

Student accommodation while attending Queensland Academies

Some students outside the Brisbane and Gold Coast areas will need accommodation to enable them to participate in the academies' programs. While the responsibility for determining the style of accommodation and the financial commitment remains with the parents, Education Queensland offers to facilitate a homestay for the students. We ask Brisbane and Gold Coast families to consider opening their homes and volunteering to host a student for the academy calendar terms. We firmly believe that academy families who are very aware of the needs of gifted and talented students are best placed to provide this homestay for the school year – for a nominal cost negotiated between the two families within an agreement.

The Queensland Government enforces stringent homestay standards, ensuring high-quality accommodation is arranged as close as possible to the academy and that all homestay providers undergo orientation, training and police checks.

Your child's homestay needs: safety, comfort, welfare and support in their learning

The academy will:

- source suitable homestay providers for students
- assess the suitability of each homestay provider
- interview the homestay provider and ensure that their home meets the minimum standard 'Homestay placement requirements' as described below
- match students with homestay providers
- provide exchange of both family profiles
- confirm identity of 'Blue Card' holders and the card currency
- meet with the homestay provider once per academy term
- arrange regular face-to-face meetings with the students, as least once each month.

Homestay placement requirements

The homestay providers will need to provide:

- a Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian 'Blue Card' for all adult occupants (18 years and older) residing in the household. This card must be current for the full stay and must be sighted before the student's first residential date.
- consent for the Commission to advise the Principal of the Academy of any changes or reassessment to the status of any of the residing adult 'Blue Card' holders
- full board in a clean and tidy household
- a safe, secure, private bedroom with suitable storage space for clothes, personal effects and suitable facilities for study including a desk, chair and adequate lighting
- three meals daily ensuring adequate nutritious food and drink and access to other foods as required
- access to bathroom and laundry facilities
- telephone and internet access – costs are to be negotiated between the parents

- access to household items, such as towels, sheets, blankets and eating/cooking utensils
- suitable supervision of the student in their care at all times
- assistance and support of the student's good attendance at their academy and support of the completion of homework assignments (assist where required)
- or organise daily private or public transport to the academy and ensure the student has thorough understanding of their options.

The parents of the student will need to:

- make the payment of the contracted cost to the homestay provider in keeping with the agreed homestay payment schedule negotiated upon contract signing
- pay the costs associated with all medical, dental, hospital or other health-related services for the students
- pay directly to the academy all costs involved in the student participating in any extra-curricular activities organised by the academy.

Queensland Academies HOMESTAY INTENTION for 2010

If you believe **your child will need accommodation** *or* if you are able to offer a student a place in **your home**, please complete the details below and fax, email or post your 'Intention' to:

Lindy Warhurst, Admissions Officer

Telephone: 07 3350 7887

Email: Lindy.WARHURST@deta.qld.gov.au

Fax: 07 3350 9190

Upon receipt of your 'Intention' you will be contacted to discuss the processes, procedures and timelines.

I require accommodation for my son/daughter attending the following academy:

- Creative Industries, Kelvin Grove
- Health Sciences, Gold Coast
- Science, Mathematics and Technology, Toowong

Or

I am able to provide accommodation for a student attending the following academy:

- Creative Industries, Kelvin Grove
- Health Sciences, Gold Coast
- Science, Mathematics and Technology, Toowong