

Be a Short Stay HOST FAMILY this Summer!



Looking for an exciting and educational opportunity for your family? Here's your chance! Saint Martin's University is hosting several cultural exchange programs this summer. These programs include students from China, Japan, and Russia ranging from 15 to 21 years old. Although the students will primarily reside on the SMU campus, we are offering them (with your help!) a weekend home-stay experience.

Q&A

What dates do you need me to host?

Exact dates are not yet confirmed, however students arrive mid-July through August. We are looking for families that can take two students simultaneously for one weekend.

What do I do with my exchange students?

No need to go sight-seeing for 48 hours straight! These international students are here to experience American culture. We ask that you show them everyday American family life by incorporating them into your weekend routine: bake cookies, shop at Costco, cheer with them at your kids' soccer games, eat together at the family BBQ, attend your knitting club together, etc. Remember, many of these students are experiencing a whole new country, culture, and language for their first time, so even mundane tasks for you can be eye-opening and exciting for them.

Do they have to have their own room?

No. Students can sleep on a futon or an air mattress in the living room or even share a room with someone of the same gender.

What are my other commitments?

Most importantly, we ask that you warmly welcome each exchange student into your home. Other commitments include providing three meals a day and arranging transportation to your home from SMU (including public transportation, if you live on or near a public route). We also highly recommend that you attend the "Meet and Greet" Dessert Reception and the Farewell Dinner. Although there is no monetary compensation to host, the students do have their own spending money.

Do they speak English?

Yes, however the students' English skills vary. Saint Martin's exchange programs aim to provide an opportunity for these students to practice and improve their language skills.

What's in it for us?

- Experience firsthand the joy of exchanging cultures
- Build friendships with students from around the world
- Provide your family with an experience and education you can't get through a textbook
- Contribute in a small but meaningful way to global peace and understanding

Interested? Have questions? Contact Katie Bridges at 360-438-4304 or kbridges@stmartin.edu.



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