



Q & A for Host Families

What is the PAX exchange program?

PAX - Program of Academic Exchange offers your family the opportunity to share your daily life with an international exchange student for a semester or school year.

Hosting is a terrific way to learn more about another country and culture. Everyday activities will take on a new meaning when you share them with a student who is eager to discover the American way of life. At the same time, your family will learn and grow as you exchange ideas and compare lifestyles. It's like taking a trip without having to leave home!

Is PAX a reliable program?

PAX is a full-accredited Exchange Visitor Program and is committed to providing quality educational exchanges for students and families. Details can be found in the "PAX Facts" section on the next page.

Why should our family choose PAX?

PAX is smaller than many programs, which means the service is personal and consistent. At the same time, the program is large enough to enroll students from more than 70 countries and to have representation across the U.S.

What are the responsibilities of a PAX host family?

A host family should be ready to share 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 quality meals a day, transportation to and from school activities and the love and support a teenager will need while adapting to life in the U.S. Host families should be prepared to accept a student of a culture, race, religion, or lifestyle different than their own.

What are the responsibilities of a PAX student?

The PAX student is expected to adapt to the host family's lifestyle and guidelines and to participate in family activities. Students are expected to help out with family chores. Students have spending money for their personal expenses such as their own phone bill, school expenses, movies, etc.

How have PAX students been selected?

PAX works in partnership with educational organizations around the world whose staff personally interview every applicant to determine the student's maturity and motivation. Students submit an extensive application. Academic credentials must demonstrate satisfactory performance in the classroom, a minimum of three years of English study, and positive teacher references. In terms of the student's medical records, a clean bill of health along with the necessary immunizations are required.

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.

Why are PAX students interested in coming to the U.S. for the year?

Foreign students are fascinated by American culture and dream of making American friends.

Parents consider it a priority to provide their children with opportunities to learn English and to understand another way of life.

Our language is a universal tool in the world of business and science. Speaking English is a tremendous asset for foreign students' careers, and experiencing life in another culture helps them grow in ways that are otherwise not possible.

This seems like a big undertaking. Why should our family volunteer to host?

Bringing a teenager from another country into your home and your hearts is a richly-rewarding experience for all family members.

Your student will learn firsthand about the customs, traditions, and language of the U.S. You will see your own community and country through the eyes of an "outsider."

You will welcome a stranger and say goodbye to a "son" or "daughter" who will always be a part of your lives.

What happens if there is a problem?

If your student gets sick or has an accident, there is no liability to the host family. All PAX students have full medical insurance coverage.

If you and your student have a misunderstanding, you should call your community coordinator, who will provide counsel and support.

If you have insurmountable difficulties or if unexpected changes happen in your family, your community coordinator will arrange for another placement for your student.

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 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.
- **CSJET Full Listing** In their annual review, the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSJET) once again granted PAX full listing in the *Advisory List*. The CSJET 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.