



## Frequently Asked Questions – Home Stays

### **Where will I live and eat during the semester?**

Students will live with a family in a homestay for the entire semester where two meals will be provided (breakfast and dinner). For lunch students can find a variety of restaurants in and around campus.

### **Could you describe the homestay?**

Students will be living with families in and around the northern side of Quito or Cumbayá Valley. The families may consist of a father, mother and children, or just a mother, a father or both without children. Students can specify the type of family they want to live with and we will try to fulfill the requirements.

Students are given their own bedroom; they may have their own private bathroom or may have to share a bathroom with another family member. Included in the home stay are breakfast and dinner (including weekends). For lunch they can either decide to cook something at home and bring it to school or buy their lunch (buying lunch is not included in the program fees). Students may have access to use the kitchen to cook but need to talk to the family about what they can use regarding ingredients, utensils, storage space and appliances that may need special instructions. Some families will help students with their laundry and others will show them how to use the washing machine for them to do it themselves. This will be something students and families agree upon while reviewing house rules.

### **What are the families like?**

All the families are unique so it will be difficult to describe them all. The families are interviewed and must fulfill USFQ's requirements before placing students in their homes. Most families will have hosted several students in the past, so they should be used to having new students around. Despite the differences, most students have enjoyed their stays with their host families. It is very rare that students ask to be moved, but changes can be made if students don't feel comfortable and/or unhappy with the living situation and after a reasonable adjustment period.

### **Will I be treated like a boarder?**

No. Although the families get paid for housing exchange students, they enjoy having students live with them the host families are very open and accepting to exchange students and welcome them as part of their own family.

### **How will housing assignments be made?**

In the USFQ application, students will fill out a questionnaire that describes how they are and what they would like in a family. The incoming coordinator at USFQ will take this into consideration when placing them with a family. This does not mean that they will always get exactly what they ask for, but we will do our best to fulfill their needs.

### **Can I switch host families?**

Yes. Students can switch host families, but only if there are problems that can't be solved. They must allow an adequate adjustment period before a change may take place and it must be done with USFQ's family coordinator.