



Virtual Homestay ENGLISH

Program Overview

Virtual Homestay ENGLISH is an initiative of MyStay International (MSI) that allows participants to improve their conversational English through One-on-One online sessions with trained Australian Homestay Network (AHN) hosts. A participant may be an international student, professional, or simply someone who wants to develop their English as it is not their first language.

Participants attend interactive live stream sessions with their host, which are initially purchased in a minimum 4-week block.

Hosts must commit to a minimum of 28 hours over the 4-week period (approximately 1 hour per day).

The spirit of the AHN homestay program is reflected through the personal and cultural exchanges participants and hosts share. Hosts will provide a safe and supportive environment for the participant to build their confidence and increase their English proficiency by:

- delivering loosely structured content (“lesson plans”);
- encouraging direct conversation; and
- presenting opportunities for participants to enhance their communication skills.

We will provide hosts with training prior to your first placement. Each participant will also have access to the *Reallyenglish* online platform which they may want to use as part of the learning experience. Hosts will also receive a *Reallyenglish* login to follow the participant’s progress and use the content as “lesson plans” for the One-on-One sessions.

As an experienced AHN homestay host, you are encouraged to promote conversation and support participants as they work to improve their English, just as you would when hosting a student in your own home.

Key Responsibilities and Processes

- Hosts must complete the mentor training program. This can be accessed by logging in to your AHN profile and clicking through to the Training panel, then the **‘Host Family English Test’**.
NOTE: This training was created with international homestay students in mind, however, the information is relevant for all mentorship arrangements where enhancing the English skills of participants is a focus.
Suggested activities (eating a meal or cooking, for example) can still be demonstrated in an online environment even though the experience is not “in person”.
The website displayed at the end of the training videos is for the external training provider – there is no need or you to visit that site.
- Hosts must agree to the specific terms regarding each placement i.e. commencement date, schedule, etc.
- A reliable internet connection and device with webcam (e.g. laptop or iPad) is essential.
- Hosts need to have access to a platform such as Zoom or Skype to conduct each session. The participant will be asked for their preference when they register for the program.
- Hosts and participants are encouraged to negotiate a schedule that works for both parties based on time zones and availability. For example, it may be more convenient to break up the minimum 7 hours by doing 4 x 1½ hour sessions Monday to Thursday and 1 x 1 hour session on Friday so the weekend is free.
- Hosts need to be flexible during the week for any reasonable changes to the schedule required by the participant.



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- Hosts must log in to the online platform at least 5 minutes before an allocated session.
- Sessions should never finish earlier than the allocated time. The success of the program is designed around the host and participant forming a strong relationship as experienced in normal homestay.
- All bookings need to be confirmed in writing with your participant e.g. via email and/or virtual calendar. **It is important that you attend all sessions as we will be identifying you as the Virtual Homestay ENGLISH host for the participant, just like we would for a homestay placement.**
- When conducting each session, use language that is appropriate to the English level of the participant you are speaking with. One of the aims is to help participants improve their English through the conversations they have with you. The *Reallyenglish* program can assist greatly with this.
- Hosts should incorporate *Reallyenglish* content to ensure core information is provided to the participant. Personalised activities can be added to support this information and offer additional opportunities for the participant to practise their English.
- As part of the [Terms & Conditions](#) hosts acknowledge they are provided with free training and access to English language content, as well as being matched with participants, exclusively for the Virtual Homestay ENGLISH program. The host agrees they will not utilise training materials or English language content, or make direct arrangements with participants, to provide similar online English learning services.

Host Reimbursement

\$400 total – for 4 weeks

Each Starter Package is for 4 weeks (minimum 28 hours total / e.g. 7 hours a week)

- Hosts will receive Virtual Homestay ENGLISH payments on the next payment date as per normal AHN homestay placements.
- If either the participant or the host wishes to reschedule a session, they must provide written notice to the other party at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date and time (unless another notification period is agreed to).
- We advise participants that hosts will make all reasonable attempts to accommodate changes. If the participant does not provide written notice at least 48 hours in advance, or a participant does not attend a scheduled session, there is no obligation for the host to conduct that session.

Need Help?

Your local office is your main point of [contact](#) if you have any questions about Virtual Homestay ENGLISH or run into any issues conducting your online sessions.