

Host family information

How does it work?

Over the past 25 years, we have worked exclusively with secondary schools from all over Europe that choose to come to London as part of a school trip. They come over by coach with their teachers in groups of around 50 students per time.

Groups generally arrive on Sunday's & Monday's, depart on Thursdays & Fridays. Students are aged between 13 & 18 years old and are mainly European (French, Dutch, German, Spanish). They will stay on average 3 or 4 nights total.

On the first night, they're picked up from the local meeting point at 7pm. A local organizer will be there to introduce your students to you and they'll come home with you to be introduced to the rest of your household. They spend the evening with you, have some dinner, a shower and bed, (they're generally quite tired after walking or traveling all day).

In the morning, they have some breakfast (cereal/toast/juice or a hot drink) and get dropped back at the meeting point for between 7:30am & 7:45am. There must be a local organizer, or teacher present when

dropping off the students. Full board students require a packed lunch also. You may find your students will occasionally have pocket money and prefer to eat out for lunch, in which case just communicate with your guests so as not to waste food.

They are out all day on pre-arranged educational tours and return back to the meeting point in the evening around 7pm. The coaches are tracked with GPS so we have an eye on them when they are returning. Your local organizer will always send a text update out if the group is in some traffic or delayed. Your local organizer is always available throughout the stay to help with anything should you need.

Placement

Placements are made around a month in advance of the groups arrival. We place students in groups, minimum of 2, maximum of 4. You'll receive a booking request via email which prompt you to log into your dashboard online. This is where you will be able to access all the information regarding your upcoming bookings. You can accept or decline bookings here as well as view any information regarding your pick up and drop off times. Please try to confirm your bookings as soon as possible. You will then receive a courtesy message the Wednesday before the group arrives reminding you to re-check your dashboard to see if there have been any updates or additional allergies/dietary requirements allocated.

Rates & Payments

Hosting is designed to give a boost to your main income without having to start a side business or take on a second job or extra hours at work. The fact that the first £7,500 you can earn from renting out your spare room is tax free under the government's [rent-a-room scheme](#) is a massive benefit to our network of hosts. Our current hosts report being able to save for family holidays, make home improvements and cover life's little extras with the money they receive from hosting students.

We are fortunate enough to have groups throughout the year which means we are able to offer students consistently.

The rates are as follows for 2025

Full board

Number of Students	Per Night	3 Night stay example	4 Night stay example
2	£50	£150	£200
3	£75	£225	£300
4	£100	£300	£400

If a group has any half board days (no packed lunches) it's paid at £1 less per person per night

Extra packed lunches are paid at £4 per person (sometimes they require a double packed lunch on the departure day when traveling home)

Payments are made by BACS on a pro-rata basis every Wednesday after the group arrives.

Rent a room scheme

Did you know you can earn up to £7,500 tax free each year under the rent-a-room scheme? – more information can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home/the-rent-a-room-scheme>

Helpful tips

1 Although we make every effort to gather as much information from our student's dietary needs before they travel, occasionally you might find yourself with a student that doesn't eat pork or has turned veggie on the way over here. Best thing to do is prepare a meal for the first night that can be vegetarian. Pizza with a side salad and garlic bread is a favorite amongst families!

2 Our bathroom fixtures can be quite alien to some of our European guests, so it may be worthwhile showing them how to use the shower, open windows and flush the loos while you're giving them the grand tour! Just saves any confusion or cold showers!

3 They're best having showers in the evening so it frees up the bathroom in the morning for you and your family.

4 It's good practice to stock up when you see bargains in the supermarket. As we place students around a month in advance you'll know what upcoming bookings you have so when you see an offer on bottled water or chocolate bars, you know what to do – just try and ensure your own kids don't find them before they come!

5 Many of the students we have are traveling to London or indeed, staying away from home for the first time, they can be quite shy and anxious to begin with, so a warm friendly welcome at the coach is a great way to reassure them that they're going to be looked after. It certainly helps bring their barrier down and feel comfortable with you during their stay.

6 Always try to put their packed lunch in their hands as they leave the house in the mornings. They're walking around London or in lessons all day and get very tired so tend to forget things including their lunch!

7 It's worth doing a quick sweep of their room/bathroom before the students depart. This is to ensure they haven't forgotten anything and that there are no abnormalities in the room.

8 Finally, just enjoy it! Over the time you host you'll experience all different kinds of children, some shy, some giggly, some will want to talk with you, some will just want the wi-fi code and some shut eye. Our families find the more they put into the hosting experience, the more they get out!

What are the next steps?

01. Give us a call!

Well I'll be happy to answer any further questions you may have and arrange a suitable time to pop round for a host family visit.
Call Jimmy - 07739756388

02. Meet us!

During your host family visit we can advise you on how to best set up your available space for students. it's also a chance for us to meet you and your family and/or pets!

03. Host your first group!

Once you complete the online registration form and we receive copies of relevant documentation (DBS Check, Gas Safety Certificate & Drivers license) that's it! There's nothing left to do but wait for your first booking to come through and prepare for your guests.

What our hosts have to say about hosting with Cultural Connection.

Please see below some of our reviews below; you can view a full list online here:

https://www.google.com/search?q=cultural+connection+uk&rlz=1C5CHFA_enGB942GB942&oq=cultural+connection&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j69i57j35i39j69i60l3j69i65l2.5703j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#lrd=0x47d8aa65c2abe40d:0xeefcd96935ecc2b9,1,,,

Watch some host interviews here:

<https://vimeo.com/887623950?share=copy>

<https://vimeo.com/887620081?share=copy>

<https://vimeo.com/880545982?share=copy>

<https://vimeo.com/880545982?share=copy>