



ACTIVITIES

The Fried Center for Global Engagement will sponsor optional activities. We also encourage you to plan your own activities together. Here are a few ideas:

- Include the student in what your family normally does.
- Host families can invite their student over to their home for a meal, or prepare a meal together.
- Attend Hope College events together.
- Visit West Michigan's local attractions.
- Host families can provide baked goods or care packages during exam week.
- Meet for coffee or lunch.
- Celebrate holidays/birthdays/special occasions together.



BACKGROUND CHECKS

All adults residing in host family homes are required to undergo and pass a background check before being approved to participate in the host family program.

SHORT TERM HOSTING

Hope College also hosts international students for short term programs that range from 10 days to 4 months long. These participants enjoy a 2-night weekend stay with volunteer host families during their time here. We would love to have you consider this option as well.

CONTACT

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*Host
Family
Program*

OVERVIEW

International students are an integral part of Hope's population, adding to the vibrant student life our campus embodies. We have enrolled students from other countries for almost as long as Hope College has been around — in fact, the graduating class of 1879 was one-third international. Since then, we've opened the doors to exchange students from partner institutions, in addition to students seeking a degree directly from Hope. We're also a popular destination for Third Culture Kids (TCKs) — a term referring to children who were raised in a culture outside of their parents' for a significant part of their upbringing.

The Fried Center for Global Engagement strives to ensure our international students feel like members of our Hope College family - one way is to match students up with volunteer host families.

Unlike many host family programs, Hope College's does not involve a home stay. The time commitment does not need to be extensive and the reward can be tremendous! The amount of time each host and student spends together varies, depending on the schedules of both. On an average, most hosts and students get together about once a month. We invite you to make these international students a part of your family by joining the Host Family Program.



EXPECTATIONS

- Meet once a month or as often as your schedules permit.
- Attend the fall and spring host family-student events on campus.
- Participate in one or two international student events (IMAGES: A Reflection of Cultures and the International Food Fair).
- Communicate regularly.
- Enjoy each other's company and have fun.

EXPERIENCE

- Host families and students build cross-cultural connections and gain long-term friendships.
- Learn about each other's cultures and customs.
- Families provide a sense of support and security for students.
- Students and families acquire international perspectives.