Guidelines for the host (family) project

The aims of our project are

- to enhance the intercultural exchange and to allow for friendships between hosts and international students
- to give host and students the possibility to make a special cultural experience
- to enhance the internationality of Bielefeld and to convey cultural knowledge

We expect from hosts that they have genuine interest in a cultural exchange and that they are able to communicate in a mutual language with the international students. Not all but still most of the international students are already able to speak German in the beginning of their stay in Bielefeld. We expect from international students as well that they are open minded for their godparent’s culture and that they want to get to know this culture.

The “Verein zur Förderung internationaler Studierender“ (ViSiB), ESG and KHG (Organisers) enable the contact between students and hosts. In the beginning of each term they organize a first meeting for both parties. Afterwards it is up to the students and the hosts how often and to what extent they spend time together.
The ViSiB, ESG and KHG are available for international students when they need any help during their stay in Bielefeld. Hosts are therefore not responsible for organizing the students’ everyday life.

The students' and the hosts' well-being, their security and the cultural differences need to be considered and respected at any time.

Students may not be obligated to work for the hosts (e.g. babysitting) without a respective agreement. Hosts have no financial responsibility for the international students. Hosts are not expected to offer a cost-intensive program (e.g. excursions).

The participation in our program is voluntary for both hosts and students. Both parties can quit their participation at any time if they contact the responsible persons for the program. In case of any problems, students and hosts are expected to inform one of the two responsible organizations.

ViSiB, ESG and KHG has the right to choose hosts and students on the basis of their applications. The responsible persons also reserve their right to exclude hosts or students from the program if necessary.

The organizers wish to get a feedback about the project at the end of the term.

The basic idea of the host project is to enhance cultural understanding and friendship between different cultures. Students and hosts are expected to act according to this idea.