

HOST is a charity, founded 25 years ago by the British Council, which encourages international friendship and understanding by arranging for adult international students at universities in the UK to spend 1 – 3 days in a British home.

We are always grateful to welcome new hosts on board. Not only is hosting a wonderful opportunity to meet people from around the world and introduce them to our customs, but it also allows for children to be introduced to other cultures, therefore broadening their knowledge and increasing their understanding.

You may have some questions before wanting to mention HOST to your parents. I have addressed the most common questions below the item, but please get in touch if you would like to know more.

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At home this Christmas? Many international students at UK universities will be alone and would love to celebrate with you and your family. Inviting a student to stay will make them feel welcome here. Teach your children about other cultures, meet new people and make the world a little friendlier!

To learn more about volunteer hosting at Christmas or any weekend of the year, see [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or contact Mandy Talbott on 01472 851084.

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## **FAQ**

### **Q. What have host families with children said about inviting an international student?**

A. *“It is a great way to learn about other cultures and particularly for our children to learn that others are just like them but might look or do things differently.”* – Joanna, Berkhamsted

*“We really enjoy having people from other countries come to visit & believe that it's good for our children to have their horizons widened in this way.”* – Esther, Tattenhoe

*“Our son has had the opportunity to meet people from different cultures and this wouldn't have been possible without HOST UK.”* – Maria, Helston

### **Q. How do parents know this is a safe opportunity?**

A. HOST has been going for 25 years. In that time we have never had any worrying incidents regarding children of host families. In fact, the families who volunteer with us say that this is a fantastic opportunity for their children to learn about other cultures and be introduced to people from around the world in a safe home environment.

### **Q. Are the host families checked?**

We do not require CRB checks on hosts, because all our students are adults. However, our volunteer regional organisers visit every potential host family in their home before accepting them as hosts. We never register as hosts anyone about whom our regional organisers have any concerns.

Kimberley Brough

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HOST UK