

Hear From Our Host Families

"Hosting a student from another country has been a wonderful experience for us. God brought us another member of the family. Bowen will forever be part of the Soemer family. We are so thankful that God allowed us to have the opportunity to be a blessing to a young man needing a home away from home."

Soemer Family

"We'd discussed hosting an international student in the future, but when an opportunity came up unexpectedly, we prayed about it and accepted it. After some time of warming up to each other, we are so thankful we said "yes!" Rebecca became our "bonus daughter," our son's "sister," and her parents an extension of our family across the globe in China. Beyond the dinner table and church activities, she joined us on family holidays, long-distance trips, and local adventures. She's in college now and is still a blessing to us as part of our family!"

Baldwin Family

"My family and I had the privilege of hosting an international student from Colombia. This was her senior year at FCS and COVID happened during the second semester. While we had never done this before, we suddenly became very close with her through that time. It honestly was one of the best things for our family and we now have a "bonus" kid! Maria not only came to FCS, but she was able to hear the Gospel, accept Christ, and is now in her senior year in college. Hosting an international student will be life-changing in the BEST ways possible."

Huskey Family



CONTACT US

If you're interested in hosting an international student, please contact both:

FCS Office
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Grace Meng
International Student Program Director
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OPEN YOUR DOOR TO A NEW WORLD

BY HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



FRIENDSHIP
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



International Student Program

The International Student Program (ISP) allows qualified international students to study at FCS while allowing local students to experience diverse cultures. The program aims to promote cross-cultural learning and understanding of global missions, encouraging students to recognize God's work worldwide. We screen, train, and support international students, preferably placing them with Christian host families for the academic year. An international student program director oversees these students and their host families, offering ongoing supervision and support.

International Students

Friendship Christian School has hosted international students from China, Vietnam, Colombia, Brazil, Korea, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, and the Congo. Our International Student Program was approved in 2010. We accepted our first two international students during the 2011-2012 school year. Before the Covid pandemic FCS averaged about 10 international students a year. Over the years, we have had approximately 50 international students come through our doors, and we can't wait to see who God will bring us next!

Host Family Responsibilities

Host families provide international students with a "home away from home" by offering supervision, support, housing, meals, and transportation. International students and their parents are responsible for paying school tuition and personal expenses, which include money for recreational activities and trips. Most host families receive a stipend to help cover the costs associated with hosting a student. All host parents must be Christians committed to setting a godly example and investing in the spiritual development of the international student placed in their home.

Application Process

Interest

Please contact the FCS office and ISP Director if you desire to be a host family.

Application Form

You will need to fill out a written application (provided by FCS).

References

You will be asked to provide references.

Interview and Information

The ISP director will arrange for an in-home interview and informational session. All family members must be present.

Background Check

The school will conduct a criminal background check on all adult members (over 18 years old) in your household. You will also have to go through the Friendship Baptist Church Child Safety verification program.



Before Hosting, Consider:

Prayer

What is God saying about the possibility of your family hosting an international student?

Interest/Desire

Are you interested in learning about another culture and country? Are all members of your family willing to provide a home to a student from another country?

Adaptability

Is your family willing to adapt to someone living in your home who will be culturally different? Are you all willing to learn and grow? Are you willing to help an international student learn by taking time to explain differences?

Logistics

Will you as parents have enough time to invest in another child? Will you be able to provide reasonable transportation for activities? Do you have a place in your home where another child would have space to study and sleep?

Finances

Though you may receive a homestay stipend, there could be additional expenses. Will your family be able to handle the additional expense of adding another person to your household?

Current Family Situations

Are there situations in your family right now that would make it difficult to host well, such as the recent death of a family member, serious health problems, or relational issues?

Commitment

Are you able to commit to hosting for the entire school year (unless unforeseeable circumstances arise that prevent you from doing so)?