected under the privacy act.
- That GEC will select a Homestay family from those available, based on the information which I have provided, and that they cannot guarantee that all of my personal preferences will be met.
- Acquire complete medical insurance coverage either prior to leaving my country or upon arrival in Kota Kinabalu. GEC and the Homestay family cannot assume responsibility for expenses incurred from a student's illness or other medical liabilities.
- Contact Homestay Coordinator if there are any difficulties and request assistance when necessary.
- Understand that for late flight arrivals after 10pm GEC will arrange a temporary one night stay at the GEC Student Lodge and the student will be transferred to the Homestay family the following day.
- Abide by the terms and conditions found on the GEC website and in this agreement realizing that failure to do so may result in removal from the program and in the case of custodianship students being sent home.
- Respect the recommendations, suggestions and decisions of the Homestay Coordinator to assist in resolving any difficult situation. This may include, if necessary finding alternate accommodations.
- Do your best to make the Homestay experience positive. **Remember: The Homestay family is offering their home and volunteering their time. They will treat you as a member of their family, with respect and courtesy and in return expect the same of you. You are not staying in a hotel.**
- Remember that living cross culturally can be challenging and also very rewarding so have fun!

Student Homestay Agreement

Note: The transmission by facsimile, email, or post of this signed agreement shall constitute adequate execution and delivery of it.

I have read and agreed with the terms and conditions set out in the attached documents

For and on behalf of the Student I accept the terms and conditions as set out in this agreement.

Signed:

Date: _____

Student Name (Please print)

Parents/Guardian signature
(if student is under 18)