

Classic Homestay - Boston



An East Coast programme in this prestigious city of learning, with the option to sample a weekend in New York. Students will have the unique opportunity to share and experience the day to day life of an American homestay together with all the diversity of American culture.



GENERAL ACCOMMODATION DESCRIPTION

Most of EC's homestays are located in the following areas: Jamaica Plains, West Roxbury, Salem, Marblehead, Winthrop, Revere, Everett, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Quincy, Malden, Somerville the North Shore and South Shore. Each of these areas are residential and safe, and are an average 50-minute bus or subway journey to school.

Extra nights may be available at an additional fee, all requests are subject to availability.

ARRIVAL DAY

Saturday

DEPARTURE DAY

Saturday

TRAVEL TIME FROM AIRPORT

Boston Logan Airport: Approx. 30 min

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- General English course
- Course materials
- End of course certificate
- International classes
- Full board accommodation
- Supervised activity programme (per week):
 - 5 half-day activities and 1 evening activity
 - 1 full-day activity (for students staying minimum 2 weeks)
- Handbook

GETTING TO SCHOOL & ACTIVITIES

- Average journey to school: 50 min by public transport
- Average journey to city centre: 50 min by public transport
- Fenway College is on the green subway line, near Fenway and Museum of Fine Arts.
- Students are expected to travel independently by public transport. The homestay hosts will help their students to purchase a travel pass once they arrive at their home. Families will take the student to the nearest train or metro station and show them how to purchase their travel card. Cost of Travel Pass approx \$40 per week. (This price is subject to change.)
- Social leaders will accompany students to activities after the lunch hour, but students will make their way back to their homestay independently after activities.

DATES AVAILABLE

21 June - 9 August 2014

AGES

14 - 17 years

MINIMUM COURSE DURATION

1 week

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

+1 800 964 7009 (Outside US)

+1 617 990 4880 (Inside US)

For use outside of office hours only



Accommodation

BOARD STATUS

Full board accommodation

TYPE OF ROOM

Twin room - students are placed in a twin room with other students of the same gender.

BATHROOMS

Shared bathroom

ROOMS INCLUDE

- bed
- desk/table where students can do their homework
- storage space (but students' rooms cannot be locked)
- good lighting for studying

LINEN/TOWELS

Bed linen is provided; students should bring their own towels.

LAUNDRY

Students can use laundry facilities once a week. Depending on the homestay, the homestay provider may either do the student's laundry, or the student may have to do his/her own.

CLEANING

Towels and linen are not changed by the homestay provider but the student will have access to a laundry facility.

POCKET MONEY: SUGGESTED SPENDING MONEY/COST OF LIVING

EC does not provide a pocket money service. Parents should ensure their children have sufficient pocket money for the duration of their stay. EC Boston recommends an average budget of \$125 per week. Should students require more pocket money during their stay, parents are asked to transfer funds through an international transfer service.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE ACCOMMODATION

- Upon arrival, the homestay provider(s) will provide students with an orientation to life within their home and the neighbourhood.
- Students will also be provided with access to common rooms such as the living room, dining room and kitchen during acceptable hours.
- All students will have access to a phone and will be allowed to accept incoming calls. If students want to make a long distance or international call they must use a calling card. Calling cards can be found in many convenience stores.
- International Leaders are accommodated in twin rooms shared with another International Leader. If International Leaders book a single room, a single room supplement will be charged at the time of booking and reserved based on availability.
- There is a maximum number of 4 students per homestay.

EC's Accommodation Department visits all homestay providers before they are accepted to host students and then follows up with regular home visits to ensure the comfort and safety of our students. EC staff members are available at all times to help students adjust to life in an American family and to serve as a liaison between them and their homestay provider.

Valid reasons must accompany a request for a homestay change, and each request is considered on its own merits. Such changes are also subject to availability. Students must pay for all costs incurred including transport, additional accommodation charges and cancellation fees (where applicable). The additional charges must be paid in full prior to the move. EC are happy to assist students with arrangements for any justifiable accommodation changes.

