

Internet usage in a homestay

Students should be aware that:

1. Most, but not all, homestays offer their students internet access.
2. The cost of internet is **not** included in the homestay fee.
3. Homestay Hosts can charge a student approximately \$7 to \$10 per week for internet usage. Some hosts will ask for one month's payment at the start of your stay (i.e. if the cost is \$10 per week, they will ask you for \$40 upfront). You should discuss with your Homestay Host how much they will charge you and when you should pay.
4. If your host charges \$40 per month and you use the internet for one hour per day, the cost is still \$40 each month.
5. **Please ask your Homestay Host what the download limit is.** In Australia, download and upload are counted towards internet usage. Downloading YouTube, computer programs, music and movies will use up a homestay's internet allocation very quickly. For example, a twelve-minute video can use about 15gB. Most Homestay Hosts are on an internet plan which has a limit. Some are on a plan with a low limit eg 2gB. If they exceed their monthly limit, their internet slows right down to dial-up speed. This means everyone in the household is disadvantaged for the rest of the month. Other Homestay Hosts are on a plan which has a financial penalty; if they exceed their usage, they are charged very high rates for excess usage (15c per mB is a standard excess charge). If the Homestay Host can show that their homestay student is responsible for the excess usage, the student will have to pay the bill. Sometimes this bill can be over \$1,000!
6. If your Homestay Host allows you to use their home computer, please respect their property. Do **not** download programs or rearrange or change their folders, files or icons.
7. If you have your own laptop and your Homestay Host gives you wireless access, please restrict your usage to email, Skype and research for assignments.
8. **Make sure that you understand clearly your Homestay Host's internet usage rules before you start using the internet. If in any doubt about anything, check with your host.**
9. Please remember: you should also have a Monash IT account. You can access the computer labs and wireless network when you are on campus by registering with Monash. NB your Monash account also has usage limits.

Mobile Phone

We recommend you buy a pre-paid mobile phone in Australia or if you bring your own mobile, you can buy a new Australian SIM card for it. You should always give your host mother your mobile phone number so she can contact you in case of emergency.