



**Niagara
College
Canada**

APPLIED DREAMS.

HOUSING GUIDE

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WELCOME!

The following guide has helpful information regarding housing...

Housing Checklist

Here is a handy checklist to help you with your housing options before you arrive.

- 1. Do I know how to contact my host family or landlord?
- 2. Have I discussed arrangements for first and last month's housing fee/rent?
(For Landing Pad, it is one month payment only).
- 3. Do I know the bus schedule and route to NC from my Off-Campus Housing?
- 4. Am I familiar with my lease contract, lease term and provisions?
- 5. Have I confirmed two or three references in case a potential landlord requires a reference check?

***A [RentSmart Certificate](#) can be used as two references in Ontario?*



Congratulations on your admission to Niagara College (NC) and joining our NC family! We look forward to welcoming you to the Niagara Region.

Whether you choose Residence, Off-Campus Housing, Landing Pad or Homestay, each housing option presents a unique learning opportunity to be introduced to Canadian culture and the Niagara community. When making a decision regarding where you will live, please keep in mind how close the options are to your campus of study.

For those choosing to stay with a host family through NC's Homestay or Landing Pad option, you will live with local families who provide support and assistance while you adapt to the lifestyle and demands of Canadian student life.

Niagara College also offers Residence suites, designed for those who want to experience living among other students in a Niagara College setting. Also, many great apartments and rooms are available for rent off-campus, within a reasonable travel time from both campuses.

This Housing Guide is made available to help families and students have fulfilling and memorable relationships. We trust this guide will help you prepare for your experience so you can truly make the most of your Niagara College journey.

Once again, congratulations and we look forward to welcoming you to Niagara College.

Regards,
Niagara College International



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YOUR CANADIAN EXPERIENCE AWAITS YOU!

HOMESTAY

Local families provide support and assistance while students adapt to the lifestyle and demands of Canadian student life. Host families are as diverse as the international students who attend Niagara College.



EXPECTATIONS

Talk to your host family about your needs and their expectations when you arrive.

You are encouraged to discuss any house rules or expectations with your host family to ensure you make the most of your experience.

FEES INCLUDE

- Meals
- Private Bedroom
- Bed
- Desk
- Dresser
- Internet

HOMESTAY PRICING

When	Cost	Description
Arrival	\$1,700	First / last month's rent to be paid
Monthly	\$850	Due the first day of every month
Daily	\$30	Charged per day for early arrival

You must stay with your host family for at least two months. If you decide to move, we recommend you do so between terms. If you need a receipt for your Homestay fees, ask your family for one.

LANDING PAD

NEED SOMEWHERE TO LAND? CHECK!

Looking for a way to reduce the stress of finding a rental off-campus and not ready to commit to a long term host family? Use the Landing Pad!

ROOM AND TWO MEALS PER DAY FOR ONE MONTH AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL, WHILE YOU...

- Have friends/family support you in adapting to Canada
- Look for living space and roommates
- Discover Niagara College and the local community

REQUIREMENTS

- Pay \$850 on arrival for 30 day stay
- 3 meals per day
- No refunds



ON-CAMPUS LIVING

If you prefer to experience college life on-campus, consider living in Residence – a modern, clean and comfortable building. Residence accommodations are only steps away from the main campus buildings and feature double or quad occupancy suite styles.

Each suite is fully furnished with a kitchen table, chairs, refrigerator, microwave and bathroom. If you are interested in staying in Residence, apply early as space is limited.

For more information and fees go to: niagararesidence.ca



NEW FOR FALL 2019

Quad Suites allow students applying to Residence the choice of a new affordable option at almost half the price.

Apply by July 1 on a first come first serve basis - these rooms are in high demand so apply now to avoid missing out.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING (RENTALS)

Many great accommodations are within a very short walk of the campus. Which brings us back to the advantage of learning in Niagara: affordable, safe, quality housing within 30 minutes of the college - all part of our Niagara charm.

Landlords and tenants of most rental units are covered by the rules in the Landlord Tenant Act of Ontario. A rental unit can be an apartment, a house, or a room in a rooming or boarding house. The Act does not apply if the tenant must share a kitchen or bathroom with the landlord.



FIND HOUSING

ncsac.ca/housing

Places4Students.ca

niagaracollegeocl.ca

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

RentSmart

*NOTE: Niagara College neither regulates nor inspects Off-Campus Housing. Apart from traditional student rental homes, some facilities provide special accommodations for students. For more information, email housing@niagaracollege.ca

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet services in Canada can be expensive for your host family, so be respectful of the amount of time you spend on it.

