

Cincinnati Highlights

Friendly, yet sophisticated...Cincinnati is a city of contrasts with a diversity that makes it such a unique place. The above lists just a few of the places that you might want to take your foreign student.

Host Family Celebrations/Activities

Picnics in Eden Park

Local Ethnic Celebrations

Aronoff Arts Center

The Cincinnati Zoo

Kings Island

The Serpentine Wall

Sawyer Point

The Cincinnati Reds Baseball Team

The Cincinnati Bengals Football Team

The Cyclones Hockey Team

The Cincinnati Silverbacks Soccer

The Cincinnati Art Museum

Playhouse in the Park

The Taft Theatre

The Krohn Conservatory

The Museum of Natural History

The Contemporary Arts Center

Omnimax Theatre at the Union Terminal



UC International Services
ML 0640



Welcome to
The University of Cincinnati's

International Friendship Program



Sponsored by:
UC International Services

Hosting an international student can be a rich experience. Often the relationship continues to grow after the student returns home and, sometimes, it is only at this point that both the host and the student realize the impact of the relationship on their lives. The rewards include expanding your understanding of the world to developing a friendship that may continue long after the student returns home.

The following suggestions may be helpful for hosting your student.

When you receive the name and address of your student write a welcoming letter or call the student as soon as possible.

For the first visit, many hosts invite students to share a meal or an afternoon or evening of conversation. A written invitation can prevent misunderstandings about the precise time and place of the meeting, travel arrangements, and how long the visit will last. If you are unable to provide transportation, give clear and complete written instructions on how to find you and what public transportation is available.

Since food restrictions exist in many cultures and religions, you should ask your friend when you extend the invitation if there are foods he or she cannot eat. Some students are vegetarians, some eat no pork or pork products, others no beef or shellfish. Many hosts find that chicken is a "safe" meat to serve and that rice is a good choice because it is a staple in many countries. Fruit juice, soft drinks, tea or water are usually preferred to milk, which is rarely served to adults in other countries. Rich desserts, for which many Americans have a special fondness, are often unknown abroad and your guest may prefer a piece of fruit or simply a cup of tea at the end of the meal.

Plan for the first meal to be simple—easy for you to prepare and serve and easy for the student who is trying to learn your customs. If you start the meal with a prayer, song, or silence, continue to do so, but explain the custom to your guest.

Talking while eating is not the custom in all cultures. A quiet guest may be exhibiting cultural patterns from home and may be embarrassed to be asked questions intended to promote conversation during the meal.

Inquiring about customs that relate to foods, meal preparation and serving in the student's culture may help the student feel comfortable about asking similar questions of you.

Try to become familiar with the student's home country before meeting the student. Learn about location and size, form of government, the capital and other major cities, major religions and holidays.

Information about the country may provide clues to the student's cultural background. Although it is impossible to become familiar with all the cultural differences, be aware that major differences are likely to exist. The student will be your best resource for learning about his or her culture and many stimulating discussions can occur as you explore cultural differences together.

Be prepared for questions about our form of government and how it works, local history and major trends in American society. Questions about your lifestyle and what Americans believe in and value are common and equally important.

Just as differences in customs and culture stimulate conversation, so do explorations of world events and how they are viewed from differing perspectives. While neither we, as Americans, nor the foreign students are necessarily experts on the positions taken by our respective governments, we can learn a great deal by discussing what lies behind governmental actions and how we, as individuals, view particular events.

American hosts are not responsible for financial support nor does the student live with hosts. There are other areas of the student's life, as well, which the host is not expected to handle. The staff of UC International Services on campus is responsible for assisting students in the following areas:

- employment restrictions
- immigration and visa problems
- financial problems.



? Call 556-4278 if you have questions.

The Do's and Don't's of being a host to an International Student

Do...

- Contact your student as soon as you get his/her name.
- Ask the student what he/she likes to do, and then do it.
- Invite the student to your home for family gatherings, especially holidays, birthdays, etc....
- Contact your student at least once a month, even if it's just a phone call to say hello.
- Make an attempt to learn something about the student's home country including a few words of their language.
- Take the student to Cincinnati highlights (Union Terminal, Krohn Conservatory, the Zoo, etc...).

Don't....

- Wait for the student to contact you.
- Ask the student to go to expensive events--many have very little money, they won't be able to afford it, and will be embarrassed when they cannot afford it.
- Push the student too much. They will be busy with classes and studying.
- Become angry. If the student says something you dislike or is inappropriate, gently explain that it is offensive and give a reason why.
- Constantly correct their English.