

Netherlands: International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender *Homestay Questionnaire*

Name: _____

ABOUT HOMESTAYS IN AMSTERDAM

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 is increasingly difficult. Your patience and flexibility will be called upon as we creatively search for hosts for everyone.

All students get their own bedroom. In Amsterdam, most homes have only 1 toilet and 1 bathroom.

Shared homestays are rare. Students placed in a shared homestay will have their own private room within the same household. We do not place more than two students in the same homestay.

Amsterdam is a large city, and our homestays are spread all over the city. Only a few homestays are located within walking distance to SIT and the city center. Most students will need an average of 30-40 minutes to get to SIT's office and a few will need up to an hour. Most homestays have easy access to public transportation: metro, tram, or buses.

Not all of Amsterdam looks like it's historic city center. Most homestays are in residential areas and suburbs. In many cases they are close to beautiful parks and green spaces.

Purpose of this form

These questions are meant to get to know you a little better, understand your personality, and your preferences to find the best match for you and your host. However, it's important you understand we **CANNOT GUARANTEE** that we will be able to accommodate all your choices and preferences. We do our best, yet 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 best:

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 a lot of experience hosting students like you. However, *at first*, you will be strangers to each other. Knowing how you often feel around people you don't know well could help with the matching process. Please choose the option(s) 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 like people but I am shy, mostly an introvert and frequently prefer (and need) alone time.

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

4. CULTURE EXCHANGE

The homestay is where the culture exchange really happens. It'll be the place where you will come in contact with the Dutch culture. 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.

(My family and) I have hosted students at home in the past.

5. YOUR PERSONALITY

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

Accommodating
Adaptable
Anxious
Argumentative
Bossy
Chatty
Confrontational
Considerate
Cooperative
Curious
Demanding
Diplomatic
Disagreeable
Disorganized

Distant
Energetic
Family-oriented
Friendly
Funny
Helpful
Honest
Humorous
Impatient
Impulsive
Independent
Lazy
Loud
Organized

People-pleaser
Polite
Proud
Quick-tempered
Quiet
Reserved
Serious
Sociable
Stubborn
Timid/ Shy
Touchy
Trustworthy
Unreliable
Untidy

Any other words that people would use to 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 be a better fit for you. 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 disorganised, messy, and not very clean.
I do household chores by my own initiative.								I need to be told to do household chores.
I enjoy sharing (common) spaces with others.								I don't like common spaces, I often retreat to my bedroom.
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.
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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, since shared homestays are rare. Still, tell us what you would prefer:

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 of the homestays in Amsterdam are single person homestays. Fewer 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 if the hosts are not home. 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 cook.

7.4. Smoking preferences: In most homestays, even when someone smokes, smoking inside is not allowed: if you smoke you will be asked to do so 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. 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.

7.6. 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 special diet, you could be expected to get involved in planning or preparing your own meals. Please, check one:

I do not follow any diet.

I follow a strict diet.

Please specify which one, and indicate how much flexibility you can have if we can't find a homestay that can accommodate:

I am flexible

Religious/ethical reasons

Medical reasons

7.7. Allergies: The Homestay Coordinator doesn't 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

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

Dank je wel en tot gauw! (Thank you and see you soon!)

The SIT Amsterdam Team