Welcome Homestay
Program Information

Introduction
The Welcome Homestay program is a cultural exchange program of the Friendship Foundation for International Students (FFIS). The purpose of the program is to welcome new international students to our community by providing hospitality and support for a few days as students get settled into their permanent housing and begin their program at the University of Oregon. The homestay program is available to new incoming students for fall, winter and spring terms. Pre-registration is required. In the fall, FFIS holds a big welcome picnic for students and host families on the Sunday following the homestay program.

FFIS Mission Statement
The Friendship Foundation for International Students (FFIS) is a non-profit organization that exists to bridge cultures and promote world peace and understanding through friendship, personal diplomacy, and exchange of ideas. Through its programs and activities, FFIS builds trust and fosters goodwill between the local community and University of Oregon international students, alumni scholars, and their families.
Frequently asked questions...

**Does it cost to sign up for the homestay program?**
There is no cost. The welcome homestay is a free hospitality service to welcome new international students to our community. Volunteer host families welcome students into their homes for a few days and do not expect payment.

**How long can I stay?**
The welcome homestay program is only for a few days, just until you can move into university residence halls or off-campus housing.

**Can I arrive a week or two earlier to look for off-campus housing?**
Our host families are volunteers and are hosting you to help you get settled in to your new community. It would not be polite to ask your volunteer host family to host you for two or three weeks. In this case, you may need to arrange to stay in a local hotel until the welcome homestay program begins.

**Do I have to arrive exactly on the day the homestay program begins?**
Yes, the program is flexible. You can arrive anytime between the start and end dates of the homestay program. See last page for program dates.

**Can family members stay with me?**
If you have family members traveling with you, they should make arrangements to stay in a local hotel. You should not ask your host family to host members of your family. This would not be polite in our culture.

**Can I stay with my host family permanently?**
No. FFIS host families do not provide permanent off-campus housing for students, even if you offer to pay. The purpose of the homestay program is cultural exchange and hospitality, not rental income.
How do I apply for a welcome host family?
You must request a host family in advance of your arrival. Apply online at [http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program](http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program).

What is the deadline to apply for a host family?
See the last page for application deadlines.

What if I change my mind after I apply?
Please contact FFIS at ffis@uoregon.edu to cancel your homestay request. And if you have been placed with a host family, it is polite to send them an email thanking them for their generosity but informing them that you are not planning to participate.

Will my host family pick me up at the airport?
Yes, you host family will meet you at the Eugene airport, bus or train station. Do not expect your host family to pick you up at the Portland International Airport. You must make travel arrangements to arrive in Eugene.

What if I don’t want to stay with a family and just want to meet with a volunteer?
FFIS offers the Conversation Friend and International Friend programs where you are matched with a local volunteer for English conversation and friendship.

Where can I get more information about FFIS and its programs?
FFIS website: [www.ffisoregon.org](http://www.ffisoregon.org)

Friendship Foundation for International Students
5209 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403

Contact Becky Megerssa if you have questions: ffis@uoregon.edu
Welcome Homestay Program Timeline

**Fall Term 2014**
Application deadline: July 1, 2014
Apply online: [http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program](http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program).
Homestay dates: September 13 - 17
On-Campus move-in date: September 17
Orientation dates: September 17 - 23

**Winter Term 2014**
Application deadline: December 1
Apply online: [http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program](http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program).
Homestay dates: January 1 - 5
On-Campus move-in date: January 5
Orientation dates: January 2, 3 & 5

**Spring Term 2014**
Application deadline: March 1, 2014
Apply online: [http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program](http://international.uoregon.edu/index.php/students/homestay-program).
Homestay dates: March 25 - 30
On-Campus move-in date: March 30
Orientation dates: March 26 - 28