



Experiment in
International
Living UK

Become an EIL UK Host Family

Family homestays are at the heart of our charity's work.

We are looking for new host families across the UK, especially in central England.

Since 1936 EIL UK has provided opportunities for international participants to spend time with a host family, whether it be for a day, weekend, a month or a year, to learn about the national, regional and local cultures and traditions of the UK.

Our families come from all walks of life and no two families are the same. You may be a family with children or your children may have flown the nest. Perhaps you live alone, have retired or are a single parent. What all host families have in common, is that they enjoy meeting people, are interested in other traditions and cultures and offer a warm and welcoming homestay experience.

Many host families and their new-found friends go on to forge lifelong friendships, meeting up on holidays and sharing special occasions across the world. Host families and participants love to tell us how much they gain from the hosting experience and how it broadens their horizons. Let's hear from a few EIL host families and international participants about their homestay experiences:

"This is why we host!! The students fitted perfectly into our family life, they were fun, chatty, patient and understanding and got into the spirit of entertaining two boys of nine years of age. They were willing to hear ideas for the stay and were also flexible when weather curtailed plans." Mary (host mother)

"After dropping my student off at university, I feel a bit as though I've said farewell to one of my own daughters. This young lady is a smart and really fun young woman who it was a pleasure to get to know. She got on well with us and was open and engaging. I am sure we will remain friends long after she has returned home too." Jill (host mother)

"We were taken to nearby towns, afternoon tea, two castles, a national park, and driven through beautiful rural scenery. We were shown around the farm, all the animals and fields, I loved spending time with the family together. The highlight however, was the farm tour and seeing all their cows, how they get milked, the sheep, and more. When else would I see what it's really like to live on a farm and in a farming, rural community? It was a whole different world." Katherine (USA student)

"My family had a lot of experience with students in the past and had clear expectations of me with them and knew exactly how to make me feel welcome right from the first handshake. The house was very homey and comfy and the food was great, they liked to cook and they were very open to whatever I wanted to eat.... Sitting and talking with the family was very relaxing, it was very calming and peaceful. The homestay experience helps to calm you down after a stressful moving in period [to university]." Jacob (USA student)

As volunteers, our Host families receive information and support and we offer a contribution towards accommodation and expenses. If you would like to find out more about hosting EIL participants on family homestays, please register your interest by sending your name, address and telephone number, along with a few words about your family and why you would like to host.

Email host@eiluk.org or write to: EIL UK, 17 Graham Road Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 2HR

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