

HOMESTAY EXPECTATIONS

Our in-country partners work to match Experimenters with the best possible families, many of whom have worked with us for decades. The Experiment staff and our international partners facilitate an extensive recruitment and vetting process that includes home visits and, where permissible, background checks. The interests of both the Experimenter and the local host families are considered when identifying homestay placements. Host families attend orientation and pre-arrival sessions prior to meeting their homestay Experimenter.

All Experimenters from a program group, are placed with families in the same region or town, which allows for group get-togethers, meetings, and cultural activities and for Experimenters to be able to directly contact their group leaders at all times. The homestay experience lasts between one and three weeks, depending on the program.

The following are typical homestay expectations in an Experiment program:

1. Most often, Experimenters are placed one per household and in some programs, two Experimenters are placed per household.
2. Given the different family structures, we aim to place Experimenters in families who have teenage or school-aged children. However, we do also work with host families with children of any age or no children in the household.
3. Host families are in close contact with the group leaders, in-country partner, and Experimenter at all times.
4. If the host family would like to travel with the Experimenter overnight, the Host Family will call both the partner office representative and the group leaders to make arrangements and allow The U.S. Experiment office to get their legal parent/guardian's prior approval. Overnights at another location are not allowed without legal parent/guardian and group leader permission in advance.
5. Host families are actively involved with the Experimenter during the homestay and integrate the Experiment participant into family life. Host family members are expected to use the host country's language as much as possible, instead of English, to promote immersive language learning. There are times when host parents have work arrangements, so another adult family member will be identified in advance to spend time with the Experimenter during their stay in the host family home.

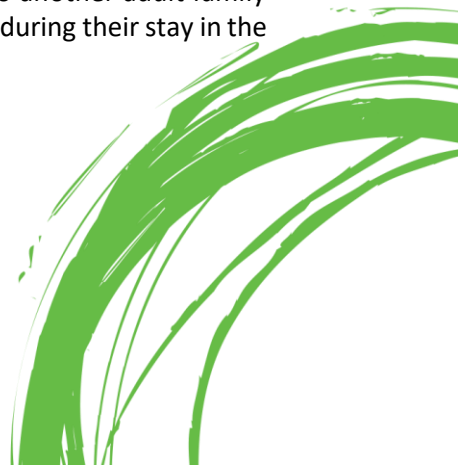
The Experiment

A Program of World Learning

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6. All homes are expected to be clean, safe, and pest-free in the context of the local culture, both within the house and in the surrounding neighborhood. Experimenters will have access to safe drinking water. We expect Experimenters to discuss bathroom arrangements and instructions with their host families.
7. Host family locations are within commuting distance of all program activities. Host families support participants to get to and from all group activities.
8. Outside of group activities, host families provide three meals a day and account for food allergies and dietary restrictions. We encourage Experimenters to communicate directly with their host families regarding meals. Group leaders and in-country partners can support Experimenters in these conversations.
9. The Experiment will communicate host family information to Experimenters and their families after program departures and prior to the homestay portion of the program.
10. Homestay families are expected to inform the in-country partner and group leaders of any behavior problems, illnesses, or other incidents or significant issues that arise during the homestay. Host families consult with group leaders if the Experimenter requires non-urgent medical support, and seek urgent care in the event of an emergency.

**These criteria are for primary homestay placements and may differ for homestays during program excursions.*

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