

Netherlands: International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender
Homestay Questionnaire

Name: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Due to the density of Amsterdam’s population, the current housing shortage and the often small-sized apartments, finding hosts that meet all SIT standards can be difficult. Your patience and flexibility will be called upon as we creatively search for hosts for everyone.

All students get their own private bedroom. Some students may be sharing the homestay, meaning they will have their own room but live in the same household with the same host(s). Amsterdam is a large city, and our hosts live all over it. Most students will need an average of 30-40 min. to get to SIT’s office in the city centre. The fewest will be able to walk there, and some other will need 50-55 min. Most homestays have easy access to public transportation: metro, tram or buses.

Not all of Amsterdam looks like it’s historic city centre. Most host live in quiet residential areas, with access to beautiful parks and green spaces.

These questions are meant to understand your personality and your preferences a little better, but please keep in mind that we CANNOT GUARANTEE we will be able to accommodate to all of your choices. We’ll expect you to be flexible and open minded: our network of hosts is diverse and welcoming. If you allow it, living with them will be the highlight of your semester abroad!

1. MOTIVATION

Briefly (50-100 words) explain what motivates and excites you about the homestay aspect of this program. Can you share some of your **expectations**?:

2. LIVING WITH A HOST

We would find it very useful to understand how much of a priority the ‘homestay’ portion of the program is to you. Choose the option that suits you better:

It’s a big priority. I am looking forward to spending quality time with my host(s) and getting to know them.

It’s one of my priorities. I’d like to connect and share quality time with the host(s) but not in detriment of the academics or student life.

Not a priority. I understand I have to spend some time with my hosts and adapt to their schedules, norms and lifestyle but I would prefer a more independent homestay.

3. MEETING PEOPLE

Most of our hosts have lots of experience hosting students like you. However, to you, they will always be strangers *at first*. Knowing how you often feel around people you don’t know could help with the matching process. Please choose the option that suits you best:

I enjoy meeting new people and getting to know them. Building connection is ‘my thing’.

I do great in (large) groups of people. I do less well on one-on-one interactions.

I often need time to feel comfortable around strangers or start conversations, but I enjoy it and do my best to engage.

I am quite shy, mostly an introvert and usually need alone time.

I get super anxious around strangers; I find it difficult to open up and interact with them.

4. CULTURE EXCHANGE

Homestay is where the culture exchange really happens. Do you have any experience with cultural exchange?

I have travelled to different destinations, mostly as a tourist and in groups (friends & family).

I have travelled outside the US on my own.

I have lived with host families for more than 2 weeks.

I have experience living with host families from previous study abroad programs.

I haven’t travelled much nor lived outside my home/collage accommodation.

5. YOUR PERSONALITY

What words would people who know you well (family, friends) most likely use to describe your personality? Choose all that apply:

Thoughtful	Funny	Reserved
Happy	Humorous	Bossy
Disagreeable	Accommodating	Energetic
Cheerful	Friendly	Smart
Timid	Adventurous	Impulsive
Creative	Shy	Lazy
Intelligent	Cooperative	Dreamer
Demanding	Lovable	Helpful
Proud	Ambitious	Talkative
Daring	Family-oriented	People-pleaser
Confrontational	Quiet	Loud
Serious	Curious	Independent

Other words that best describe you?:

6. SHARING SPACES

How would describe your personality and attitude towards sharing spaces with others, making compromises and cleanliness? Be honest, please; there's no right/wrong answer! It's very useful to understand what type of person you are, and which host(s) would fit you better. On each row there are 2 extremes: write an 'X' on the column closer to one extreme that describes you better (3=very true, 2=somewhat true, 1=sometimes true, 0=neutral)

	3	2	1	0	1	2	3	
I am organized, tidy, and clean.								I am disorganized, messy, and not very clean.
I do household chores by my own initiative.								I need reminders to do household chores.
I enjoy sharing (common) spaces with others.								I prefer to be alone.
I need/prefer to be in clean and tidy spaces, whether shared or not.								I don't need/worry about being in a tidy, clean space, whether shared or not.
I like having clear agreements with my roommates regarding shared spaces.								I find rules and agreements a waste of time, I don't usually follow through.

7. HOMESTAY PREFERENCES

7.1. Shared or single homestay: that is the question. Keep in mind we won't be able to accommodate everyone's preference. Please check one:

I would prefer to share my homestay family with another student.

I'd rather not share my homestay with another student.

I don't have a preference.

7.2. Family format: most homestays in Amsterdam are single person homestays. Few homestays consist of parent(s) with children. Please check one:

I'd prefer to be in a homestay with young children (0-12 yrs.)

I'd prefer a homestay with older children (12-18 yrs.)

I'd prefer a homestay with no children.

I have no preference.

7.3. Cooking skills: Hosts will provide for (most) breakfasts and dinners. However, it's useful to know how much cooking you are able/willing to do. Please check one:

I am a good cook. I'd love to be able to cook for myself and/or for my hosts.

I am a functional cook. I can manage my own meals when needed, no problem.

I am not good at cooking, I'd rather not to cook.

7.4. Smoking preferences: In most homestays, smoking inside the house is not allowed. Even in smoking households, you will be asked to smoke outdoors (patio, balcony, sidewalk, etc.) We do our best to place non-smoking students in smoke-free households. Please check all that apply:

I do not smoke or vape.

I am allergic to (cigarette) smoke.

I vape/smoke tobacco products.

I vape/smoke non-tobacco products.

7.5. Allergies: The Homestay Coordinator doesn't always have access to your medical files, so please mention any allergies you have - especially food allergies. It's an important factor when choosing a homestay for you. Please include all and any (food) allergies, and specify how strong they are:

I do not have any (food) allergies.

I am allergic to:

_____	Mild	Manageable with medication	I use an Epi-pen
_____	Mild	Manageable with medication	I use an Epi-pen
_____	Mild	Manageable with medication	I use an Epi-pen
_____	Mild	Manageable with medication	I use an Epi-pen
_____	Mild	Manageable with medication	I use an Epi-pen

7.6. Pets: some homestays have pets, most don't. Cats are very popular in Amsterdam. Please check one:

I like pets and I am not allergic to them. You may place me in a homestay with pets.

I am allergic to _____ but you can place me with other pets.

I'd rather be placed in a homestay without pets.

7.7. Dietary preferences: most homestays are open to cooking vegetarian. However, we cannot always accommodate strict vegan, kosher, halal or gluten-free diets. Please keep in mind that if you follow any especial diet, you could be expected to get involved in planning or preparing your meals.

*****I do not follow any diet.

*****I follow a diet. Please specify which and indicate how much flexibility you can have if we find a homestay that can accommodate:

I am flexible Religious/ethical reasons Medical reasons

7.8. Comments/other things we need to know about you when matching you with a homestay:

We do our best to accommodate to your preferences, but please come with an open mind ☺.
Dank je wel en tot gauw! (Thank you and see you soon!)