HOMESTAY 2026

Homestay is highly recommended, as it gives the opportunity to put into practice what students learned during the course. It also gives the opportunity to connect with French people, giving an insight into the French language and culture. With this in mind, we avoid, whenever possible, placing students who speak the same language with the same host family.

There are three options in homestay:

- **HALF-BOARD**: **Breakfast** and **dinner** are prepared and shared with the family. The family's kitchen cannot be used by students and lunch must be taken outside the home. This is the most recommended option, as it maximizes immersion and social interaction. It is also available for participants with specific dietary requirements (vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-free, etc.), subject to availability.

- **KITCHEN ACCESS**: students have **access to the kitchen** to prepare their own meals at times agreed with the host. This option is recommended for independent students and/or for students with restrictive diets (allergies, intolerances, etc.). There is less contact with the host family than with half-board.

- **BREAKFAST**: **Breakfast** is the only meal prepared and shared with the family. All other meals must be taken outside the home and the kitchen cannot be used by students. However, a small space is reserved in the fridge and kitchen cupboard. This option is suitable for more independent students and is available for stays of up to 2 weeks.

Meal times are to be agreed with the family. If students go out or plan to miss a meal, they are invited to inform the family in advance.

LOCATION

We have carefully selected addresses within a 30-minute radius of IS Aix-en-Provence, either on foot or by bus.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

For arrival, the family will be expecting students on Sunday evening from 6:00 pm. We ask students to contact the host family a few days beforehand to arrange arrival. This first contact is always much appreciated. Departures are usually on Saturday morning.
At request, we can book a taxi for transfers.

INSURANCE

IS Aix-en-Provence accepts no responsibility for any material damage to third parties for which students are responsible (loss of keys, damage to furniture, etc.). Students are obliged to take out civil liability insurance, which will be engaged in such cases.

ROOM SHARING

If students ask to share a room (spouse, friend...), the rate per person remains the same. This option is only available for half-board.

LINEN AND CLEANING

Towels are provided by the family and changed weekly. The towels are for inhouse use only: they cannot be taken out of the house... especially to the beach or swimming pool. As for sheets, they are changed every two weeks by the family.
The host family provide an average of one washing machine per week. The family can show how to use the washing machine and agree on terms, or can do it. Should students need additional laundry carried out, students are invited to discuss this with the family. Clothes requiring special cleaning must be taken to the dry cleaners. An iron is at your disposal.
Cleaning is carried out once a week by the family. Please help by making your bed and tidying your room.

BATHROOM

Students may take one shower a day. To ensure a peaceful cohabitation, it is important that everyone agrees on a schedule for access to the bathroom. Please discuss with the family how much time can be reasonably spent in the bathroom. These conditions are important for the peace and quiet of everybody.

KEYS

Students will receive a duplicate set of house keys. In the event of loss, students be required to reimburse the costs incurred.

MEAL DETAILS

- **HALF-BOARD:** Meals are varied, fresh, balanced and sufficient in quantity. Dinner consists of vegetables, proteins (meat, fish, eggs, etc.), starchy foods (rice, pasta, potatoes, etc.) and a dessert (cheese, yogurt, fruit, etc.). In case of specific dietary requirements (vegetarian, gluten-free, lactose-free, etc.), meals will be adapted accordingly.

- **BREAKFAST**: This includes at least one drink (hot or cold), as much bread as you like, butter, jam, cheese and/or yoghurt, fruit and/or cereals. However, contents may vary and evolve according to personal habits.

CONSIGNES

The homestay experience is very different from the hotel experience. The families we select are all eager to make students feel welcome and make the stay a pleasant one. They are ready to devote time and share their daily lives. In return, it's appreciated to show interest in return, and that offer to assist with daily chores.

Good communication, mutual exchange and adaptation will insure that an enjoyable stay. Please observe the following instructions:

- save water and electricity: turn off the water when not in use and turn off the lights when leaving a room;
- leave every room in good condition (bedroom, bathroom, kitchen...);
- don't make any noise at night that might wake up the family;
- don't invite anyone over without the family's permission.

IS Aix-en-Provence wishes you
a positive and enriching experience with your host family!