



**UNIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA**  
OFICINA DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES Y COOPERACIÓN EXTERNA  
SECCION DE MOVILIDAD ESTUDIANTIL  
TEL. (506) 2511-4093 / 2511-5443 / FAX: (506) 2225-5822  
Correo Electrónico: [seme.oai@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:seme.oai@ucr.ac.cr)

### **RELATIONSHIP NORMS BETWEEN THE HOST FAMILY AND VISITING STUDENT**

The following housing norms established by the International Affairs Office and External Cooperation are presented to facilitate a good relationship between the host family and visiting student. Please read them thoroughly, as these norms are obligatory for both parties.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VISITING STUDENT**

##### **THE STUDENT SHOULD:**

1. Respect the customs and beliefs of the host family.
2. Consult the family about the norms within home.
3. Determine the schedule for meals, in accordance with the family, considering his/her academic activities.
4. Bring his/her own bath towels, washcloths, and personal items.
5. Wash his/her own underwear.
6. Receive guests solely with the family's consent.
7. Refrain from having parties or get-togethers without the family's consent.
8. Avoid inviting guests to sleep over in your bedroom or in the house.
9. Abstain from inviting friends to eat in the home without prior consent of the family.
10. Advise the family if he/she is going to return during the progress of the day, or if he/she will not be returning at all that night or through the weekend.
11. Practice regular personal hygiene.
12. **Use the telephone** to make 2 daily local calls of 5 minutes length each, using a prepaid card. The student won't be able to accumulate minutes from different days to use them afterwards.

The student is allowed to receive international calls but is not allowed to make them, unless he/she uses a prepaid card. The telephone service in Costa Rica is relative expensive, the rate increases with the length and frequency of the calls. For this reason, the student must comply with the house norms.

13. Make host family only when there is a valid justification and when they have been authorized by the Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation, Student Mobility Section.
14. Arrange his/her own transportation facilities from Airport to Host house and from there to Airport.
15. Be provided with the house keys. If the student loses the keys, he/she is responsible for the change of all the locks and keys.
16. Request and fill out the "Family Evaluation Form" at the Student Mobility Section. at the end of his/her stay.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY

### THE FAMILY SHOULD:

1. Inform the student about the norms that are appropriate for the home, which should not contradict those established in this document.
2. Provide the student with a private bedroom that has: a bed, closet, night stand, desk with student lamp, garbage receptacle, mirror and either a private or a shared bathroom.
3. Provide the student with a set of keys to the house and indicate the established security methods for arriving to and leaving home.
4. Respect the student's privacy, customs and beliefs, as long as they do not interfere with the house norms.
5. Provide the student with 2 meals per day, on the weekdays, and three meals per day on vacations, weekends and holidays.
6. Provide the student with clean bedding, which should be changed at least once per week.
7. Provide laundry and ironing services at least once per week.
8. Allow the student to make 2 daily local calls of 5 minutes length each. The Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation will not take responsibility on any unpaid telephone bill.
9. Speak exclusively in that language to those students who do not come from Spanish-speaking countries, in order to facilitate the students' learning and practice of Spanish. The family should speak in the students' language only in special circumstances.
10. Refrain from asking the student for a monetary loan, or equally, anticipated expenditures outside of the established housing payment period set by the Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation.
11. Remember that upon receiving a visiting student in the home, the student should be seen as an additional member of the family, which implies including him/her in family activities, given the student be interested in participating.

The student, as well as the host family, may contact either the Student Mobility Section at 2511-5443, to express any concerns, recommendations or difficulties that could eventually occur in the student-host family interaction with respect to the meeting of the norms established in this document or other circumstances.

Remember that clear and honest communications, just as mutual respect, are fundamental for good host-student relationship.

### AMOUNT TO PAY

The established price for housing should be consulted directly at the Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation. The student must pay the **total amount** of his/her stay at his/her arrival to Costa Rica.

For no reason, the University of Costa Rica will reimburse the housing fee, particularly in situations where the University has no responsibility.