

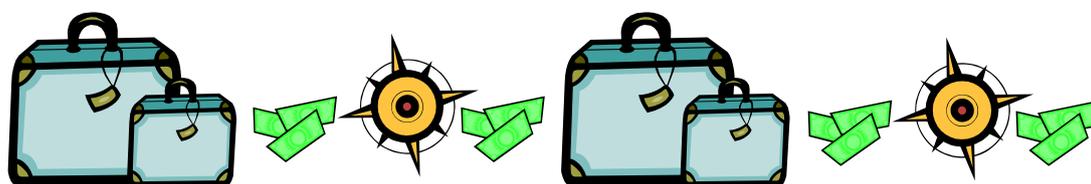


STAYING IN A FAMILY

Taking part in an exchange of this kind is a rewarding and challenging experience. It represents a unique opportunity to immerse yourself fully in the life of a foreign country. The International Award includes students from five different countries and cultures and we believe it is sensible and helpful to have some common guidelines. These are designed to prevent misunderstandings or mishaps!

FOR STUDENTS

- You should expect to be part of the family; this means rights and responsibilities.
- Fit into the family routine. Although you are a 'guest' be helpful and considerate.
- Older students will probably want to see the city at night, but out of consideration to your host family (and your exchange partner who may have lots of homework to do!) limit this to weekends. Stay in and talk to the family, or share in their activities if possible – you will learn a lot about family life in the country you are visiting.
- Let your host family know your plans as far in advance as possible. Your host family is responsible for you and your safety while you are abroad – make sure they know where you are going and when to expect you back.
- Discuss your time of return in the evening, agree a reasonable time (especially if you have to go to work in the morning) – and stick to it. Make sure you know details of late night transport – don't get stranded. If you are out late, always travel in a group.
- If you are unexpectedly delayed, telephone your host family to explain and apologise, so they do not worry unnecessarily. Carry change for the phone as well as a phone card for emergencies.
- Always carry with you the names, address and telephone number of your host family and your work placement.
- Changes in your accommodation or work place can only be authorised by your teachers.
- Food – be a little adventurous – it is an important part of the cultural experience! However, if you have problems because you are unable to eat food that is prepared for you, explain politely to your hosts – and perhaps suggest the sort of food you are able to eat if they ask.
- Language – even if you do not speak the language well (or at all) do try a few phrases as a courtesy to your hosts. They will appreciate your efforts. Whatever method of communication you use make sure you understand one another clearly!
- Remember smiles and 'Thank you' mean a lot.



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.

