

Temporary Housing Information Sheet

International Friendships, Inc.

When will I be needed?

Most students begin arriving at the beginning of August and continue to arrive through the beginning of OSU classes at the end of September. The peak time of arrival is the last week of August through the second week of September. We also have a trickle of students arriving year round.

How will I be contacted and matched with a student?

An IFI volunteer or staff will contact you by phone to ask you if you are available for a specific student who has made a request to IFI to be hosted. Sometimes there are several students with different arrival times for you to choose from. Although we make our best effort to give you as much advance notice as possible, there are occasions when last minute housing will be needed. Your flexibility is appreciated.

Student Arrival

As has been arranged by phone through IFI, you or another party will pick the student up at the airport and bring them to your home. Occasionally due to host work schedules, the student may be brought to the IFI office where the host will meet them after work. As the student will have been traveling for a long time, and on a different time schedule, please offer a meal and rest on the first day.

What if the flight is late or connection is not made with the student?

As soon as the IFI office is notified of any changes, you will be contacted with updated information. If someone else is meeting the student at the airport, they will contact you if there are any changes or if they are unable to connect with the student. Occasionally it happens that we are unable to connect with the student at the airport or they have made other arrangements of which we are unaware. Although this is disappointing, know that you offered your hospitality as a service to God. Hopefully you will have an opportunity with another student!

Transportation & Meals & Pets

After an initial rest, the student will need to be able to get to campus during the day to register, look for an apartment, or arrange housing. You should drive them to campus in the morning and pick them up in the evening on the first day. Later, you may be able to orient them to the bus line. Arrangements should be made between you and the student on an individual basis. Meals should also be negotiated on an individual basis. You should tell the student what meals you are willing to provide. They should be able to find food on campus during the day. We hope you will be able to be flexible and work with the student and his/her individual needs. As for your pets, please tell the student in advance (if possible) if you have pets, and hear any concerns they may have. If a student is allergic or afraid, please be sensitive to this. Notify us if there is a real problem.

Length of Stay

This varies from student to student. Some may need one night while others may need several. We have offered the students up to 4 days maximum. We realize that, at times, situations may occur where a student remains in your home longer than expected and that this may be an uncomfortable situation to address. Please do not hesitate to call the IFI office if this occurs, and we can make arrangements to have them move to another host home. We are here to work with you!

Relating to an International Student

Sometimes hosts are nervous about how to relate to an international. Relax and enjoy your time with the student. They will be happy to have someone welcome them and open their home. We suggest that you take the attitude of a learner and seek to gain a deeper understanding of a new culture. Please see our additional resource, "Interacting with Your International Friends."

What about sharing my faith?

At this initial stage of meeting the student, please be sensitive to the fact that they may have little or no previous exposure to Christianity. Our hope is that you will have the perspective that you are part of a larger ongoing ministry to the student as it is more likely that the students who are hosted by our volunteers will come to the IFI Bible Study on Friday nights. Hopefully over time, the student will have the opportunity to build a relationship of trust with you or our other volunteers which would be a more appropriate context for sharing spiritually. We ask that you not force spiritual discussion but be sensitive to the student and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Student's Search for Housing

Although you are not required to assist with the student's search for housing, you are welcome to do so. Here are a few helpful suggestions to get the student started. We suggest the student call either the Office of International Affairs at 292-6101 (Oxley Hall, 1712 Neil Ave), the Off-campus Housing Services at 292-0100 (15 E. 15th Ave., at the back of the old Long's bookstore), or On-campus Housing at 292-8266 (located at 350 Morrill Tower). These are all administrative offices of OSU. The student can also try their department or the OSU Student Association for students from their home country for suggestions. International Friendships generally just deals with temporary housing. For help finding permanent housing, we would refer the student to the OSU resources above.

Follow-up

Remember that YOU are our link to the new student after they have moved onto campus - please help us to stay in touch by providing their new location information to us! **PLEASE BE SURE TO GET THE STUDENT'S NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER** when they move and send or call this information to our office. We can then send them information about our events. You may give the student more information on International Friendships such as an invitation to our Friday night Fellowship.

Although not required, we encourage you to give the student your phone number and address and make an effort to keep in touch and let them know you are thinking of them.

Thanks

Thank you for your willingness to serve. We hope you will be as blessed as we are in meeting and loving these students. It is truly a joy and privilege to be used in God's work of reaching the world! Please be sure to fill out our evaluation form if you have a praise or a concern. May God bless you.

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