

What is the Host Family Program?

The host family program is sponsored by the International and Intercultural Center (IIC) at Alverno College. It is designed to connect international students with members of the Alverno community. It presents an opportunity to welcome students to the United States and to introduce our customs, culture and community.

Students welcome mentors and friends as they transition far away from home. The distance and many cultural adjustments are ripe opportunities for creating bonds of friendship.

The cross cultural relationship provides an enriching intercultural connection for all to learn about one another. Students and their host families are encouraged to get together regularly for various activities such as family dinners, movies, sporting events, holidays and just enjoying each other's company. Additionally, there are activities sponsored by the IIC that students and host families may attend.



"Culture is widening of the mind and spirit."
- Jawaharla Nehru

Contact Information

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Please feel free to stop by to learn more about the International Host Family program or to pick up an application.



"Today, every single one of us is a 'Global Citizen', whether we are conscious of it or not. Global inter-dependence happens every day. We rely on countless different people from all over the world for the clothes we wear, the food we eat and the technology we use. Our daily lives are constantly affected by what people on the other side of the planet are doing!"

- Anonymous



**INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL
CENTER**

New International Host Family Program



"One of the great things about travel is that you find out how many good, kind people there are."

- Edith Wharton

What the International Host Family Program Offers:

New To The Host Family Program

The International Host Family Program is trying something new. We are expanding. We are inviting academic and administrative offices to consider hosting an international student. It is a new and inclusive way for international students and our Alverno community to engage with one another. As an administrative office or faculty department, an international student would be matched with your team. It would allow for the student to meet several American families and have a more extensive cultural immersion experience. The responsibility of engaging the student would include more people and events, holidays and activities can be shared amongst many. A variation of this option includes multiple faculty and/or staff collaborating to host an international student. This has the same intent which is to increase the opportunities for students to explore Milwaukee and American culture. We welcome your participation and any suggestions you may have to ensure the success of the program. What a wonderful way to develop our global perspective!



Benefits

- Opening our hearts, minds and homes.
- Learning new ways to engage in intercultural communication.
- Learning to listen.
- Providing support and mentorship in our global village.
- Fully engaging our ability based curriculum by developing a global perspective and social interaction.
- Making new friends around the world.
- Providing leadership and service.

Expectations

- Have a big and open heart with a willingness to learn from our international students.
- Attend the information session held at the beginning of the semester.
- Submit an application to the IIC.
- Be willing to commit time with your international student on a regular basis.
- Invite the students to your home and engage with your family.



"As an international student, moving to a whole new country is very daunting. The Host Family Program here at Alverno gives international students, like myself, that safe family feeling back that we are missing. It was really nice to know there were people here who wanted to support me and be there when I needed them, exactly like a family. Overall they enhanced my experience here, and I know I will keep connected with my American family, as I feel they are my extended family now."

- Rebecca Johnston

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I provide housing as a host family?

No. Most international students live in campus housing.

Do I assume financial responsibility?

No. Students have their own resources. While you can certainly treat your student to dinner, a movie, or a trip to the museum, you are not expected to undertake financial responsibility.

What other needs might students have, or what if students have a question I cannot answer?

Employment, immigration, health and academic concerns are handled by the IIC staff. Refer to the IIC if there are other questions.

What if my student and I are unable to communicate?

Please get in touch with the IIC staff. This is meant to be a positive intercultural experience. We don't want students, faculty, or staff to have a negative encounter that undermines the cultural exchange.

What are some of the group activities?

Each semester varies, but some events include sporting events, picnics, outdoor activities, and movies.

Must I/we participate in the group activities?

It is not required, but it is strongly encouraged if your schedule is open. Many international students attend these events, and enjoy the chance to socialize with their host families.

Can I host more than one student?

Absolutely. Oftentimes, students like to bring their friends or have another student accompany them for host family activities.

How often should I meet with with our student?

Many families interact with their students several times a month.

Can more than one faculty/staff host a student?

Yes!