Meals

Upon arrival students must ask their homestay hosts when meals are served and students must respect this time. If students will not be home for dinner, they must notify their homestay provider two hours before the time set for dinner.

Students will be given a meal card on the first day of class so that they can purchase weekday lunches in the Dining Hall. The amount of credit on the meal card is based on the length of stay, and it cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred to another card. The cost per day for meals is \$9-\$10. If lost, a \$50 replacement fee for a new meal card will apply. Students need to notify EC staff as soon as they lose their meal cards, and that card will then be cancelled. Upon the cancellation of the old card, the remaining balance of the old card will be checked on the system and loaded on to the new card accordingly.

BREAKFAST

Tea/coffee, toast, jam and cereal with the homestay provider(s)

LUNCH

Weekday Lunches:

Buffet style lunch - sandwiches, pizza, salads, vegetarian, chicken, drink and fruit.

Weekend Lunches:

A large sandwich, piece of fruit, chips and drink.

DINNER

Students will have dinner with the Host Families. Dinner generally includes a salad, meat or fish, pasta or rice

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Dietary Requirements If students have specific diet requirements (e.g. Gluten free / vegetarian / Halal), EC must be informed of this prior to the student's arrival.

Please note: For gluten-free meals a supplement of \$25 may apply.

MEDICAL

EC must be advised upon booking of any medical conditions, allergies or medications that need to be administered to students. EC will endeavour to find a homestay provider that can accept students with medical conditions. However if EC are not advised of this in advance, EC cannot take responsibility if the homestay provider refuses to accept the student in their home.

If students are required to see a doctor a basic visit can be expensive. Students will be responsible for all medical costs incurred including transportation to the hospital.

Students should always travel to the US with a proof of insurance on them. Insurance can be either a private one or booked through EC. Further information upon request.



Learning Centre

Classes are held at a fantastic Junior Centre in the heart of Boston, with all the attractions of the city within walking distance of the school. EC Boston's Junior Centre has a dedicated EC Junior Coordinator.

Course: General English

20 lessons per week (a total of 15 hours)

1 lesson = 45 minutes

- Classes begin on the second day. No lessons are held on the first day, but students will be given a Welcome Talk followed by Orientation and an activity in the afternoon.
- Lessons are engaging and designed especially for young learners. Teachers aim to satisfy any interest, with a focus on communication to boost students' confidence when using English in practical situations. Regular tests and conversation classes help to ensure that students improve their English as much as possible.
- The course will develop students' English language skills by integrating the key areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Timetable

Lessons 09:00 – 12:30 or 1:30 – 5pm with a 30 minute break (Monday – Friday)

Students will follow a regular timetable.



MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE

15 students

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational materials are provided. Students should bring their own notepaper and pens.

FIRST DAY

On the first day, all students sit a placement test - The placement test allows academic staff to place students in the relevant group for their ability. After the test, students will be given a Welcome Talk followed by Orientation. During the orientation, students will be provided with a student handbook including a map of Boston, the schedule of classes, directions to classes and details on activities. No lessons are held on the first day, but students will have a group lunch which will be followed by an activity in the afternoon.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school and activities is compulsory unless there is a justified reason for absence. In the case of a student falling ill, an EC staff member will provide assistance.

100% attendance required to receive the End of Course Certificate.

EXTRA ACTIVITY

- Must be booked at time of course booking.
- **New York Weekend Trip:** Visit Greenwich Village, Central Park, Lower Manhattan, Chinatown, Little Italy, Empire State Building, 5th Avenue and more! All meals, transport, entrance fees and accommodation are included. Available: 5-6 July, 19-20 July.

