



Q & A for High Schools

Is the PAX program fully accredited?

PAX has all the credentials of an Exchange Visitor Program. Details are found in the "PAX Facts" section on the next page.

Where is the PAX national office?

The program is headquartered in Port Chester, New York. Experienced, full-time staff manage the program by providing leadership, direction, and 24-hour emergency support to PAX community coordinators in towns across the U.S.

Who represents PAX in this area?

Senior staff in the national office choose responsible community members to represent PAX at the local level. A PAX community coordinator must have good judgment, solid interpersonal and communication skills, and a real fondness for teenagers.

Our school has policies governing the enrollment of foreign students. Will PAX adhere to them?

The high school is a key partner in this cross-cultural learning program. The PAX community coordinator begins by finding out about school policies and continues to work closely with school officials. Every placement is presented to the high school for approval and confirmed by the signing of a School Enrollment Form.

How large of an area is a community coordinator responsible for?

PAX requires that a community coordinator live no more than 50 miles from any host family he or she recruits.

The community coordinator must be close enough to provide support and counsel for every placement and able to respond quickly in an emergency.

How are families selected?

The community coordinator visits the home of every potential host family and conducts a personal interview with all family members.

At least two personal references are also checked before a placement is confirmed. The host family selects the boy or girl they will host.

Who are PAX students?

PAX carefully screens all students and reviews academic performance, English language proficiency, medical history, maturity, and motivation. PAX works only with the most reputable organizations abroad to ensure that qualified applicants are selected. Students are personally interviewed and have three or more years of English.

What are host family responsibilities?

A host family should be ready to share their home and their lives with a PAX student as if this child were their own son or daughter. This means providing the student with a bed and quiet place to study, three meals per day, and the love and support a teenager needs and expects.

What makes a PAX student?

Someone who is:

- 15 to 18 years old with at least three years of English study and the maturity and motivation to spend a semester or academic year living with a host family.
- Eager to experience daily life in the U.S.
- Aware that the PAX Program is not a trip or tour but an academic homestay that requires work and effort and results in learning.
- Appreciative of the helping hand and support that will be given by the host family.
- Covered by full medical insurance and supplied with spending money for personal expenses.

What makes a PAX host family?

A family who is:

- Warm, welcoming, and willing to share their daily life with the student.
- Interested in learning about other countries and cultures.
- Financially able to meet the basic needs of an exchange student.
- Made up of outgoing, open-minded family members. Families can come in many ages and sizes, with or without children or teens.

**Does PAX have rules and guidelines?
How are participants advised of them?**

PAX is a conservative program with strict guidelines for its host families and students. Program rules are provided on the High School Enrollment Form. Students and host families are advised of the rules in a formal orientation program at the beginning of the program year.

What are the academic expectations of PAX students?

PAX students must carry a full course load, including a minimum of four core subjects. Of these, one must be English and another U.S. history, government, economics or social studies. The student must achieve a grade of "C" or better in each class. PAX hopes that students will also be able to enroll in elective courses.

In what grade level should the PAX student be enrolled?

Grade placement is at the discretion of

the host high school. The decision should be made based on school policies, the student's age, and academic history.

Will the student expect to graduate?

Many students qualify for placement as seniors and many would like to be part of graduation ceremonies. However, PAX does not promise any participant a diploma and always recognizes school policies regarding graduation.

What about sports and clubs?

PAX hopes that students will be able to join sports teams and participate in clubs and activities.

Who do we contact with a question or problem?

The school official should first contact the community coordinator. School officials are also welcome to call the PAX national office at 800.555.6211. PAX provides 24-hour on call emergency support.

For more information, call your PAX community coordinator:

Name

Telephone

Please visit us at www.pax.org, or call PAX at 800.555.6211.



PAX Facts

- **An Educational Organization** Founded in 1990, PAX has been committed from its inception to facilitating cross-cultural learning and thereby expanding international understanding. The PAX Program makes it possible for international teenagers to live with U.S. host families for a semester or a school year while attending the local public high school. PAX was granted IRS status as a public, not-for-profit profit foundation in 1990.
- **U.S. Department of State Designated** The PAX Program was designated an Exchange Visitor Program by the U.S. Department of State in 1993.
- **CSIET Full Listing** In their annual review, the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) once again granted PAX full listing in the *Advisory List*. The CSIET mark certifies that PAX complies with its standards for international educational travel programs.
- **Responsible Partners** PAX partner organizations abroad are responsible for student selection, pre-departure orientation, and travel arrangements along with liaising with natural parents during the program year. Services provided by PAX include host family recruitment, interviewing and selection, school enrollment, arrival orientation, and support and counseling during the year. Students return home after the semester or school year.
- **Local and National Support** A dedicated, reliable team of community coordinators provides local program service to all participants. PAX also has a toll-free number, connecting students and families to the national office and maintains a 24-hour emergency service.
- **Qualified Students** PAX students come from more than 70 countries. All are carefully screened and have three or more years of English study, full medical insurance, and personal spending money. Many were selected for programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, such as the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program and the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program.