



Frequently Asked Questions – Home Stays

Where will I live and eat during the semester?

Students will live with a family in a homestay for the entire semester. Two meals will be provided, and most students find that lunch will be eaten at restaurants or at the university's cafeteria.

Could you describe the homestay?

Students will be living with families in and around the northern side of Quito or Cumbayá Valley. The families may consist of a father, a mother, and children, or on occasion, some families may consist of just a mother or a father or both without children.

Students are given their own bedroom; you may have your own private bathroom or you may have to share a bathroom with another family member. Included in the home stay are breakfast and dinner daily. For lunch you can either make arrangements to bring your lunch or buy your lunch (buying your lunch is not included in the program fees). Students may have access to use the kitchen to cook with prior permission from the family. The family will also wash your laundry unless you prefer to wash it yourself. In that case, you need to ask permission to use the washer before using it.

What are the families like?

It is really impossible to generalize about the families because they are all unique. The families are interviewed and must pass university expectations before students are allowed to stay with them. Most families will have hosted several students in the past, so they should be used to having new students around. Despite the differences, most students have enjoyed their stays with their host families. It is very rare that students ask to be moved, but changes can be made if there are serious problems with the host family after a reasonable adjustment period.

Will I be treated like a boarder?

No. Although the families get paid for housing exchange students, they enjoy having students live with them. The host families are very open and accepting to exchange students, and they really try to incorporate them as a part of their family.

How will housing assignments be made?

In your application for USFQ, you fill out a questionnaire that describes how you are and what you would like in a family. The incoming coordinator or resident director at USFQ takes your questionnaire into consideration when placing you with a family. This does not mean that you will always get exactly what you ask for, but your personality, likes, and dislikes are taken into consideration.

Can I change host families?

Yes. You can change host families, but only if there are serious problems. You must allow an adequate adjustment period to occur before a change may take place. The change must be done with the incoming students coordinator or resident director's knowledge, and it must be approved by the incoming student's coordinator or resident director before the change can occur. It is not possible to live in any other type of housing except and approved home stay during the program.