SAMPLE PROGRAMME

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday	Arrivals		
Sunday	Free day for Welcome Activities		
Monday	Placement Test	Museum of Fine Arts	Free Evening
Tuesday	Lessons	Harvard University Tour	Free Evening
Wednesday	Lessons	Soccer	Free Evening
Thursday	Lessons	Newbury Street Shopping	Dance Party
Friday	Lessons	Sky Walk Observatory	Free Evening
Saturday	Aquarium and Whale Watching for students staying 2+ weeks		
Sunday	Free day for Welcome Activities		
Monday	Lessons	Bowling	Free Evening
Tuesday	Lessons	Revere Beach	Free Evening
Wednesday	Lessons	Freedom Trail Walk	Free Evening
Thursday	Lessons	Capoeira Dance Class	Casino night
Friday	Lessons	Hard Rock Café & Faneuil Hall	Free Evening
Saturday	Departures/Six Flags Amusement Park for students staying 3+ weeks		

- This is a sample programme only and changes may occur
- Any lessons / activities missed will not be made up.
- Lessons may alternate weekly between morning and afternoon
- Please note: Students are directly supervised by EC staff at the residence, during activities and at school. During their free time students may be allowed to go out by themselves, but assistance is always readily available from staff via the emergency number.



Welfare, Rules and Disciplinary Action

CURFEW TIMES

Sunday to Thursday - 10pm; Friday & Saturday - 11pm

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

EC will not tolerate the possession or consumption of alcohol by Junior students. Students who consume alcohol risk being expelled from the school and repatriated to their home country. In America the legal age to drink is 21 and the legal age to buy cigarettes is 18.

DRUGS

The consumption of any illegal drugs will result in the immediate expulsion and repatriation of the student and the possible intervention of the police.

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted during any part of the programme.

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

At EC, we endeavour to provide our students with the highest possible level of service. If, however, a student is unsatisfied with any aspect of their programme with EC, we ask that they inform us immediately. Most problems are small and can be quickly resolved by our staff members. During the first week of school, all students are given an 'Initial Course Evaluation Form', in which they are asked to evaluate various aspects of their stay, such as tuition, accommodation and leisure. The form also allows students the opportunity to bring to our attention anything that is not to their satisfaction, should they feel unable to speak to us directly. An EC staff member will talk to any student who rates a service as 'poor' or 'not so good' in their Initial Course Evaluation Form. They will try to find a solution as quickly as possible. If the problem cannot be resolved immediately, an official complaint form is filled in and the student's agent will also be informed. A thorough investigation will be carried out. The Initial Course Evaluation Form is given to the students during their first few days at EC so that problems can be solved immediately and not disrupt the remainder of their time with us. There is also an End-of-Course Evaluation Form which gives the students an opportunity to provide EC with general feedback before returning to their home country.

ACCOMMODATION RULES

- Students must keep their room neat and tidy, including making their own bed every morning.
- Curfew times must be respected by all students - if students know they are coming home late they should let their hosts know.
- Students should ask their hosts before using their kitchen.
- Students are liable for any damages/breakages to the host's property or possessions.
- Students must ask for the host's permission before bringing any guests home.
- Students will be given a key to the host's home which they should carry with care and use to enter at times they arranged with their hosts upon arrival. Students must make sure that they do not lose the house key and they should never lend it to anyone.
- Students must ask if they may use the telephone and use a phone card if they do.
- Students should be respectful of the host's daily schedule including shower, meal, and bed times.

Visa Requirements

Our junior programmes in the USA include 15 hours of lessons per week plus activities, thus they are considered as cultural programmes. This means that students need to apply for a tourist visa and do not require a visa letter.

Course Certificate

Students must attend all lessons and organised activities in order to receive their End of Course Certificate.

Discipline

In order to manage student behaviour, EC staff may issue a formal written warning, notify parents, bar the student from an activity, or withhold their End of Course Certificate.

EXPULSION

EC reserves the right to expel and repatriate a student at his/her own expense for any of the following reasons:

- Possession of any illegal drugs
- Drinking of alcohol
- Malicious damage to school property or place of accommodation
- If the student is a danger to his/her own safety or that of other students
- Breaking American law
- Repeated failure to attend academic lessons
- Violation of any EC Home Stay and School rules

In any of the above circumstances the student is informed that their stay is going to be terminated with immediate effect. Simultaneously EC informs the student's agent of the student's behaviour and the course of action to be taken. The earliest flight available is booked and an EC staff member accompanies the student to the airport to ensure that the student leaves the country. Following such action EC will terminate all relationships with the student and will be unable to take further responsibility for the student. No refunds will be given to any students who have been expelled.