



Host Family FAQ

Which countries do your international students come from?

We have had students from over 20 different countries at BCA. Here are some of the countries that have been represented at BCA in the past: China, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, Serbia, Lithuania, Turkey, Ukraine, Ivory Coast, The Gambia, Liberia, Chile, and more.

How long is the hosting commitment?

Host Families are asked to commit to hosting a student for the duration of a school year. This can vary from a full academic year to a single semester. BCA has open enrollment and there are mid-year arrivals. The International Department will contact each host family at the end of the school year to see if they would like to host the next school year.

- **Hosting Year:** ~August 15-June 15
 - o Students arrive mid to late August and depart the last weekend in May.
 - o Mid-semester arrivals are common.
- **Academic Year:** ~August 25-May 30
 - o Dates vary based on year.
- **Summer Homestay:** ~June 15-August 15
 - o Some students request to stay in the USA during the summer. Summer Homestay is optional for a host family and limited based upon availability for a student.

Are international students Christians?

Students are aware of BCA's Statement of Faith, but are not required to believe in the statement of faith. This makes BCA an outreach ministry, because not every student is a follower of Jesus. The International Program is another way for us to be a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1-3 and Matthew 28:18-20). Before coming to BCA, students and parents understand that the instruction is conducted in a manner that reflects the Statement of Faith. When students come to BCA, they also agree to be held to the standards in the BCA Student-Family and International Program Handbook.

We have had students with many worldviews, including Atheist, Agnostic, Buddhist, Islamic, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and more. These different worldviews represented also contain variation within. Some of our students understand what their beliefs are, but many students observe their religion as cultural (nominal), rather than a personal and dynamic faith.

How does BCA provide support for a host family?

- Orientation & seasonal activities for students.
- Complimentary extended care.
- Monthly stipend & check-in with Host Family.
- Bi-monthly check-in with Student & student updates sent to biological family/agency.



Is there a financial compensation for being a host family?

There is a monthly stipend provided to our host families. The intent of this stipend is to help support a host family in basic expenses. The purpose of our Host Family Program is to be a ministry and serve others through a cross-cultural, educational experience. The host family stipend is \$600 per month, per student. The stipend is paid in full each month and pro-rated by day for arrival and departure months. Stipends are processed within the first two weeks of each month. A family who has a domestic student enrolled at BCA *may* be eligible for a host family scholarship that can be directly applied to a tuition bill.

Is respite available?

Respite care is available. It is appropriate for host families inside the BCA Host Family program to contact each other directly with respite care requests. Respite care can also be requested through the Host Family Coordinator. There are two categories of respite care: general and emergency. General Respite Care is used for family vacations, trips, and other events the student is not participating in. General Respite Care should be requested, at minimum, 14 days before the respite is needed. Emergency Respite Care should be used only in the case of an emergency such as a death in the family, emergency hospitalization, accident, etc.

What are the general expectations and responsibilities of a host family?

Home

- Provide student room, clothing storage, place to study.
- Church attendance highly recommended and encouraged.
- Invest in and be proactive with students in their academic, cultural, and spiritual growth.
- Complete bi-monthly Residential Reports.

Transportation

- School Day (8:30am-3:20pm)
 - o Host family provides transportation to and from school.
 - o Transportation options may be available to families in Pennsylvania.
- Before/After School
 - o Complimentary Extended Care for international students
 - o Morning Care: 6:30am-8:15am, After Care: 3:30pm-6:00pm
- Host family provides transportation for extra-curricular activities (i.e. church, sports, clubs, activities; carpooling encouraged)

Food

- 3 meals per day, one hot meal per day.
- Make packing a lunch available to student.
- If student chooses to buy lunch instead of the packed lunch, they are responsible for cost.

Finances

- A host family is *not* responsible for any medical expenses, but is given a guardianship letter.
- Students have international student insurance and this information is placed in the digital emergency file that is given to each host family.

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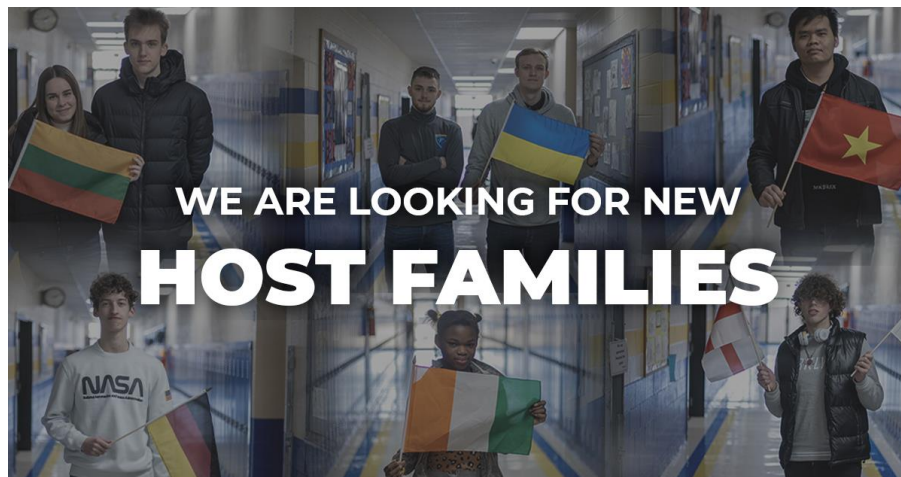
Who is the point of contact for a Host Family at BCA?

The main point of contact for a host family at BCA is our Host Family Coordinator. Here are some responsibilities of the Host Family Coordinator:

- Host family recruitment and application process, international student placement.
- Mediate and communicate between students and families for unresolved issues during school hours (8:00am-4:00pm).
- Conduct home visits, collect reports, monthly check-in, and available 24/7 for emergencies.

What should I do if I am interested in joining the BCA Host Family Program?

If you are interested in learning more information or starting the application process to host an international student, please email us at internationaldepartment@broadfording.com.



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