

GOTHENBURG UNIVERSITY - Brighton

Information for students staying with an ELC Family

STUDY BEDROOM

Your room should contain a chair, a table and lamp suitable for studying, a wardrobe, and a chest of drawers or dressing table. You should not be asked to share your room with another student unless you asked to do so when you applied for accommodation. You will be given a key to the house but you will not be given a key to your room as it is not usual to lock bedroom doors in this country. Do not leave money in your room as your host family cannot be responsible for it.

BATHROOM

Please ask your hostess about the best time for you to have your bath or shower. Always leave baths, showers and toilets clean after use. You are expected to provide your own toiletries, for example shampoo, toothpaste etc.

HEATING

English houses are not renowned for their central heating systems and most rooms are normally only heated during certain times of the day. However you should be given sufficient bedding to keep you warm at night. Please do not leave heaters or lights on when not required.

TELEPHONE

Your hostess may not object to you using the telephone but, in order that your family will not be charged for your calls, we recommend that you buy one of the charge cards available.

LAUNDRY

You may expect sheets and towels to be changed on a regular basis. However your personal laundry is your own responsibility and you can consult your hostess about the whereabouts of the nearest launderette. Some families allow you to use their washing machine but will usually ask for payment. You should be allowed to dry and iron your clothes in your host family.

MEALS

You are paying for breakfast only and this is not usually a cooked meal. You should however be offered an adequate breakfast which should include cereal, toast and jam/marmalade, tea or coffee and milk. Some families may leave early for work/school and expect you to help yourself to breakfast. We regret it is not an entitlement to use your family's kitchen facilities for other meals but some families may not object to this.

FRIENDS

Always ask your hostess's permission before inviting a friend to your house and consult her about what time they should leave. Some families do not allow girls to entertain boys in their room, or vice versa.

OTHER STUDENTS

You may be placed in a family where there is another Swedish student from Gothenburg University staying. Please indicate if you object to this arrangement.

DAMAGE

You are responsible for any accidental damage you may cause in your home.

PROBLEMS

We hope you won't have any, but there is always someone available in the Families Department at the ELC during office hours to discuss any problems you may have with your host family, but always try to talk to your hostess first.

Please Note: The Sussex University campus is located out of town, accessed by convenient trains and buses.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. You should **book** your family accommodation directly with ELC by completing an application form which must be received by ELC not less than 7 days prior to the date of arrival.
2. Your **application form** must be accompanied by a cheque/banker's draft/international money order (drawn on a UK bank) for £194, comprising £62 service charge (non-refundable), and £132 for the first 2 weeks accommodation. The latter will be paid by ELC to the host family during the first week of stay.
3. **Payment** of £66 per week (£9.43 per night) should be paid to families weekly in advance. If you are staying for a long time and you wish to go away on holiday during your stay, the family will keep your room for you if you pay a fee of £25 per week as a retainer. This only applies if you are away for a full week, i.e. 7 consecutive nights. *Please note:* if you are away for 6 nights or less, the full weekly rate of £66 will be charged.
4.
 - a) If you wish to **change or leave your family**, you must tell The English Language Centre and your family at least 7 days before you wish to leave.
 - b) If you do not do this, you will have to pay The English Language Centre a cancellation fee of £33. The English Language Centre will then pay this direct to the family.
 - c) No refund will be made if a student leaves the family during the first two weeks.
5. Cancellation
 - a) **Booking fee:** Once the booking fee of £62 has been paid to ELC, it is non-refundable in the event of cancellation at any time.
 - b) **Accommodation:** If cancellation is notified with notice of 7 days or more prior to arrival, the first two weeks rent of £132 will be refunded in full. If cancellation is notified less than 7 days prior to arrival, an amount of £99 will be refunded and £33 will be paid as compensation to the host family.

GENERAL INFORMATION

It is important to understand that a "host family" does not always consist of two parents with children. A couple, or widow(er), whose children have grown up and left home often make excellent "host families".

(Spring & Autumn 2002)