



# CAMBRIDGE NETWORK

## BECOME A HOST FAMILY TODAY!

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## HOST FAMILY FAQs

### Our International Students

#### **When will students arrive and what is the duration of their stay?**

Students typically arrive in mid-August and are in the U.S. for a 10-month academic year. Some students arrive for the spring semester in January. We do regularly offer short-term hosting opportunities, so there is no minimum time commitment required. There is also the option to host for only one semester.

#### **What country will my student come from?**

We primarily work with students from China, South Korea and Vietnam, but we also work with students from many other parts of the world, including South America and Europe.

#### **Can students speak English?**

Yes. Although most students come to the U.S. in order to improve their English and earn an American degree, students arrive with at least conversational-level English skills.

#### **What age is the student I'll be hosting?**

Students are roughly between the ages of 14 and 20. We work primarily with students in high school and occasionally with students in college.

#### **Are the students allowed to drive?**

No, we do not allow any of our students to drive while they are enrolled in a Cambridge Network program, regardless of their age.

#### **Do the students have health insurance?**

Yes. Students will arrive with their own health insurance.

### Becoming a Host

#### **What are the basic requirements for becoming a Cambridge Network host family?**

First and foremost, hosts should seek to welcome students into their home as another member of their family and treat the student as one would his or her own child. Additionally, all host families must be able to provide students:

- A private bedroom
- Three meals per day
- Transportation to and from school (carpool is acceptable)

#### **What is the host application process?**

At no cost to you, our host approval process includes:

- A phone screen
- An application
- A home visit
- A background check

Our Host Coordinators will walk you through each step of the process and answer any questions you may have along the way.

#### **When does the "matching" process take place?**

Typically our matching process proceeds in a rolling fashion, beginning in April and ending in August. We also typically offer a number of additional hosting opportunities throughout the year. Host family profiles, which include photos of the home, family members and information, are sent to students. Students, along with their natural parents, select the family they would like to live with.

#### **I am a single parent. Can I be a host?**

Of course! We have a wide range of approved hosts within our program and encourage all interested parties to apply.



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### When should I apply to be a host family?

Any time! We accept host family applications throughout the entire year.

### Can I host more than one student?

Yes! Each student, however, must have his or her own private bedroom.

## Cambridge Network Support

### Are host families offered any compensation for hosting?

Yes. Cambridge Network provides all hosts with a monthly stipend to offset the costs associated with providing three meals per day, transportation to and from school and other living expenses. Stipend amounts range depending on location, and they are distributed monthly via direct deposit.

### Other than the monthly stipend, how does Cambridge Network support its host families?

Our bilingual and bicultural support staff facilitates communication and initial introductions between your family and your student's natural parents. This bilingual staff is available for translation and mediation services throughout your student's stay in case an emergency arises. Cambridge Network will also provide you with an orientation session and training materials to prepare you for your student's arrival.

Once your new family member settles into your home, you will receive an in-person check-in from your local Cambridge Network Support Services Coordinator. Your Support Services Coordinator will serve as your local point-person for all of your basic questions or needs and will provide ongoing support to you and your family throughout your student's stay. Additionally, this staff member will provide regular check-ins, both via phone and in-person, and organize fun events and activities for local host families and their students.

### If any problems arise, is there a member of Cambridge Network I can contact?

Yes. Each community has its own Support Services Coordinator stationed at either Cambridge Network's headquarters or in the field. These employees are expected to be on-call at all times to support your homestay experience.



## ABOUT CAMBRIDGE NETWORK

Cambridge Network matches international students studying throughout the U.S. with dedicated American host families. Accommodations are not only safe, but enhance the students' holistic American experience.

Cambridge Network is a CSIET-approved organization. This recognition reflects our commitment to providing a safe and accommodating homestay program for students and host families.



EXPANDING HUMAN PERSPECTIVES AND WORLD HARMONY THROUGH EDUCATION