



## ST HILDA'S SCHOOL GOLD COAST

The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane  
Registered CRICOS Provider No. 00510M

### St Hilda's School Homestay Program

St Hilda's School has partnered with Study Match Pty Ltd t/a Australian Student Accommodation to provide Homestay accommodation in the following circumstances:

- St Hilda's School Boarding House is at capacity
- Vacation placements during school holidays if the student is not returning home or their parents are visiting Australia.

Please visit their website at: <http://aussiehomestay.com.au/> or for further information email: [manager@studymatch.com.au](mailto:manager@studymatch.com.au)

#### HOMESTAY

- Many Australian families welcome international students into their homes where they can live, learn and experience Australian customs and culture.
- All homestay students receive their own room, a private study area, three meals per day, washing and transport to and from St Hilda's School.
- Homestay families are carefully selected, monitored and supported to provide the best possible living environment for St Hilda's School international students. Many students share a special bond with their homestay families and remain in contact after their graduation.
- The St Hilda's School Homestay Program is managed by Australian Student Accommodation Services

#### THE HOMESTAY STUDENT

- St Hilda's School students living in homestay are here for the primary reason to study. The majority of these students are on a student visa and therefore their academic progress is a condition of maintaining this visa. Their family is paying a significant amount of money for this overseas study experience and therefore their academic progress and achievements are very important. Some students are strong academics and may need to be encouraged to take breaks from study, whilst other students may be the exact opposite and need

encouragement to apply themselves to their study. The homestay family will work closely with St Hilda's School staff to ensure their student is achieving their potential in their course.

### **THE HOMESTAY FAMILY**

- A homestay family for St Hilda's School will provide a safe and caring environment for the student.
- They will treat the student like they are their own child and as such, expectations such as basic chores are to be shared with the student.
- The host family is the primary carer for the student during their time in Australia.
- The host family should speak English in their home and must be prepared to regularly converse with their student.
- Families with children need to make sure at least one child is the same sex as the homestay student. (exceptions can apply here with an age consideration)
- Families with no children should consider hosting a second student from St Hilda's School for company for the student.
- If more than one international student is placed with the same family, all nationalities of the students in this family must be different. Therefore, the students can only converse in English.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The host family is expected to explain family rules and expectations to the student. If language barrier is an issue, the hosts should contact the School for assistance, or use online tools such as google translate to help with understanding. The rules will differ from home to home, however we do ask the following be an expectation for all students.

- Share meals and converse with the family. Students should not eat meals in their bedroom
- Students are provided with three meals per day. Please note that there is a microwave available in the Jennifer Reeves Building.
- Washing is placed in the appropriate place by a set time (some students may wish to do their own washing, please check with the student and ensure they know how to use the washing facilities).
- Bed time needs to be appropriate to the student age and the time they need to be up in the morning
- Students must arrive at the School weekdays between 7.45am-8.15am. The School day finishes at 3.25pm. Students will have sport training for some weeks in the year. This is one afternoon per week until 5pm (days vary according to the sport choice) and some students may be involved in academic tutoring outside of school hours.
- School work takes priority over social interactions. Students will have at least one hour of homework to complete per night.
- Curfews, are up to the situation and the household, however students are not permitted to use public transport or walk outside alone after dark.
- St Hilda's School has a zero-tolerance rule to alcohol, drugs and smoking. This is regardless of the age of the student. If you suspect use of any of these substances you must contact St Hilda's School immediately.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL**

- The School staff will use email as the main vehicle for communication with host families
- School diaries are also used to communicate with School staff. If email is not available, hosts should handwrite a note in the School diary.
- Host families will be given a login to Parent Lounge portal shortly after the arrival of your student. Parent Lounge provides a lot of student information, including absentees, excursions, camps, reports, results, assessment, School calendar and much more. This login is essential to manage the student's time at St Hilda's School.
- At times, the host family may be required to attend meetings at the School.
- If a student is absent, this must be because they are ill or have a pre-arranged approved absence by the School.
- Reporting absentees to St Hilda's School must be done via calling 5532 4922 or by emailing [absentees@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:absentees@sthildas.qld.edu.au)
- SMS notification is sent to host if we have not had notice of student absence.

