

Providing Temporary Housing for Oberlin Students: Guidelines for Alumni/Parent Hosts

Thank you for offering a temporary housing opportunity for an Oberlin student! Housing opportunities help Oberlin students greatly as they explore careers and build experience, by allowing them to pursue high-quality internship opportunities that are unpaid or offer little compensation.

Below are guidelines to help you establish clear expectations for the housing arrangement. We urge you to discuss your expectations in detail with a student BEFORE agreeing to host the student, and perhaps to provide some friendly, but written guidelines for the student that you can send via e-mail before deciding to house him or her. Students who participate in an internship program during Winter Term must continue to comply with all Oberlin College policies and regulations, including those embodied in Oberlin College's Student Regulations, Policies, and Procedures, and any violation of these policies, regulations, or procedures may result in sanctions. However, because of the high number of students interested in housing opportunities related to an internship or other Winter Term project, Oberlin College makes no effort to screen a particular student for a particular housing opportunity and cannot vouch for any particular student or assume any risks or liability for injury, loss, or damage, associated with any student.

We suggest being selective and taking the time to ask for information that would be helpful to you in making a good decision. Your decision to offer housing to a student is completely voluntary and you have the sole discretion to decline to provide housing if you don't think he or she would be a good fit for your household. This will help to ensure that the housing experience is a positive one for both you and the Oberlin student you host.

1. Do you expect the student to pay any type of rent, or reimburse you for any costs? If so, how much rent/reimbursement will be required, and when must it be paid?
2. What are your expectations for meals? Should the student be responsible for his or her own groceries and meals? Will the student be invited to join certain household meals?
3. Do you expect the student to assist with household chores? If so, what chores (babysitting, lawn work, walking the dog, etc.), and how often?
4. Do you have house rules regarding use of the television, computer, refrigerator, etc.? If so, what are the rules? Are there other rules the student should know?
5. Will the student be sharing a room? If so, with whom will the student be sharing, and what information might be helpful to know (for example, if the student will share with your child, what is the child's bedtime?).
6. May the student invite guests to your home? If so, what are your expectations for this?

7. Who lives in the household? Are there children? What are their ages?
8. Do you have pets? What kind?
9. What is the transportation situation from your home? What forms of public transportation are available, and how long does it take to get to them?
10. Do you have any curfew expectations? If so, what are they?
11. Ask the student for two emergency contacts, and find out what the best ways are to reach these individuals if there is an emergency.
12. If you notice a problem while the student is staying with you, bring it up immediately. Give the student the opportunity to correct the problem. If the student does not, you have the right to ask the student to find housing elsewhere.

In addition to reminding students that they are required to comply with all Oberlin College policies and regulations during their internships, we advise students to adhere to the following guidelines when staying with an alumnus or parent host. Please let the student know if you have additional guidelines, or adaptations to these guidelines:

1. Clean up after yourself – especially in shared areas of the home. Keep your personal belongings together and your room tidy. Wash your dirty dishes and always rinse the bathtub/shower after using it.
2. Bring a music player with headphones, and use headphones if you wish to listen to music during your visit.
3. Always ask first before you invite a guest into your host's home.
4. Always ask first if you need or wish to use something belonging to your host. This can include going into closets, kitchen pantry, etc.
5. Bring your own supply of toiletries.
6. Be respectful of your host's "lights out" routine.
7. Always notify your host in advance if you are not going to be returning home during the night for any reason.
8. Do not expect your host to provide transportation for you.
9. Do not smoke cigarettes, bring drugs and/or consume alcohol in the host's home.

10. Do not monopolize the TV or computer. Never use the computer to view any inappropriate material. If possible, bring and use only your own computer.

Thanks again! Please let us know if you have any questions, need assistance, or have any feedback regarding your housing experience. Contact the Office of Career Services at career.services@oberlin.edu or 440.775.8140, and you will be connected with a member of our professional staff.