

STUDENT LIFE
LOCAL LIFE

Real life

**ENJOY THE BEST OF IT ALL,
WITH HOMESTAY AT UEA**

UEA
University of East Anglia

HOMESTAY



“I can still do whatever I like, at any time.”

Klara's story

ARRIVING AT UEA

When Klara first arrived from Austria, she threw herself into uni life: she chose to live in the dorms, commuted to campus, attended socials and joined clubs. The atmosphere was exactly as she'd expected – she found a forward-thinking uni full of open-minded, friendly people. It reminded her of home.

But as time went by, Klara felt she wasn't making the most of what Norwich and UEA had to offer and she found staying in the dorm too busy. The option to move in with a host family wasn't the obvious choice: it made her worry she'd lose some of her freedom.

DECIDING TO CHOOSE HOMESTAY

But Klara quickly discovered that living with a host family was the best of all worlds. In fact, she found a way of life even better than she'd ever expected. Matched with Harriet (Harri), her husband, and three young children, Klara found a home away from home. ***“I can still do whatever I like, at any time. Harri is quite flexible about dinner times, or she'll keep something aside for me if I can't make it.”***

The neighbourhood where Klara lives is only a 10-minute cycle ride from UEA, and as close to pubs and cafes. ***“Lots of students live off campus and most of them walk home along the same streets. Even after partying all night at the LCR, it's likely you'll have company on the way home.”***

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BECOMING PART OF THE FAMILY

But it's the connection she's made with Harri and her family that Klara values the most. They've grown so close in such a short space of time, and she's even joined them on two family trips.

"You get to know the English culture and daily life, and experience another family's traditions."

Getting together at dinnertime is something Klara always looks forward to at the end of each day, and living off campus gives her some rest from student responsibilities.

"It's a good feeling knowing someone is waiting for you at home. They care about me, and I can always talk to them about my worries."

When Klara considers what's best about Homestay, her thoughts return to her host family. ***"I don't regret changing from dorm life to family life. It's great fun to live with children. Every day is different. My host family has made me feel so at home here in the UK, and I don't ever feel lonely. Leaving them will be really hard."***

HOW TO APPLY

Simply select 'Homestay' as your first choice and a Homestay Coordinator will be in touch.

Alternatively email student.homestay@uea.ac.uk or call +44(0)1603 591140



WHAT IS HOMESTAY?

Homestay simply means living with a host family, right here in the local area. And we have families from all walks of life. From people with children, and young, professional couples to retirees – whatever type of family you'd like to stay with, Homestay is an affordable and increasingly popular alternative to living in dorms.

For some, like Klara, it becomes their home away from home. For others, it's a great way to improve their English. But in all cases, Homestay gives you a deeper, more personalised experience of Norwich and its culture, as well as a healthier balance to student life.

“My hosts are absolutely lovely. I’m loving it here, and they make me feel at home! I couldn’t wish for a better family!”

Naomi Wierenga 19, Netherlands

THE PERFECT BALANCE OF HOME AND STUDENT LIFE

Like Klara, you might wonder how staying off campus will affect your social life and the newfound freedom of leaving home. But as Klara found out, and contrary to expectation, Homestay can increase your independence.

Many of our host families have gone to university themselves and understand the excitement of this new way of life.

They want to make you feel comfortable and at home, and to foster your experience, not restrict it. So you can reasonably come and go as you please.

HELPING OVERCOME HOMESICKNESS

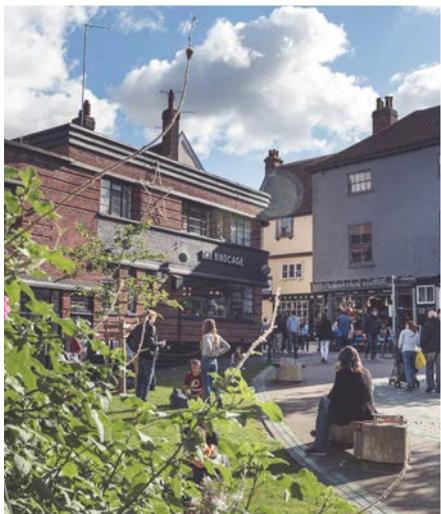
Almost everyone goes through some form of homesickness. It's normal, but it can be tough, and there's research to suggest it can even impact academic performance. Students feeling homesick typically report missing home-cooked meals and having a space that feels more personal than their generic student halls room. Homestay students can escape and go home every day – to a family dedicated to their well-being.

And then there are the local friends you'll make and the world you'll discover through their knowledge. Norwich is full of secret treasures, and nothing relieves homesickness better than feeling like you belong somewhere exceptional.

There are two types of Homestay to choose from: Self-Catered, for a bit more independence, or Half-Board if you like the idea of home-cooked meals.

See page 14 for more details.





A HOME IN THE HEART OF NORWICH

Where you live – whether it’s an urban or suburban neighbourhood – will depend largely on your tastes. But talk to anyone who has lived or studied in Norwich, and they’ll tell you the Golden Triangle is one of the city’s most popular areas and an integral part of the student experience.

BELONG SOMEWHERE EXCEPTIONAL

Outside of campus life, Norwich is renowned for its cafes, unique local pubs (one for each day of the year, in fact), its vibrant music and art scene, independent shops, and small-city charm. But many students who stay on campus only get to skim the surface. If you want to immerse yourself in life beyond UEA, choose Homestay.

WITHIN EASY REACH OF CAMPUS AND THE CITY

Instead of being a bus or taxi ride away from campus, or a long, 45-minute walk, the Golden Triangle puts you right in the heart of Norwich’s social life.