Be prepared to share the cost of internet overage fees if internet usage exceeds your host's limit.

NC has computer labs with free wireless internet that are open everyday and available for student use.

Off-Campus Housing – Confirm with your landlord whether internet is provided. If it is, what type of internet? Is it wired or wi-fi? Is there a limit or unlimited? If it isn't included, there are many options for internet services available. Please research to find one that fits your lifestyle and budget as there are many options available.



TELEPHONE SERVICE

HOME PHONE

Please ask your host family before using their home phone to make and receive calls. Please expect that you will need to get and use a calling card for long distance calls.

CELL PHONE

Please expect to use your cell phone for most personal communication. Ask your host family for guidance in getting a phone plan.

These companies are recommended by our international students for having flexible plans and no long contracts.





PETS

Many Canadian families have cats or dogs as pets that stay in the home. Pets are treated as part of the family and are clean, friendly companions.



SMOKING

Host families do not allow smoking in their homes. They may allow you to smoke outside, but ask first. You **MUST** follow their wishes. If you do not follow their wishes, you may be asked to leave your Homestay.

Please note: In public spaces there are designated smoking areas.

PERSONAL CARE



In the bathroom...

- Toilet paper gets flushed down the toilet, but sanitary napkins are wrapped and thrown in the garbage.
- Be mindful of bathroom etiquette.



Washing clothes...

- Get your host family to show you how to use their washing machine and dryer.
- Most rental properties come with coin laundry facilities. If they do not, there are several local laundromats within walking distance or accessible by bus.



In the home...

- Turn off lights and electronics when you are not using them.



In the home...

- In Canada we recycle. For more information regarding recycling guidelines visit the Niagara region website: niagararegion.ca/waste/.

WEATHER

Niagara has four very distinct seasons:

Come prepared for Canadian winters.

You will need a heavy coat, scarf, gloves, hat and winter boots.



AUTUMN

October – November

10°C to 20°C

Cloudy and mild



WINTER

December – March

-10°C and under

Cloud, windy and lots of snow



SPRING

April – May

5°C to 12°C

Sunny with showers



SUMMER

May – September

Up to 30°C

Very sunny and humid

MONEY

HOMESTAY FEES

- First and last month's fees should be paid when you arrive.
- All other fees should be paid on the first day of the month.

BANKING

- Many banks have student accounts with low fees.
- If you need help ask your host family or a Student Advisor.

EVERY DAY:

- Your host family will provide food for 3 meals daily while you stay with them.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

- You may have to pay for special food that your host family would not regularly eat.
- If you go on a special trip with your host family, you should be prepared to pay for yourself. If your hosts pay for anything for you, it is encouraged to show your appreciation.



Do not carry a lot of cash.
Debit/bank cards are much safer and widely accepted.

TRANSPORTATION

UPass (Universal Bus Pass)

A bus pass sticker that is placed on your student card is included in your tuition fees. You can get your sticker from Niagara College Student Administrative Council (NCSAC). If you lose your sticker, you must pay for a new one. Details about the UPass sticker and bus schedules to NC can be found at ncsac.ca.

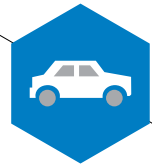


Walking

There are many different rental properties within walking distance from Niagara College. Homestay accommodations will be within 15 minutes of the campus or a bus stop.

Cycling

While cycling, you are encouraged to wear a bicycle helmet for your safety at all times in Canada.



Driving

If you are going to drive in Ontario, you need to get an Ontario Driving License. For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/get-g-drivers-licence-new-drivers. If you are staying in a Homestay, please note your host family is not expected to provide you with transportation. If you need a ride, please ask your host family politely and provide ample notice.

GUESTS

You must ask your host family before inviting any guests into their home, even if just for a few hours. If you have family or friends who wish to visit you, they should stay in a hotel.

Your boyfriend or girlfriend will typically not be allowed to stay overnight. Friends should also not be expecting to receive meals at your Homestay on a regular basis. Keep the lines of communication open with your host family to know their guidelines.



CONFLICT & RESOLUTION


Hosts in Canada are diverse and multicultural and not always a “traditional family” as defined by your culture. Homestay families may be single parents, young professionals, retired, grandparents, or married for example.


It is not uncommon to have conflict, which typically stems from misunderstanding. Talk through the problem to clear up the misunderstanding.





If you cannot resolve an issue, or need help to speak with your host or student, talk to the Housing Advisor at the International Office.

KEYS TO GETTING ALONG

 Flexibility

 Patience

 Persistence in Communication

 Leave your Expectations Behind!



