

Rules and Regulations Regarding Staying with a Host Family

We are excited that you have the opportunity to stay with a host family during your time in Taiwan. We want this time to be as positive an experience as possible. Staying with your Taiwanese host family will allow you an inside view of what life in Taiwan is really like. All host families are volunteers. They show enthusiasm in the hope that international students in Taiwan would be able to receive human warmth and compassion. Please respect your host family and do not treat the host family as a free hotel in Taiwan. You will be living with a family that is volunteering to provide a roof over your head, a seat at their table, and a place in their hearts as well. It is our sincere desire that when your time with the homestay family is over, you will have made some new friends for life.

1. Basic Manners

Please remember that you are guest in your host family's home and basic manners are expected. Further, your host parents feel responsible for you. So, please make sure you discuss with them any family rules they may want you to follow while you live with them; then try your best to comply with these expectations, such as observing the family schedule, cleaning up your own room, and so on. Feel free to make yourself at home, and remember that part of being in a family means helping out when and where necessary in order to keep the home a comfortable place to live. If you have any comments regarding the host family's schedule of activities, do not hesitate, please feel free to discuss your opinion with them so that you could work out an appropriate activity for everyone.

2. Living with a host family

Ask for instructions when using household equipment and the convenient time to use them; for example, how to operate the washing machine, when to use the computer, etc. If you are under 18 years old, please respect the host family's curfew; for those over 18 years of age, please inform the host family beforehand when you go out or stay late. You must bear your own telephone expenses. If the host family gives you permission to use the phone, do not make international phone calls. If you need to make an international call, collect call or reverse charge call is recommended. Aside from food and accommodations, you must handle your own personal expenses.

Tap water in Taiwan is not potable. Please do not drink tap water to avoid health problems. Some Taiwanese families do not separate the wet and dry areas of the bathroom. Please inquire about their bathroom practice before using the bathroom. Different countries have slightly different eating habits. The Taiwanese people like eating animal innards, beef, and pork. If you have special dietary needs or religious requirements, please inform the host family.

3. Getting Around

Please note that while taking part in the host family program, you are not allowed to drive a moped or drive a car. If one of your host parents offers to take you for a ride on their moped, you may accept the ride, but please wear an appropriate helmet.

4. Staying Healthy

Let your host family know if you have specific dietary requirements. Your host family is not permitted to provide you with any medication. If you do happen to get ill or have an accident during your stay in Taiwan, your host family can take you to a local hospital. However, if you are a minor, unless your injury is life-threatening, parental permission must first be obtained before you are allowed to receive any medical treatments.

5. Natural Disaster

In case of a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or typhoon, please stay calm and follow the directions of your host family. Taiwanese families are quite accustomed to these occurrences and know what to do from experience and training; you will stay safe if you listen to them.

6. Money Issues

During your stay with the host family, please take care of your personal belongings and other valuable items. You should also bring your personal identification documents. There is to be no borrowing of money from either your host family or from your classmates; the same goes for lending. Further, do not deposit your money into your host family's bank account. If you are coming for only a short time, you can take care of your own money. However, if you are going to stay for a year or more, it would be wise to open your own account in Taiwan in order to keep your money safe.

7. Prohibited Behaviors

While living with your host family, there is to be:

- no smoking
- no drinking
- no drugs
- no riding scooters
- no driving cars
- no fighting
- no sexual activity of any kind

This is a host family activity; therefore, it is based on the family as a unit. Please avoid traveling alone with a member of the host family of the opposite sex in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding.

8. Legal Issues

While you are in Taiwan, you are subject to Taiwanese law even though you are not a Taiwanese citizen.

a. Drugs

Taiwan does not take drug use or trafficking lightly. The penalties for using or even possession of illegal drugs in Taiwan are quite severe — ranging from long jail sentences and large fines to the death penalty for certain drug offenses.

b. Sexual Activity

As a participant in the Taiwan Host Family program, you consent to not participating in any kind of sexual activity while in the program. Regardless, we need to inform you that it is against Taiwanese law to have sex with a married person or with someone 16 years old or younger.

c. Sexual Harassment

Taiwan also has sexual harassment prevention laws. The definition of sexual harassment is not based upon the intention of the action, but in how the action makes the recipient feel. All of the following could be sexual harassment if they are unwelcome or if they cause the recipient to feel uncomfortable: words, unexpected hugging, kissing, touching of private parts or any kind of unwelcome touch for that matter.

d. Abuse

Abuse may take the form of verbal abuse, sexual abuse, or physical battering. Inflicting physical or emotional harm on another person is a punishable crime in Taiwan.

e. What to do if Harassed or Abused

If someone sexually harasses, verbally abuses or physically abuses you during your time in Taiwan, you should report the incident to someone you trust immediately and ask them to help you report the incident to local authorities. You also need to be aware that if you violate the above stated regulations in regards to sexual harassment or abuse, you may be convicted of committing a crime and face the charges of such a conviction.

9. Host Family Problems

If you have a problem with your host family, please file a complaint with your school or Taiwan Hostfamily Program. Problematic situations can be resolved by either settling the issue with the school or Taiwan Hostfamily Program mediating, or by finding an alternative host family to stay with for your remaining time with the program.

10. Emergency Contacts

Either of the following two numbers can be dialed for free at any public phone:

Emergency: 119 (use this for life-threatening emergencies)

Police: 110 (use this if you are lost or in trouble)

This activity is just the preliminary meeting for you and your family. We hope that there would be more opportunities for you to get together, and that through the assistance of your host family, you could experience the Taiwanese culture while pursuing your studies in Taiwan.

11. Contact Us

We would love to hear about your time in Taiwan and your stay with your host family. Please feel free to contact us and let us know what you enjoyed about your time here and also any suggestions on how we might improve our program for future international homestay students.

Taiwan Hostfamily Program

Tel: +886-6-253-3131 ext. 1603

Email: hostfamily@mail.stust.edu.tw

Website: <http://www.hostfamily.org.tw>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TaiwanHostfamily>

Student Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1506431859608270>

Address: No. 1, Nantai St., Yung kang Dist., Tainan city, 71005 Taiwan (R.O.C.)