The demographic here is younger, mostly made up of students, young professionals, and families. While the houses are full of character, creating a cosmopolitan and bohemian atmosphere.

FOR LAIDBACK DAYS AND BIG NIGHTS OUT

For quieter moods, there are beautiful parks in the area, which host small festivals and other local events in the summer. Quaint little pubs tucked away in neighbourhood settings, cafes, shops, and restaurants – all make the Golden Triangle one of the go-to areas for time with your friends.

For nights out, Unthank Road has its own bars with live music and good food, while the neon-lit nightclubs and bright lights of the city centre are just a short 20-minute walk (on average) away. If you don’t fancy the stroll, just catch a bus. There are plenty of regular routes into town.

As a student, there’s no doubt you’ll discover the Golden Triangle and other areas like it. But by choosing Homestay, you’ll make it yours.

MAKING THE RIGHT MATCH

Applying for Homestay is simple. Just select 'Homestay' as your first choice when completing your Accommodation Preference Form. Once you've done that, our friendly Homestay Coordinator will get in touch with you to complete the Homestay Questionnaire.

FINDING OUT ABOUT YOU

This questionnaire is deliberately detailed, covering preferences and requirements such as lifestyle, diet, allergies, religion and location. With this information, our Coordinator then reviews and carefully selects the most suitable host for you – ensuring you have the best experience possible.

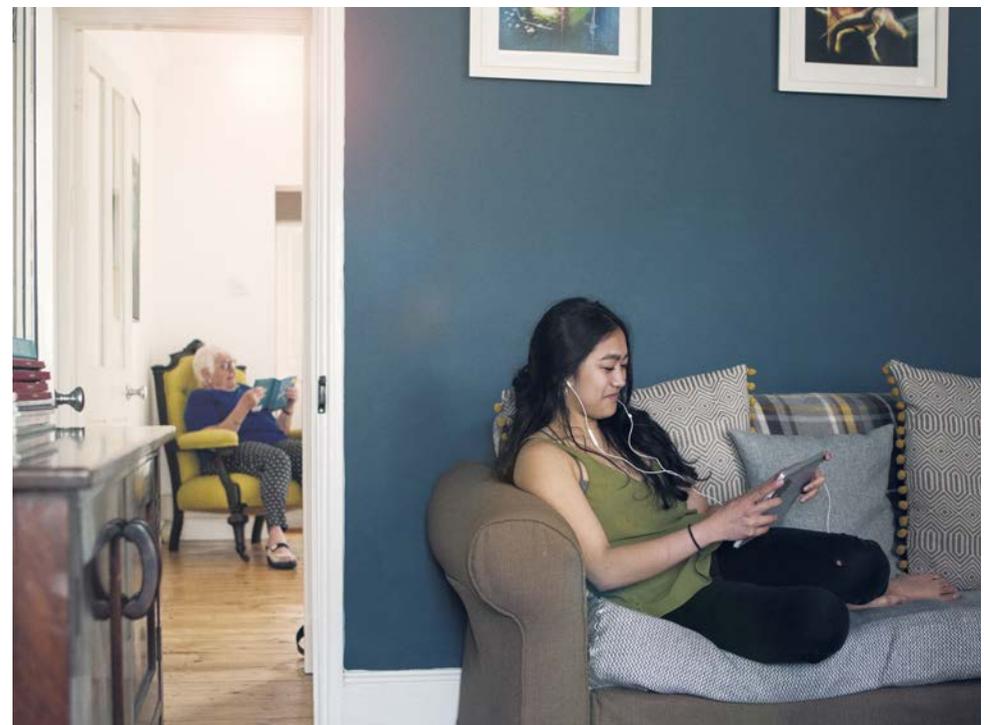
SELECTING YOUR HOST FAMILY

We select our hosts as carefully as we try to match you to them. Once you've moved in with a host family, we visit them and inspect your accommodation regularly to continue to make sure that everything meets your expectations and our high standards.

While Homestay is a great way to get the most out of your time here in Norwich, it's important that you make your choice wisely. For example, living with a host family is not the same as staying in a hotel.

You may be expected to be part of the household and to take part in normal, family chores, such as helping to clear up the table after a meal.

The best place to get all of our information and guidelines on Homestay is at www.uea.ac.uk/accom and we're always on hand to give you help and advice.



CHOOSE THE STAY THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

Every home and every family is different. It's what makes Homestay so much more personal and unique. But we have certain requirements for all of our host families, so you can know what to expect.

When applying, you'll have the option of either self-catering Homestay or half-board. With self-catering, you have the freedom to prepare your meals when you choose. Choose half-board, and breakfast and dinner will be provided for you seven days a week, as well as a light lunch on weekends.

For the latest pricing table, see the insert tucked into this booklet (right)

COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION

Every Homestay student can expect:



A desk or table in the bedroom



Laundry facilities or use of a washing machine



Bed linen on arrival



Shared use of the living room and other communal areas



An en suite bathroom or shared use of the family bathroom



Internet access (although you'll need your own computer/laptop/printer. Alternatively you can use the University's computer facility).

But the biggest thing you can expect is a warm, welcoming environment where you'll be treated as a member of the family.

It's the people who make Homestay great.



HOW TO APPLY

Simply select 'Homestay' as your first choice and a Homestay Coordinator will be in touch.

Apply today and get even more out of your time at UEA.

For more information or any other questions, please feel free to get in touch at:

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