



Homestay Information for Overseas Students (LNS751)

Accommodation & Welfare

Students under 18 years

Overseas students under 18 years of age must have appropriate accommodation and welfare arrangements in place for their period of study.

The following accommodation and welfare options are acceptable:

- Living with parents or close relatives approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)
- Living with parent organised Homestay (relatives or close family friends or other family approved by Lorien Novalis School)

Does the School have boarding facilities or organise Homestay?

Does Lorien Novalis School offer boarding facilities?

Lorien Novalis School does not offer boarding facilities.

Does Lorien Novalis School organise Homestay placements?

Lorien Novalis School does not organise homestay placements.

Lorien Novalis School does have a responsibility to keep accurate and up to date records for each student of their accommodation arrangements, and to have clear policies and procedures for monitoring these and responding to any concerns raised.

Definitions

Definition of 'close family member' or a 'close relative'

For the purposes of organising accommodation arrangements, students living with a 'close family member' is defined as a person living in NSW who is aged 21 or over, and is one of the following:

- Parents or step-parents
- Brothers or sisters, or step-brothers/sisters
- Grandparents, or step-grandparents
- Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, or step-aunts/uncles

Definition of 'Homestay'

Homestay is defined as situations where the student is residing with distant family members (i.e. a family member not listed under 'close family member'), or if the student is residing with family friends or with another family.

If a student is residing with a parent or a close family member this arrangement is 'not' classified as a homestay arrangement.

Living with parents or relatives approved by DIAC

Primary School (Kindergarten - Year 6) and Year 7 & 8 students

Primary school and Year 7 and 8 students must have a parent or close relative residing with them at all times during the period of enrolment.

If the child will live with a close relative, then parents need to nominate on the visa application form a suitable relative to be appointed as the child's guardian.

Secondary School (Years 7 - 12)

Students may live with one or both parents for the full duration of enrolment.

Alternatively, parents may nominate on the visa application form a suitable close relative to be appointed as the child's guardian:

- DIAC approved relatives include brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, step-parents, step-brothers/sisters, step-aunts/uncles, step-grandparents
- The relative agrees to undertake the responsibilities of the guardian/carer.
- The relative must be a resident of NSW, be over 21 years of age and must be able to remain in Australia until the student is 18 years of age
- Parents must provide proof of the relationship of the student to DIAC
- The relative must obtain a Working with Children Check number (see www.kids.nsw.gov.au)
- DIAC is responsible for approving arrangements

Any student under 18 years of age, regardless of their accommodation arrangement, must have a parent or parent-nominated guardian living with the Student at all times.

Living with parent nominated homestay

For students aged 15 years (Year 9) or older, parents can nominate for their child to live with close family friends or distant relatives.

- Lorien Novalis School will issue a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW)) to DIAC to enable issue of your child's visa
- The nominated homestay parent takes on the role of guardian/carer for the student.
- The nominated guardian/carer must be approved by the Lorien Novalis School
- Accommodation and living arrangements must meet standards approved by the school
- The person nominated to provide accommodation, along with all family members aged over 18 years, must satisfactorily complete a Working with Children Check within the required time period (see Working With Children Check information at www.kids.nsw.gov.au)
- Once all requirements are met and accommodation/welfare arrangements are considered satisfactory, Lorien Novalis School will approve the arrangements.

Students over 18 years

Overseas students over 18 years are strongly encouraged to remain in homestay accommodation or continue to reside with their relatives until they complete high school.

Parents must be contacted to approve any changes to student's living arrangements.

Details of an adult contact person who can also be present at enrolment interviews must be provided in all cases.

Minimum period of approval of accommodation arrangements

See: Fact Sheet at https://www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/Changes-to-migration-regulations-students-under-18.pdf

Public Interest Criteria 4012A will require that where an education provider is approving the welfare arrangements of the student, the minimum period nominated by the provider must be Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) plus seven days at the end of the CoE. Students must provide evidence with their student visa application that the education provider will approve welfare arrangements for a minimum period of CoE plus seven days at the end of the CoE or until the student turns 18. As evidence students should provide a CAAW (Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare) letter which will state the commencement and end dates for approval of welfare arrangements. If granted, the student visa end date will correspond with the end date nominated on the CAAW letter. If the student has turned 18 during studies the standard visa end date will be applied.

Accommodation arrangements and Visa applications

See: Fact Sheet at https://www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/Changes-to-migration-regulations-students-under-18.pdf

Welfare arrangements in place at the time they lodge their student visa application in order to submit a valid application.

- *Evidence of adequate welfare arrangements at time of application can be demonstrated by either:*
 - *A CAAW letter with a commencement date that either starts the day after the student's current visa expires or begins before or on the date the student lodges their new student visa application or*
 - *They have a parent or suitable relative in Australia on a visa that permits them to remain in Australia during the student's studies or the parent or suitable relative is lodging a student guardian visa application.*

Entry to Australia date and commencement of welfare arrangements

See: Fact Sheet at https://www.immi.gov.au/students/_pdf/Changes-to-migration-regulations-students-under-18.pdf

Student visa condition 8532 will be amended to require that if the student visa holder has not turned 18 and approval for the visa holder's accommodation, support and general welfare is being provided by the education provider, the visa holder must not enter Australia before the welfare arrangements are due to commence.

A student whose welfare arrangements are approved by an education provider is not permitted to travel to Australia until the commencement date of welfare arrangements nominated by the provider on the CAAW letter.

If the student does arrive in Australia before the welfare arrangements are due to commence, their student visa may be subject to cancellation.

Cancellation and Suspension of enrolment

Whist ever a student, under the age of 18 years, remains in the country with a student visa issued in relation to a course of study offered by the school the suitability of accommodation arrangements remains the responsibility of the School.

In the event that a student's enrolment is suspended or cancelled the School is still responsible for checking living arrangements.

If for any reason the School is not satisfied by accommodation arrangements a report will be made to DIAC via PRISMS that the School no longer approves of arrangements.

In any event the school will advise DIAC through PRISMS as soon as practical of any change to living arrangements.