



## **FAQ's for Hosting an International Student**

**Q:** How long do International students stay?

**A:** Many of our students come with the intention to graduate from Oakland Christian. The host family commitment is only for one year, however. Students may remain in the same home for more than one year, but the decision is made by the family, the student, and the International Student department if that is the case.

**Q:** What costs are the host family's responsibility?

**A:** Host families are responsible for housing, food, and transportation. There is a stipend that the host family receives to cover these expenses. The International Program provides books, a uniform stipend, class fees, athletic fees, and all International Program activities. Personal items, clothing, and activities with friends are the student's responsibility.

**Q:** What are the living accommodation requirements for the students?

**A:** Students will need their own room and may not share a bedroom with one of your children. In some cases, two International students can occupy one room, as long as there is adequate space, and they each have their own bed. A student may share a bathroom with other members of the family.

**Q:** What are the rules for international students outside of school?

**A:** The simple answer is that the rules are the same as they are for your own children. The international student becomes a member of your family for a year. He/she should have chores, be expected to pick up after him/herself, and participate in family activities.

**Q:** Is there a policy about cell phones and computers? Do we need to provide them?

**A:** Host families do not need to provide either. You may need to help your student purchase a phone or add a U.S. number to it, but the cost will be the student's responsibility. If the student does not have a personal computer and needs to use your computer, the usage guidelines you have for your own children would apply.

**Q:** Our children are not high school age – should we even consider hosting?

**A:** Most definitely! Some of our most successfully-placed international students have been in homes where there are younger children. Real bonds have been created, and it should not steer you away if you are interested in hosting.

**Q:** Will there be a language barrier?

**A:** Yes, but that is one of the benefits of living with a host family, and students generally make great strides with their English quickly. Each student is interviewed via Skype (or in person, if possible) to ensure that the student's English is at a level where they can function in classes. Though there will definitely be moments of confusion and an occasional reliance on translators or google image searching, you do not need to have any knowledge of the student's home language to consider hosting.

If you would like more information about our International Student Hosting Program, or if you have more specific questions, please contact Kelly Wood at [kwood@oaklandchristian.com](mailto:kwood@oaklandchristian.com) or 248-373-2700, ext. 215.