



# Wellesley College

## Host Family Program

### Host Family Guide 2019

Thank you for participating in the Host Family Program. Inside this guide you will find general information about the program, answers to frequently asked questions, and tips on how to make the Host Family Program experience successful.

#### What is the Host Family Program?

The **International Student Host Family Program** is jointly coordinated by the Wellesley College Alumnae Clubs and the Slater International Center. It is designed to match Wellesley alumnae, faculty, and staff with incoming international students and Language Assistants for cultural exchange, support and community building. The Host Family Program is not a “live-in” program, although it does offer incoming international students and scholars the opportunity to arrive early and stay with a host family for one or two nights before the international student Orientation Program. Host families and international students often develop close relationships and remain connected throughout the students’ time at Wellesley and beyond.



#### How Does the Host Family Program Work?

If you are interested in being a Host Family you must complete the online International Student Host Family Application by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### Over the Summer

SLATER INTERNATIONAL CENTER

106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481 | Tel 781-283-2082 | Fax 781-283-3615 | [slaterhostessprogram@wellesley.edu](mailto:slaterhostessprogram@wellesley.edu)

The Host Family matching process begins in the summer.

- You will receive a student match letter by the end of July. This letter will let you know who your student is and how to contact them.
- Contact your student as soon as possible to introduce yourself. *Please stress the need for your student to provide you with exact arrival information when they can, and to keep you updated with any changes.*
- Tell your student a little bit about yourself and your family, your occupation and hobbies, and if you have children or pets. Communication over the summer will help you to start to form a relationship with your student even before their arrival.
- Send your student a photo of yourself. This will help them recognize you when you pick them up at the airport.

### Arrival

Your student will be eager and excited to meet you.

- Confirm your student's arrival plans and ask them how they will let you know of any last minute changes.
- Make arrangements to pick them up at the airport or bus/train station. If you cannot meet them, make arrangements with another Host Family to carpool. To arrange a carpool, you can contact Amy Rindskopf, the Host Family Program Alumnae Coordinator by email at [slaterhostessprogram@wellesley.edu](mailto:slaterhostessprogram@wellesley.edu), or by phone at 617-818-3793.

**Note:** *Students are aware that host families can accommodate only students in their homes. Students who arrive with their families have been asked to find other accommodations for their family members.*



### First Days

While hosting an international student in your home, please consider the following:

- Many students are traveling from far away and may suffer from jet-lag upon arrival. Because of this, they may require additional time to rest and to recuperate.
- Getting in touch with other local host families and planning activities together for newly arrived students is a great way to have fun with your student and help them start to meet other new students.
- Consider joining our Wellesley College Host Family Program Facebook Group to connect with other local host families:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wellesleycollegehostessprogram/>

### Maintaining Your Connection Throughout the School Year

In order to maintain and develop your relationship with your student during their time at Wellesley:

- Contact them during the semester. They may hesitate to initiate a phone call, but a day or evening with your family may be especially helpful in their transition.
- Attend Wellesley College events with them during the academic year.
  - **Wellesley College Family Weekend** - September
  - **Slater Culture Show** - October
  - **Slater Spring Festival**- April
- Keep in mind that traditional U.S. American holidays are excellent opportunities to connect with your student and share your culture.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is my role as a Host Family?

A: After welcoming your student upon their arrival, you can continue to support them during their adjustment to the U.S. and to Wellesley College. Additional support might include attending Wellesley College events together, inviting them on a day trip or excursion, or inviting them to your home to celebrate a U.S. holiday. You and your student are free to form the type of relationship that best suits you both.

### Q: Should I take my student shopping for room furnishings and/or bedding linens?

A: The choice is at your discretion; however, it is not necessary to take your student shopping. A shopping trip is planned during Orientation. In addition, there will be a sustainability sale during Orientation where students can purchase gently used items inexpensively. Also, the Student Aid Society will provide four year degree

**students who have been awarded financial aid, Exchange Students, and Language Assistants with bed linens, blankets, towels, and a laundry basket.**

If you do go shopping, remember that students are responsible for their own expenses. Please be mindful of some student's limited financial resources when making suggestions for purchases.



**Q: How do I know which residence hall to bring my student to?**

**A:** Your student should have been notified of their housing assignment on the MyWellesley New Student Portal at [my.wellesley.edu](http://my.wellesley.edu). If in the excitement of arriving, your student has forgotten the name of their Residence Hall, please direct them to [my.wellesley.edu](http://my.wellesley.edu). You can also find a map of the campus online at [web.wellesley.edu/map/](http://web.wellesley.edu/map/). For any technical difficulties regarding MyWellesley, your student should call the Help Desk at 781-283-7777.

**Q: My student has asked me a question that I cannot answer. Where should I direct them for further information?**

**A:** Instruct your student to contact the Slater International Center at 781-283-2082 with any questions or concerns. And if we cannot answer their question directly, we will refer them to the appropriate resource.

**Q: How will my student know what to bring with them to the U.S.?**

**A:** Incoming students have access to a lot of information through their MyWellesley portal, including a list of what to pack and what is included in their room: [http://www.wellesley.edu/reslife/first\\_year\\_students/what\\_should\\_i\\_bring\\_for\\_my\\_room](http://www.wellesley.edu/reslife/first_year_students/what_should_i_bring_for_my_room)

## **Tips & Best Practices**

- Check with your student to see if they have any dietary restrictions or food allergies so that you can offer them appropriate food choices.
- In preparing your student's sleeping space, you may want to place a note or trinket near their pillow. This will help them feel welcome in your home and designate the area where they should settle in.

- Bring a sign with you to the airport with the Wellesley College logo and your student's name in large letters so your student can easily identify you at the arrival gate or luggage claim area.
- Be clear about the schedule of events in your household. Let your student know when meal times will be, when they should begin preparing for bed, and what time to wake up in the morning. Although it seems hospitable to allow the guest to choose meal times etc., your student may feel hesitant about making these decisions for fear of disrupting the normal family routine.
- Ask about their family. This will most likely spark a spirited conversation where you can create a bond with your student by sharing your favorite family traditions and stories about humorous family members. Talking about the home they just left may help lessen homesickness.
- Allow your student to connect to the internet or help them use a calling card soon after their arrival. They may want to send word to their family that they have arrived safely and are settling in comfortably.
- Talk about Wellesley! Sharing your favorite Wellesley memories and traditions will increase their excitement, and will open up a forum for them to ask you questions or express apprehensions about their upcoming transition.