



*An Idiot's guide to finding the best workplace!*

OR How to find a suitable work place for your European partner!



## **POSSIBLE PROBLEMS!**

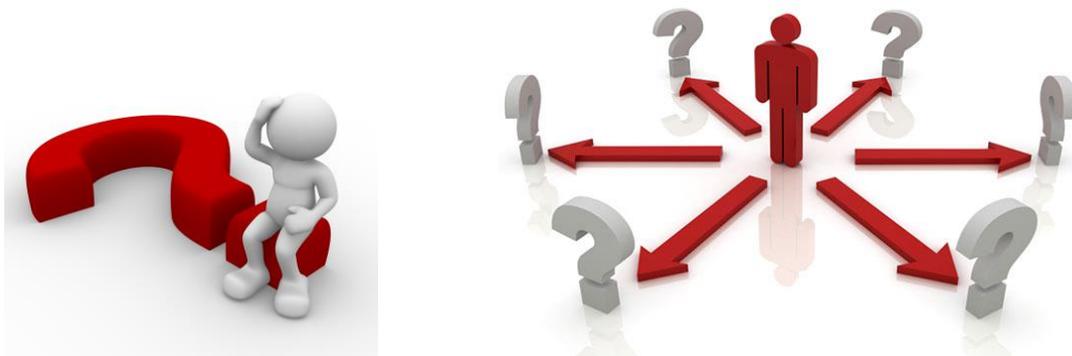
In the past, finding a workplace has sometime been a problem, when things like this have happened:

- Students left it to the last minute before finding a workplace. In some cases, the European students were still waiting to find out where they would be working one week before coming over! This should not happen, you need to make sure you find the workplace well in advance of your partner's arrival.
- It is ok to find your partner a work place with your mum or dad or a family relative, as long as this is not a big warehouse in the middle of nowhere, where interaction in the target language is going to be limited. Remember, they are coming here to practise their English and the workplace needs to fit in with this important criterion! So if working with a member of your family doesn't allow them to practise their English skills, please don't be lazy and try to find a different workplace that is more suitable.
- You need to accompany your partner to the workplace on their first day (you are allowed to be late to school for this on that morning), and you will need to explain to them how to get there by themselves for the rest of the week. So you have to ensure that the workplace is easily accessible by public transport, or that they have a way to get there otherwise.
- When the workplace was unsuitable (eg. the student was working in a library all day, when you're expected to be silent and there was not much interaction in the target language) we have had to change the workplace; this is always very

difficult and stressful to be done last minute, so really it is much better to put in some effort at the beginning!

- The European students indicate on their application the 3 best options of where they'd like to work, ideally. It is not expected that the workplace you find accommodates their request, but it might be linked to their studies and if that was possible, it would be really great if you took that into account and tried your best to see if anything in that area of interest can be found. Remember, that they will do the same for you!

## So, HOW?????



### FOR HOST FAMILIES

- Students should fit into your family routine. You should not feel that you are being treated like a hotel. Explain your domestic routine to your visitor so that they can fit in.
- Students are part of the family during their stay. Make sure they understand their rights and responsibilities.
- You will feel responsible for the students while they are with you, even if they are already 18. Make sure they discuss with you where they are going. Agree time for their return and try to ensure they are clear about travel arrangements.
- Students should not expect to go out every evening.
- Don't be offended if your guest does not seem to appreciate some of the food you prepare – some young people are not very adventurous. Don't worry – they will not starve!
- If your guest tells you that everyone else's parents allow them out every night until 4:00am – don't believe them! Don't be afraid to insist on what you believe are sensible

times. If you are in doubt, please contact the visiting teacher for advice.

- Don't feel you have to 'entertain' your guest all the time with outings. However, if there is a special place or activity you think they would enjoy do suggest it.

