IUHPFL Orientations 2013

Opening Session:

I. Introduction to IUHPFL

II. Three Pillars

II. Expectations
Bienvenue! Willkommen! ¡Bienvenidos!

- Considered 1st day of your IUHPFL experience
- Orientation packet
  - Nametag & T-shirt
  - Pre-Departure Handbook
- Today’s sessions: peeling away layers, slowly making the break between student and guardian
- Let’s begin!
Introduction to IUHPFL

- Who are we?
- Who am I?
- Who are your instructors?
- Where are you going?
France
Mexico
Spain
What is the IUHPFL?

- Intensive study program in French, German & Spanish through ‘immersion’ method
- What exactly *is* the ‘immersion’ method?
- And how do we achieve ‘immersion?’
  - By means of the IUHPFL’s three pillars…
The Three Pillars of the IUHPFL:

- The Honor Code
- Language Commitment: speak, think, dream in, *Live your Language*!
- Academic focus: daily classes
- Host family experience: become a member of a family

*Structure, structure, structure!*
The Three Pillars of the IUHPFL:

- The Honor Code
  - Key to ‘living the Code:’ understanding the rationale behind it
  - Motivation behind Honor Code twofold:
    - Preserve student health and safety
    - Maximize IUHPFL experience
Highlights of the Honor Code (pgs. 7-11)

- Language Commitment
- Prohibition of the Use of Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs and Tobacco
- Weeknight and Weekend Activities
- Pledge to Adhere to Host Family Norms
- Travel
- Honors Program Pledge to Excellence
IUHPFL Honor Code

Language Commitment: what does it mean to you?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment: what does it mean to the IUHPFL?
  - All foreign language *all* the time
  - Limited communication with home (one phone call upon arrival; one hour of internet access a week)
  - *Highly discourage* use of personal cell phones; laptops prohibited
  - Reading and music: in foreign language
  - Writing and journaling: in foreign language
IUHPFL Honor Code

Language Commitment: one phone call
- Within a week of arrival
- Plan ahead of time as best as possible; be flexible
- Keep class and activity schedule, time change in mind
- How do I make this call?
- What if my parents aren’t home when I call?
- What if my parents are divorced?
- Any other calls home?
- What might this call look (and sound) like?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment: one phone call
- But...how will my U.S. family know I made it to my host city?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment:
  - What about Skype?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment:
  - What about Internet access?
  - Once a week for one hour
  - One *consecutive* hour
  - Advised for students to use e-mail distribution lists/blog
  - One hour of access *can* be in English, though many prefer to write home in foreign language
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment:
  - What about cell phones on departure and arrival day?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment:
  - What about crisis situations?
  - Student and instructor will know when it is appropriate to resort to English/native language
Communication Scenarios

- Inevitably, situations will arise in which students and guardians may need to be in contact for more than the Language Commitment allows.
- What follows are scenarios that have arisen in the past and how the IUHPFL requests to handle them (pg. 45).
Financial Issues, Banking Problems

- Students may experience problems accessing funds. This may be due to various reasons, including finicky ATM machines, wrong PIN numbers, trying to withdraw more money than the bank limit allows, etc.

- In this case, the following communication is recommended:
It may be necessary for the guardian to call the bank on the student’s behalf.
Financial Issues, Banking Problems

- Most student meals and all lodging is covered by Program fees, thus students immediate needs (food and lodging) will already be met. While the IUHPFL recognizes that students will want to have money on hand for souvenirs and snacks, a student’s inability to withdraw money for such purposes *is not considered an emergency*, thus should not be handled as such.

- The IUHPFL does recommend students carry a credit card in case any financial emergencies arise.
Emergency Abroad

- In case the student has a medical emergency such as a hospital visit, serious illness, or other emergency, the following communication is recommended:

  Onsite Instructor Team will phone or e-mail:

  Guardian

  Copy the IUHPFL Office
Emergency in the U.S.

- In the event the student’s U.S. family experiences an emergency that needs to be communicated to the student abroad, the following communication is recommended:

  Guardian/Family in the U.S. will phone or e-mail:

  IUHPFL Office who will contact:

  Instructor Team Abroad who will contact: the student
Infractions of the Honor Code

- The Honor Code is an integral part of the Program and students are expected to follow all norms. If a student fails to follow the Honor Code and an incident report is written up, the U.S. family/guardian will be contacted as follows:

  - Onsite Instructor Team will e-mail:
  - U.S. Guardian/Family
  - And copy the IUHPFL Office
What About a Warning?

- If the student receives a warning for a breach in the Code, no communication with the U.S. guardian will take place. Part of the Program’s goal is to teach students to take responsibility and be accountable for their own actions. Warnings are dealt with onsite between the student, onsite instructors and the host family if applicable.

- *It is important to note that for certain infractions of the Honor Code, no warning will be issued, rather an incident report will be written up immediately.*

- What kind of activity does/does not constitute a warning?
Guardian Communication

Guardians should *always* communicate through the IUHPFL office if they wish to get in touch with the onsite instructor and their son/daughter outside their students’ hour of Internet. They should communicate as follows:

- But...why?
Because instructors have their hands full!

