UVIC HOMESTAY
Flight Details and Arrival in Victoria – Individual Students

Please contact your homestay family directly to let them know your flight arrival information. It is your responsibility to ensure that your hosts have your arrival information so they can pick you up.

- **Please note that you must make travel arrangements to Victoria.** Acceptable arrival locations include the Victoria International Airport, the Victoria Bus Terminal, the University of Victoria, a Victoria Hotel or Hostel, or another host family residence in Victoria (Capital Regional District). Hosts cannot pick you up at the Vancouver Airport. When you arrive at the Vancouver Airport, it is a 25-minute plane ride to the Victoria International Airport or a 3-hour and 40-minute bus and ferry ride to the Victoria downtown Bus Station. Please make sure your travel arrangements bring you to Victoria.

- Students should aim to arrive **on the [Program's set Arrival Date and Departure Date](#)** and between 8:00am and 10:00pm on the weekends, or weekday evenings (and not during the weekday work hours) so that your hosts can make the necessary arrangements to pick you up.

- *Hosts are not required to drive to the* airport/ferry terminal to pick up their students after 10:00pm.

- Homestay placement is guaranteed from the Program's Arrival date to the Departure date only.

Early Arrivals

Students needing to arrive earlier than the date listed on the Hosting Dates:
- Student should ask their homestay family if they can be accommodated earlier than the arrival date listed for their program. If the hosts are able to welcome the student early, the student is responsible for paying the nightly fee for each additional night spent in the home ($36.50/night, and as of Jan 1, 2023: $42/night).
- Students arriving during weekday work hours, must make their own arrangements and at their own cost, to get to the host's home at a mutually agreed upon time. Students may also take a taxi or airport shuttle to the University of Victoria campus (Continuing Studies Building) and wait for their host to pick them up.
- If the homestay family is not able to accommodate a request for an earlier arrival date, it is the student's responsibility to arrange accommodation until the arrival date listed in the Hosting Dates of your Homestay Placement Contract (see Accommodation in

Victoria at https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/pdf/elc/hp/student/accommodation-in-victoria.pdf).

- Once accommodations have been arranged for early arrivals, student must contact their homestay family to tell them where they are staying, so the family can arrange to meet the student and bring them home.
- Students should aim to arrive on the weekends or weekday evenings, no later than 10:00pm (and not during the weekday work hours) so that homestay families can make the necessary arrangements to pick up the student.

Late Arrivals

Students planning to arrive in the Homestay home after the hosting dates listed must contact the host with their request via email, with at least one-week's notice. Students arriving on a weekday may be required to take a taxi, at the student's expense, to the host's home. Students arriving early in the day on a weekday are advised to take a taxi to the University of Victoria, Continuing Studies Building, and join the day's activities – your host will be able to pick you up after their workday.

We suggest that you carry your host's cell phone number with you so you can phone or email them if there are changes or delays to your travel arrangements while you are travelling. If you have a cell phone, please provide your host with the number in case they need to call you.

On the day of your arrival

When your host family meets you at the arrival location, they will generally hold up a sign with your name on it. If you have shared photos, you might be able to recognize one another.

If your flight was delayed, or in the very rare occasion that your host family is not at the agreed upon arrival location when you arrive:

- Call their home/cellular phone numbers and leave a message to tell them where you are waiting for them. They may have a delay in getting to the location to meet you.
- If you are at the Victoria Airport, go to the Airport Information Booth (Red Coats Volunteers - located in the centre of the Arrivals area, phone: 250-953-7533) and ask if your host family has left a message for you.

If your host family is not at the arrival location to meet you and you cannot contact them by phone:

- Take the Airport shuttle bus from the Victoria Airport to downtown Victoria.

- Stay at one of the hotels or hostels listed on the *Accommodation in Victoria* sheet https://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/pdf/elc/hp/student/accommodation-in-victoria.pdf
- If you arrive in the evening or weekend and have not been able to contact your host family, please contact the UVic Homestay Office on the next business day (Monday to Friday), during office hours (8:30am to 4:30pm) at 250-472-4268 or visit our office located on the second floor of the Continuing Studies Building at the University of Victoria.

On the day of your departure

- Students should aim to depart between 8:00am and 10:00pm on a weekend, or if during the weekday, at a time that does not interfere with regular work hours. *Hosts are not required to drive to the airport to drop off their students for flights before 8:00am.* Should the return flight be scheduled for a time that conflicts with typical Monday –Friday work hours or depart before 8:00am or after 11:00pm on a weekend, students are required to make their own way to the airport (at the student's cost).
- *Hosts are not required to do student drop offs at the departure location before 6:00am or after 10:00pm.*
- Students departing later than the program departure date, must secure alternate accommodation for any nights beyond the program departure date, if hosts are not available for the extended dates.