

What to Expect While Participating

Auburn University Internship Housing Initiative

Overview

sharing your home with a new person can, understandably, lead to some apprehension. The combination of different cultural norms, habits, and attitudes can lead to interesting group dynamics. This document will provide some guidance on what to expect as you think to host an Auburn University student in your home.

Who are the Students Participating?

Auburn University is a vibrant and multicultural institution that represents many different identify/affinity groups. There is a very strong possibility that the student(s) sharing your home with you will come from a different background than you. With that difference will likely result in differences of opinion and habit.

Many students will elect to participate in this program due to the, at times, exorbitant cost of living in the D.C. metropolitan area. This program, for many, could serve as their best chance at being able to live outside of the Auburn area, and gain valuable experience in their field due to their financial needs/limitations.

You may experience an Auburn student across any of its 140+ academic majors. The Washington D.C. area is rife with opportunity, and full of appeal for a variety of areas/industries. On the topic of academics, the program requires the students to be a student in “Good Standing”. At Auburn University, students are said to be in “Good Standing” if their GPA is above a 2.00/4.00.

Socially many of the students participating will be accustomed to or at least familiar with the idea of sharing living quarters with acquaintances/friends of whom they have limited background knowledge. While many of our hosts will not have had a “roommate” type living arrangement for quite some time. Students are told that they are guests in your home, however they may take time to adjust to their new arrangement (as you will likely need to as well). We encourage patience, within reason. It is doubtful that they are being willfully negligent of your needs, rather benignly ignorant of the frustration that they may be causing. Speak with honesty and sincerity.

How Will Matching Take Place?

It is important to note that Auburn University, nor the Auburn University Career Center, will “match” a student with the hosts. Eligible students will contact Host Families directly. (For more information on how students are determined to be eligible, please see “AUIHI_Eligibility and Provisions.pdf” under the “Helpful Documents” section)

How will Matching Take Place CONTINUED

Students are only provided one Host Family at a time. An eligible host family will not be provided to more than one student at a time. Eligible students will be provided your names, contact information, and the information provided in your application/questionnaire (sans physical address and other personal/sensitive information). As Host Families are taken, those names will be removed from the list of eligible sites.

We believe that the Host Family and Student are the best judge of fit, as such we leave that determination between the two parties. Not all initial contacts will be solid fits, it is ok to say no. You may wish to go ahead and draft your Expectation Guidelines so that you may have that readily able to share with a student when they contact you. (For an example of an expectation Guideline see "AUIHI_Example Expectation Guidelines.pdf", and for additional information on general program guidelines see "AUIHI_Expectation Guidelines.pdf. Both of these documents can be found under "Guideline Documents" on the Host Family page.)

This is a significant investment of both parties' time and energy, as such it needs to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. In all things honesty is important.

The Unexpected May Happen

As with any planning endeavor, life and the unexpected have an uncanny ability to present themselves at inopportune times. Early communication will likely be very important. Do not hesitate to contact the program coordinator, Torey Palmer with the Auburn University Career Center, with any concerns/issues you may be having.

Students are encouraged to provide you with an emergency contact, and we encourage Host Families to speak with that emergency contact before the student is in your home. The coordinator is happy to assist in any way that they can, but they will be in Auburn, Alabama with limited information at their disposal to affect changes in the D.C. Metropolitan Area. Host Families and Students will likely be the best agents to handle unexpected emergencies/crises. But the coordinator should be pulled into the process as soon as possible to provide support

In the event of unresolvable/serious issues between Student and Host Family please contact the coordinator as soon as possible. Documentation will be very helpful in moving forward. Email is the official form of communication for Auburn University, and any correspondence conducted by email is subject to subpoena and disclosure. Documenting issues may be helpful in resolving later concerns.

Closing

The AUIHI is a unique opportunities for all parties participating. This is a new program (in its second year), as such there may be eventualities that arise that have not yet been encountered, do not hesitate to reach out if you need support. However, we feel that this program provides a wonderfully unique way for Auburn University's past to connect with Auburn University's future. In participating, Host Families open a gateway to opportunity access that has been out of the reach of many of our students. We look forward to the stories and growth that will ultimately take place.