



USA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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STUDENT SHARED HOUSE GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

Congratulations on having made the decision to study in the US. Choosing to live with a shared house owner can be one of the most important decisions you make, affecting your development for years to come. You will be dealing with different cultural values, language barriers, and social issues. Some adjustments need to be made by you as well as by your shared house owner. What we hope is to make this a valuable experience for you, both in terms of education and personal satisfaction. In order to assure that you have a safe, rewarding and educational experience, our organization has established the following guidelines. It is essential that you read and understand them.

1. **Housing Application Fee:**

College Students - A non-refundable application fee is due with your application. Airport Pick Up is not included.

Housing Damage Deposit-This is due with your application. Your deposit is refundable with no damage to shared house properties, with a written notice from 2 weeks to 30 days depending on the shared house owner's policy given to your shared house owner. We will refund after you move out. Please note that deposit must be requested within six months of move out.

Airport Pick Up Service-Airport pick up must be arranged with USAI. USAI provides this service at an additional charge to the student. A USAI staff or shared house owner will pick you up. Please apply at least two weeks prior to arrival.

Late Fee- Applications received within one week prior to arrival will be charged a late fee of \$100.

2. **Insurance:** All students are required to have proof of medical insurance at all times. It is also recommended that students purchase accident and property insurance. Shared house owner insurance does not cover students.

If you do decide to drive, you must have automobile insurance. Automobile insurance is required by law.

3. **Shared House Owner:** Please remember that each shared house owner is different. USAI does not discriminate a shared house owner based on nationality, race, religion, sex, age, disability. Student understands that families are diverse with different cultural backgrounds. Some families are families with or without children, single parents, single adults, and retired people. Host may host more than one International student. They are very excited to host International students.

4. **House Rules:** Please follow the rules of your shared house owner. Each owner will have their own rules and lifestyle. Many families will have the rules written for you. Your shared house owner has kindly allowed you to become a part of their owner, for which they deserve your appreciation and respect. What your shared house owner requires of you may be different from what your friends' host families require of them.

5. **Household Duties:** Please remember to clean up after yourself (washing dishes, turning off electrical appliances) You must keep your room and shared bathroom clean and organized at all times, which includes making your own bed and washing your own clothes.

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6. **Meals:** **Meals are not included with the shared house option.** Students are expected to prepare and buy their own meals at their own expense.
7. **Energy Conservation:** Most families are very conservative and care about the environment. Please be conservative by turning off lights when you leave a room, taking short showers or baths, if you are cold please wear extra sweaters and ask your owner for extra blankets. If you take long showers / baths or turn heat high, you may need to pay extra. In the US the washing machine and dryer is very big and therefore families usually do laundry once a week.
8. **Relatives/Guests:** Please do not have relatives or guest stay at your shared house owner's house during your first three months. After three months, you must obtain permission from your shared house owner and USA International prior to inviting anyone to stay at your shared house owner's home. If your guest stays more than two nights, there may be an additional charge paid to shared house owner. Some shared house owner do not allow overnight visitors.
9. **Vacations:** If you or your shared house owner will go on vacation, please call our office to let us know.
10. **Personal Belongings:** Students are responsible for their own personal belongings whether at home or at school. **USA INTERNATIONAL will not be responsible for your personal belongings.** Remember not to carry a lot of cash with you, and always keep your valuable belongings secure and locked. Students are encouraged to have property insurance. Shared house owner insurance does not cover student's property in case of loss or damage.
11. **Money:** You should not lend money to or borrow money from you shared house owner or anyone else. If you need money, contact USA International so we may be able to contact your owner and/or agency.
12. **Communication:** It is important to communicate with your shared house owner. If you do not understand your shared house owner, it is nice to tell them that you do not understand. Please communicate in writing if something is important. If you will be late coming home, please remember to let your shared house owner know ahead of time or please call them so that they do not worry. If you are ever in doubt about anything please give us a call.
13. **Telephone:** Ask your shared house owner about telephone rules since each owner has different rules. Please do not make long distance phone calls from your shared house owner's phone. Instead, we advise you to use a calling card, purchase a cellular phone or make collect calls only. **Please do not make or have people call you late at night.**
14. **Internet Connection:** Internet connection is not guaranteed. Some families may charge an extra fee. Students will be held responsible in the event that you use the internet inappropriately.
15. **Damages:** Students are responsible for any damage to their host families' house that they cause. Please ask your shared house owner about changing anything in your room (moving furniture, placing things on the wall and so on).
16. **Transportation:** Please do not ask your shared house owner to drive you around too often. Students must be able to take the public bus to school and other places. Please do not ask your shared house owner to be taxi drivers for you.
17. **Driving:** If you plan to purchase a car and drive students must obtain a WA St Driver's License and purchase Car insurance. Car insurance is required by law. For students under 18 years old USAI does not recommend students to drive. If a student would like to drive they need written permission from their parents, pass a driving class, obtain a WA St Driver's License and purchase Car insurance.

