

## **Host Family Option**

Staying with a family is a good way to improve one's knowledge of French language and customs. Families are selected in safe residential districts of Paris. The families are eager to ensure that their paying guests feel at home, safe and secure. The individual student questionnaire included in your acceptance packet will assist the program in finding the most suitable family for each student. Please be aware that by choosing to live with a host family, you are also agreeing to reasonable rules and responsibilities. Living with a family is not the same as living in a residence hall or in a hotel. You are expected to be a part of the family, sharing meals when provided, and overall to be courteous and respectful of your hosts. At the same time, they are expected to include you in the life of the household to the extent possible, and to respect your reasonable requests and needs.

Most students choosing the host family option will have their own bedroom; in some cases a roommate from the program may be assigned. The host family provides bed linens, towels, blankets, weekly cleaning and washing of laundry and linens, and weekly room cleaning. Students are expected to maintain their room in an orderly manner. Students have access to the kitchen, but must purchase their own food and beverages beyond what is provided. Continental breakfast, normally consisting of coffee, tea, or cocoa, with bread, toast and jam is provided along with 1 dinner per week. These dinners will be scheduled in advance by you and your host family. They will do their best to introduce you to traditional and typical French food and customs, but an open mind is key. Part of living with a host family will include trying foods that you have not eaten before. The French take great pride in their diet, so be prepared for good, wholesome food – but keep an open mind. It is expected that you eat with the family at specified times. It will be your responsibility to contact the family, in advance, if you will not be eating at home. If you miss or skip a meal for any reason, you will not be reimbursed.

You will be given a key to your home. It is important to remember that you are a guest at your family's home and that they have habits that you need to respect. At the same time, they know that you are a student abroad and will likely want to travel and see the city. It is important that you discuss with your family the reasonable routines that they have and will ask you to comply with. If you plan be "out all night and sleep all day" – do not choose the host family option. Services in France are very expensive, so other reasonable limits on telephone usage, shower times, laundry services, and electricity usage are expected. In all matters, remember to discuss clearly with your host family the rules and responsibilities expected of you.