



# Family Placement Information

## Programs in Latin America

**Keep this page.** Fill out the attached family preference form, make a copy of it for your records and return it to us.

Study abroad is much more than academics. Learning takes place not only during class, but 24 hours a day. One of the best out-of-class experiences is the homestay. It is a vital, required component of our program. Additionally, living with a host family is the factor most cited as helping improve students' Spanish.

We've found that students who are happy with their housing are generally happy in their adopted country. To make the most of living with a host family, you must be flexible.

**1. Redefine family.** Most students on our program imagine the perfect host family as one with two parents, some college-aged kids and a dog; however, we have very few families in our program that conform to that image. Generally, such families have very little time or space to commit to international students and are too busy to really interact with the international student.

On the other hand, few students enter our program excited about the prospect of living with a widow or single mother, but sometimes these less traditional families provide the best experiences. Older widows or couples have already raised their children and are familiar with the expectations of a young, newly-independent adult. Many truly enjoy the company of the student. Because we "recycle" host families that receive favorable ratings from students, we have a large number of this type of family.

**2. Taste all the food given to you.** The foods you eat abroad will be very different from those to which you are accustomed. Even if you are certain that you will not like a new food, try it anyway out of politeness.

A special note to vegetarians: vegetarians are poorly understood in Latin America, and they are often undernourished. Before departing the United States, you should decide how strict you are going to be. You should be as flexible as you feel comfortable, and be careful to stay healthy by including enough vitamins, calcium and proteins in your diet.

**3. Smoking is still considered socially acceptable** in many parts of Latin America, and so the likelihood of being placed in a home where people smoke is quite high. For this reason, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in a non-smoking household, if that is what you prefer.

**4. Be prepared to give up some independence.** U.S. students have more disposable income and independence than young adults in other countries and societies in the world. Students in Latin America usually live at home with their parents throughout their college years, and they maintain the parent/child relationship until later in life.

Your host parents will treat you just as they are accustomed to treating others of your age group. Some students compare living with a host family to returning to high school; you will be in classes during the day and return each night to a family that is concerned about your well-being. What U.S. students may consider controlling behavior by the host family is usually a legitimate concern for their safety. Most host families relax their rules after a few weeks of getting to know the student.

**5. What's the single most important factor?** Host family assignments are made using the information you provide on the attached questionnaire. While we try to accommodate your preferences when placing you, we can't always take all of them into account. Please indicate what is **most** important to you so we can concentrate on your top priority when placing you with a host family.

While most host families have an altruistic interest in sharing their home, culture and country with a international student, the family receives a monthly payment for the housing service it provides. As a paying guest, you should feel comfortable in your new home. If you are unhappy after a trial period of a few weeks, discuss your housing situation with our resident director. We'll help you resolve any problems.

*\* Please refer to the "Living with a Host Family" section of the **Preparing to Study Abroad** booklet for more detailed information.*



## Family Placement Form

### Por favor, completar y entregar a:

Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University  
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 305  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-3345  
317-940-9704 Fax

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Programa y país: \_\_\_\_\_

Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_ Universidad EE.UU.: \_\_\_\_\_

Sexo:  Hombre  Mujer Edad: \_\_\_\_\_

Argentina/Chile/Costa Rica/Peru:  Sem. 1 (Primavera EE.UU.)  Sem. 2 (Otoño EE.UU.)  Verano

Año Académico (Sem. 2, 1)  Año (Sem. 1, 2)

Mexico:  Otoño EE.UU.  Primavera EE.UU.  Año Académico  Verano

### Preguntas sobre la salud y la dieta

¿Actualmente estás bajo un programa de dieta estricto? ¿Cuán flexible es tu dieta?

¿Eres vegetariano(a)?

En caso afirmativo, ¿qué no comes?

Carne roja

Huevos

Pollo

Productos de leche

Pescado

Otro (por favor indique)

¿Eres alérgico(a) a algún alimento?

¿Tienes alergias o condiciones médicas que requieren arreglos especiales? Por favor, explícalos. (opcional)

¿Tendrías algún inconveniente en vivir en una casa con animales domésticos?

¿Fumas productos de tabaco?

¿Tienes alergias al humo?

### ¿Cuál papel te gustaría hacer dentro de la familia?

Muy independiente: No te molesta si la familia está fuera de la casa la mayor parte del tiempo. Pocas actividades con la familia. Mucho tiempo y espacio para ti mismo(a).

Algo interactivo: Quieres participar en las actividades de la familia, y a la misma vez mantener tu independencia. Quieres que la familia te invite a participar en actividades tuyas, pero no sentirte obligado(a).

Muy interactivo: Deseas integrarte con la rutina diaria de la familia y ser considerado(a) como hijo o hija real. Prefieres comer/cenar todos los días con la familia.

¿Cuál es tu carrera universitaria?

¿Cuáles son tus afiliaciones religiosas o étnicas? (opcional)

¿Qué característica consideras más importante en una familia?

¿Qué nos falta por preguntarte?

Por favor utiliza el espacio siguiente para hacer una descripción de ti mismo(a) con más detalles. Infórmalos de tus características personales (por ejemplo, conversador, muy organizado(a), tímido(a), etc.), lo que te gusta y no te gusta, deportes favoritos, pasatiempos, y otros intereses. Añade aquí cualquier otra información que consideres importante que nosotros sepamos en cuanto a tu estadía en una familia.

Everything on this form will be shared with the host family unless you indicate otherwise. Is there information on this form you prefer we do not share with them? If so, please indicate below:

**Solo para los estudiantes que van a la Universidad Nacional en Costa Rica:**

Cuál vivienda prefieres:  centro de la ciudad  en los alrededores  pueblos cercanos

### Housing Contract

I affirm that the above information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University assumes no responsibility for any problems resulting from being supplied with incorrect or incomplete information on this form, and **I also understand that once a housing assignment is given, no changes can be made.**

I understand and agree that I shall pay to IFSA-Butler all fees associated with the housing to which I am assigned as outlined in the program fee information provided to me by IFSA-Butler with my program contract.

Housing assignments are for the duration of the program, and the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University provides no alternate housing. **IFSA-Butler will not refund any sums paid for housing if a student vacates his or her housing for any reason, either voluntarily or involuntarily, before the end of the semester or term.**

**I understand that while housing is guaranteed, my first choice of accommodation is not.**

I understand and agree that living in housing arranged by IFSA-Butler is a requirement of the program to which I have been admitted. I further understand and agree that if I refuse or fail to live in program housing, I will be subject to dismissal from the program, withdrawal of services by IFSA-Butler and/or loss of academic credit with no refund of fees paid.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_