

Friends International in Southampton

Local Link



Students from around the world enjoying a typical British meal in a local home.

*"Do not forget to entertain strangers"
Hebrews 13:2*

We would like to invite you to act as a host and welcome an international student into your home through the FIS Local Link Scheme

Contact Details:

Tel 01962 851195
email
rod.lawrence@friendsinternational.org.uk
www.fisuk.org

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Friends International
Registered charity number 1094095

friends
INTERNATIONAL
in Southampton

Organised by
friends
INTERNATIONAL
in Southampton

Friends International Local Link Scheme: I / we would like host an international student for a meal
Please complete both sides of this form in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name

Email:

Address

Tel No:

.....

Age : under 25 25-40 40-60 over 60

.....

Married / Single

.....

Do you have children (under 18) at home?



Background

Around one million international students come to the UK each year, and around 4000 to Southampton. But what do they make of our culture, and what kind of a welcome do they receive?

Culture Shock

Often international students find that life here falls short of their expectations. Strange food, cultural differences and an unfamiliar language are added to the academic pressure. With family and friends far away, worries can mount up and loneliness is common. The opportunity to meet friendly local people can make a big difference to students in making them feel welcome.

Could you be a host?

A visit a British home can be very important to international students, and very much appreciated. If you have a home, however modest, to which you could invite international students, you can show that Christians do care.

Last year many students were very grateful for the hospitality link and took the opportunity to get to know their hosts. Some formed friendships and visited their hosts on several

occasions, whilst others became quite busy and perhaps only visited once or twice.

Students will come from a variety of religious backgrounds and it is important to show sensitivity. You may find that in this context of showing acceptance and friendship, that you will have the opportunity to talk about faith issues.

How does it work?

If you would like to offer hospitality, then we ask you to fill in the form and return it to us. Once the students have registered with us (in October), we will write to you again, with details and some hints on hosting. You will be linked with one or two students, and we suggest that you offer a meal once or twice a term.

The important thing from the student's point of view is the contact with you as a host. It is not necessary to provide large meals, or entertainment (although you can do if you wish). A light supper, a local trip, or even meeting in town for coffee will be appreciated – there are a number of simple ways of keeping in touch.

Who can be a host?

We are looking for people to take part in this scheme who are committed Christians, and are part of a local church. We will ask your church leader or home group leader for an informal reference.

What students have said about the local link scheme...

"Thank you for inviting me to enjoy a wonderful time and delicious food. This was my first experience of visiting a British house." A student from China

"Thank you for your invite, I felt so welcome in your house." A student from South Korea

"Thank you for your kindness and friendship." Students from Japan

Details of children (names, ages)

Church: Do you have links to a particular country*?

Name and phone no/email of church leader or home group leader (for informal reference)

Leader's Name Tel / Email

Any other information:

*We cannot guarantee to link you to a student from a particular country, but we will try to do so if requested.

Please post this to Rod Lawrence, 6 Crouchers Croft, Winchester, SO22 5NX

Or email this to lodlink@fsuk.org More details are on the website: www.fsuk.org