

Host Family FAQ

Am I a good host family candidate?

Are you over 25 years of age and do you have a:

- > Welcoming attitude
- > Desire to make a positive impact in a child's life
- > The wish to exchange cultures
- > And room for another household member?

If so, you are the perfect candidate!

Who are the successful families?

Our host families come from all over the United States and represent the diversity that the country is known for. Families with children, families without children, empty nesters, and single individuals have all had successful hosting experiences.

What are ISE exchange students like?

ISE exchange students **speak English**, they are **15-18-year-old** high school students **from over 40 countries around the world**. Program acceptance is based on their English skills, demeanor, adaptability, and eagerness to experience American culture.

Are students treated like "guests"?

No, ISE exchange **students expect to live as members of your family**. They respect family rules, help with chores, and participate in family gatherings and activities.

How long does the program last?

Programs run for **5, 10, or 12 months**. The 5-month programs can start in either August or January, the 10-month program begins in August, and the 12-month program begins in January.

What if there is an issue or emergency?

If a problem arises, **your representative is there to help you solve it.** ISE also employs full-time support staff at our headquarters and operates a 24/7 hotline for students and families for additional assistance.

Do families get paid for hosting?

No, all of our **host families are volunteers**. Families are eligible for a tax deduction for hosting a student. If you are looking for paid opportunities, consider becoming an Area Representative.

What are host families responsible for?

- > A bed and a place to study
- > Three meals a day
- ➤ A nurturing environment to learn about American culture and to share their own.

ISE exchange **students arrive with their own money** for personal expenses, social outings, and other activities. Host families are not required to provide any cash allowance.

Who covers student's medical bills?

ISE exchange students arrive with **their own insurance**. Any costs incurred by the student for medical care is the responsibility of the student's natural parents or the student's sponsoring agency.

Can I host more than one student?

Yes. Some families prefer the experience of hosting two students at a time. To host two students, the **students must come from different countries** and speak different native languages.

How do I become a host family?

- ➤ Get in touch with our representative (information below) or fill out an interest form on our website.
- Next our representative will invite you to complete our online host family application that will help us learn more about your family lifestyle, and household.

Because the safety of our program participants is our highest priority, our host families must also pass a background check and home check.

When is the application deadline?

ASAP - the earlier you apply, the more likely it is that you'll find a compatible student in your area.

<u>To learn more contact</u>

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