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18. **Monthly Stipend** (subject to change): See “Pricing” for current rates.
College Students - You are responsible to pay your shared house owner a monthly stipend on a timely manner. Shared house stipend is for room and basic utilities only. Other expenses such as bus fare, transportation, movie and personal items are to be paid by you. The stipend is due upon your move-in date and every month thereafter and should be paid directly to your shared house owner. **If students move out earlier, we will not guarantee or be responsible for a refund.** Please pay using a personal check or money order. In the event that you pay with cash, be sure to get a written receipt from your shared house owner.
19. **Stipend Refunds:** If the student and/or shared house owner have a disagreement and student decides to or is asked to move out suddenly, USA INTERNATIONAL will not be responsible for any refund. **Please be aware some families do not refund unused stipend.**
20. **Housing Commitment:**
College Students - Students are expected to stay with their shared house owner for a minimum of one quarter.

Students must understand that shared house is not temporary housing while looking for other accommodations such as apartments. Shared house owner looks forward to hosting and is getting ready to host you. You must give your shared house owner a written notice of 2 weeks to 30 days in advance depending on the shared house owner’s policy prior to moving out. If you do not give notice, you will be required to pay the full one-month shared house fee. The move out form is available on our website. For notices less than the designated period, depending on the shared house owner, you will be required to pay for one-month shared house fee. Please call USA INTERNATIONAL immediately when you decide to move out.
21. **Trial Period:** The first month is a trial period. Both Student and Shared house owner will make a good faith effort to make the host arrangement work. However, if the student or shared house owner feels that it is not a good match the student or the shared house owner will give the other a two-week written notice to move out and the stipend will be pro-rated and refunded. **USA INTERNATIONAL does not guarantee that the shared house owner will give any refund.** It may be necessary for the student to stay with the owner for the first 30 days before a new accommodation can be arranged. If you want to change your shared house owner after the trial period there will be a service charge.
22. **Problems:** If you have a problem with your shared house owner, please contact USA INTERNATIONAL immediately. USA INTERNATIONAL is here to help you.
23. **Removal from Shared house owner:** The shared house owner and USAI reserves the right to remove a student at any time for violating house rules, student’s engaging in any illegal activity, rude and impolite behavior and language. Student will not receive any refund for any fees paid. If the student and/or shared house owner have a disagreement and the student decides to or is asked to move out suddenly there is no guarantee of any refund.
24. **Avoid Illegal Activities:** You are required to follow local, state and federal laws while living in the United States. You may lose your student visa status (F-1, J-1) depending on the degree of your illegal activities. Be cautious about drinking alcohol or driving without a driver’s license/auto insurance. Please note it is illegal for people under the age of 18 to smoke or use tobacco, and people under the age of 21 cannot drink alcohol.
25. **Hold Harmless and Indemnification:** USAI will be held harmless from and against all claims, damages, actions, liability, and expense concerning loss of life, or personal property arising from a student participating in our housing programs. I understand that the hosts are not employees or agents and that USAI has no control of host’s behavior. I assume all the risks associated with injury or loss arising from my host families’ behavior. I release USAI from any liability and claims against my host families’ behavior.

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Keep in mind that you are visiting the U.S. as a citizen/diplomat of your country and that you are expected to behave accordingly. This means that you are representing the people of your country as being courteous, considerate, and open-minded. Please respect the ways, traditions and culture of your American Hosts and remember that you are making an impression that will last long after you leave the U.S. It is our goal to ensure that you have a successful time while in the U.S. Our goal is for you and your shared house owner to have a lasting friendship and be understanding of each other for many years. We are here to help you. Do not hesitate to call us at any time if you have any difficulties.

College Students;

I warrant that all the information provided is true and correct, I am not a sex offender, and I have not been convicted of any crime.

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the above listed rules.

Student's Name (Printed)

Signature

Date