“The best part is you may have a second family at the end of the adventure like I did. When you are hundreds of kilometres away from your home country and also don’t speak fluently English or

in general the language, a Homestay family will help you a lot and support you. Firstly, you are not completely alone at home, you have your Homestay family and you can talk with them and practice speaking English. You will also get to see and know more about the country’s culture, food, behavior, and a lot of more.”

Elisa Meyer
Homestay Student





“I am so happy that I met my Homestay Family. They gave me all the basic knowledge about the country. I got to know how Canadian families live, and they were very kind with me. They showed me everything. When I told them about some things, like having a lot of assignments, they understood me. They take me to festivals and for walks with the dog. I would recommend Homestay, to try at least for the first semester because it is very good when you are staying in a new culture to learn it from the roots. The people are very good and helpful. For me, they were like my actual parents.”

Tetiana Samandas
Homestay Student



ADJUSTING TO CANADIAN FOOD

Host families are as diverse as the international students who attend Niagara College and so are their food preferences. Try to be open to the experience and try new foods. If you are still not enjoying the food options provided during your Homestay, try communicating to your host family foods or recipes you enjoy. Try grocery shopping or cooking together and learning from one another.

Be sure to inform your host family/landlord of relevant, special food requirements you may have, such as allergies.



NIAGARA HOSPITAL LOCATIONS

WELLAND HOSPITAL

65 3rd Street | 905-378-4647

ST. CATHARINES HOSPITAL

1200 Fourth Avenue | 905-378-4647

NIAGARA FALLS HOSPITAL

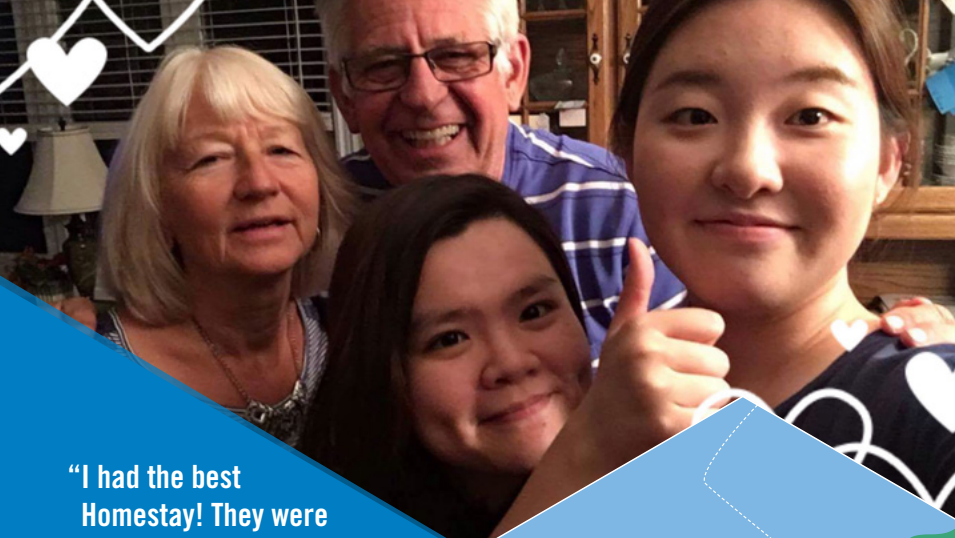
5546 Portage Road | 905-378-4647

HEALTH INSURANCE

All Niagara College students are covered by health insurance through StudentGuard (www.guard.me) At the beginning of each term, students will be issued a new health number that will be emailed to their NC student email.

Students can go to any doctor/clinic, however, they may be asked to pay for the services. Receipts for prescriptions/ clinic visit claims can be submitted online at www.guard.me

For major medical emergencies such as broken bones or serious accidents, dial 911 or go to the hospital to receive immediate medical care.



“I had the best Homestay! They were kind and helpful. They cared for me like their daughter. I could share with them like with my parents. I was very comfortable living there.”

Tram Pham

Program: EAP, Culinary Management (Co-op)
Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



If you have any further questions regarding Housing that are not addressed in this guide, please contact our Housing team and someone will be happy assist you at their earliest convenience:

WELLAND CAMPUS

Segal International Centre
100 Niagara College Blvd, Welland, ON
Canada L3C 7L3
905-735-2211 ext. 7763

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CAMPUS

International Office, Room W115
135 Taylor Rd, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Canada LOS 1J0
905.641-2252 ext. 4190

For more help on preparing for life in Niagara, please visit Be NC Ready housing@niagaracollege.ca international.niagaracollege.ca

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