## **APPROVING STUDENT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

- It is important that the host family knows the whereabouts of their student at all times. The host family must approve of the social activities that involve their student. Host families are asked to exercise common sense when approving student social activities. Older students can be given more freedom if trust is demonstrated.
- It is fine for the student to organise a sleep-over at a friend's home as long as this works with your plans for this time. However, prior to approval of this we ask that you speak with the family/adult that will be the carer for this sleep-over, ensure they will be with the student to supervise for the duration of the time and approve the transport to and from the sleep-over. Similarly, your student may ask to have a friend stay over at your house. Sleepovers with a student of the opposite sex are not allowed under any circumstances. Staying in hotels with friends is also prohibited. If the arrangement is for more than 10 days or the arrangement occurs more than twice in a calendar year, the family/adult will need to apply for a Blue Card.
- Students may wish to visit shopping centres, go to Brisbane, restaurants, the movies, or other safe day time activities. This is fine as long as the host family approves of the outing, transport arrangements and supports it is a safe place to visit. Evening outings must have some supervision and adult control.

## **WHAT OFTEN HAPPENS**

- Many of our international students cannot swim and do not enjoy swimming. Please exercise extreme caution when your student is around water.
- Many international students are not used to having pets in the house. Large dogs are very confronting for many students. Please ensure a comfort level of animals is discussed with your student upon arrival.
- Some International students do not understand the environmental and financial impact of taking long showers. Please explain this to your student and give a guideline of how long their shower should be.
- Internet use can often be misunderstood with students, please ensure this is discussed upon arrival.

- All students should have a mobile phone so that we can contact them at all times. You may need to take your student to a supermarket to buy a sim card that will work in Australia. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have credit in their phone at all times. They must also have host family contact numbers and emergency service numbers stored in their phone.
- Students may wish to open an Australian bank account, if this is the case they will need to obtain a verification letter from St Hilda's School, Admissions Office, before they can open an account.
- Part-time work is allowed up to 20 hours per week for international students. All part-time work positions must be pre-approved by the School. The logistics of this commitment will be discussed with the host family prior to approval.

### **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

- All international students hold overseas health cover. The details of this can be found <https://www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au/>
- If your student requires a doctor, please take them to your family medical centre. Depending upon the provider, the student will either pay the difference only, or pay the whole amount and have to claim the difference later. Please ensure all receipts are kept from this visit.
- Please request a Doctor's certificate for all Dr appointments to support student absentee.

### **TRAVEL**

- Most international students will return to their home country at least once per year. This travel must be approved by St Hilda's School prior to booking any tickets.
- Family members of the student may visit the Gold Coast and wish to holiday with the student. This must be approved by St Hilda's School prior to booking.
- If your student tells you that they are returning home, travelling interstate or holidaying and you have not been informed, please contact the school.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

#### **Please use email as contact for non-urgent situations**

- Laura Halvorsen, Head of Admissions: email: [lhlvorsen@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:lhlvorsen@sthildas.qld.edu.au), phone: 55777232
- Wendy Lauman, Deputy Principal: [wlauman@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:wlauman@sthildas.qld.edu.au)
- Caroline Brodar, Head of Senior School: [cbrodar@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:cbrodar@sthildas.qld.edu.au)
- Susan Sanburg, Head of Middle School: [ssanburg@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:ssanburg@sthildas.qld.edu.au)
- Absences : email: [absentees@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:absentees@sthildas.qld.edu.au), phone: 5532 4922
- Portal logins : email: [jmclean@sthildas.qld.edu.au](mailto:jmclean@sthildas.qld.edu.au)