- Inside of classroom: teachers, classroom managers
- Afternoon activities: theater and choir directors, extracurricular coordinators
- Outside of classroom: mentors, guidance counselors, big brothers/sisters, chaperones, nurses, event planners
- Administrators: public relations coordinators, financial coordinators, student coordinators, logistics coordinators
- With respect to host families: interpreters, mediators
- On excursions: tour guides, organizers, sheepherders
- See pages 74 and 75
Guardian Communication

- But...how will I know my son/daughter is okay?
  - His/her communication to you once a week
  - Instructor blogs
  - When in doubt...contact IUHPFL Office
  - Remember...no news is good news!
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Language Commitment: the motivation behind everything we do!
- Why such restrictions?
  - All language all the time = results. It works!
  - Limited contact: avoid tendency to homesickness
  - Personal accountability
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Prohibition of the Use of Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs and Tobacco
  
- Motivation behind this?
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Weekend and weeknight activities
- Motivation behind this?
Pledge to Adhere to Host Family Norms:

- Live as ‘one of the family,’ but don’t forget…
- …to observe carefully!
- …to pick up after yourself!
- …to ask before taking from the fridge!
- …to keep showers to a minimum!
- …to ask before picking up the phone!
- …to conserve energy!
IUHPFL Honor Code

- The Host Family Experience
  - But...what if
    - ...we have a major misunderstanding?
    - ...they talk to fast?
    - ...we don’t get along?
  - The solution to any and all problems is...communication!
IUHPFL Honor Code

- The Host Family Experience (pgs. 22-24)
- In the event that a student experiences difficulties with the host family, the following course of action is recommended:
  1. Students should discuss the issue with the host family first. They will appreciate the student’s honesty and attempt to communicate openly with them.
  2. If talking with the host family directly does not resolve the issue, or if a student needs assistance with how to address the issue with the host family, these concerns should be raised with the instructor team. Students should seek the help of the student coordinator, or any staff member with whom they feel comfortable. If necessary, an onsite instructor can visit with the student and host family to help mediate the situation.
IUHPFL Honor Code

- The Host Family Experience (pgs. 22-24)
- A student who has difficulties with a host family should be mindful of communicating these difficulties to the U.S. family and friends *before* addressing the issue with the host family and/or the instructor team. The host family and instructor team should be aware of any difficulties *before* the U.S. family and friends hear about them. Both host family and instructor team aim to resolve the issue quickly.
- Why?
Host family changes are rare. Should a student face difficulties with their host family, they are asked to follow the protocol outlined above. If after talking with their host family directly and after seeking out the help (and possible mediation) of an onsite instructor, incompatibilities and miscommunications persist, then the option of changing host families can be explored. A host family change should happen only as a last resort, and ideally should be agreed upon by all parties (the student, onsite team and host family).

Students and guardians should expect that students will take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks to feel fully comfortable in a host family home. Thus, the IUHPFL strongly encourages students to spend four to five days (i.e., enough time to follow the previously outlined protocol) with their host family before requesting a host family change.
IUHPFL Honor Code

- **Travel**
  - Unaccompanied travel prohibited
  - Should not be going anywhere alone…period!
    - IUHPFL’s ‘Rule of 3’ whenever possible
  - Able to travel with host family provided instructor team has been informed, *but do not expect it*
  - No need for travel…IUHPFL excursions
  - Students not permitted to host/visit with family or friends while onsite
  - Program’s ‘end’=the day of the return to the U.S.
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Pledge to Excellence
  - Positive attitude
  - Maximize experience within the structure of the Program
- A successful IUHPFL experience calls for going above and beyond expectations
In the IUHPFL model, the strength of the Program as a whole is only as strong as its individual constituents—and vice versa. This means that the pledge to adhere to the Honor Code is as much a group pledge as it is an individual pledge. Consequently, in making the pledge, the IUHPFL student not only agrees to fulfill the pledge him or herself, but also agrees to hold his or her peers accountable for maintaining the pledge as well.
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Since the IUHPFL expects students to hold one another accountable for their actions, students should take action as follows:

- Should one student witness another student deviate from the Honor Code, students who witness deviant behavior should first talk with his or her classmate to ask him/her to immediately stop the deviant behavior.

- Should the deviant behavior persist over time, the witnessing student is asked to report the behavior to the instructor team, which can be done anonymously to protect his/her identity.

- In the IUHPFL model, the student to witness the behavior is considered an accomplice to the deviant behavior if s/he does not take appropriate measures to help put an end to such behavior.
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Why is group accountability so important?
- How does it affect ME if others do not follow the Code?
- Time for a case study!
IUHPFL Honor Code

- It is also important to note that the actions of the majority may sometimes affect the whole group. In the event that the Honors Code is violated by a large number of students collectively, the consequences may apply to the entire group of students. For this reason, students are highly encouraged to hold one another accountable for their actions and for adherence to the Honor Code.

- Time for…another case study!
IUHPFL Honor Code

- Incident Reports:
  - Are recorded in the student’s Final Evaluation
  - Warning: no report filed
  - Some situations may not constitute a warning—and will warrant skipping directly to an Incident Report
  - Egregious offense to the Honor Code result in:
    - One or multiple incident reports (possibly at once!)
    - Possible expulsion from the Program
- Do you remember the refund policy if expelled from the IUHPFL?
  *If you are expelled from the Program, no fees or costs will be refunded. You will also be expected to cover the additional expenses incurred related to the necessary arrangements to change your immediate return flight home.*
- Let’s return to our case study…
IUHPFL Final Evaluation

- Evaluated in terms of:
  - Classroom performance, afternoon activities and excursions
  - Assimilation to host family and culture at large
  - Adherence to the Honor Code
  - Attitude, progress, effort
IUHPFL Final Evaluation

- Students will earn one of three awards upon completion of the Program:
  - Award of Excellence (48/50)
  - Award of Merit (43-47.5/50)
  - Award of Participation (up to 42.5/50)
  - Rubric found on pages 30-34
IUHPFL Awards

If images or details emerge post-Program that make it clear a student violated the Honor Code, then IUHPFL reserves the right to revoke student awards.
Student Expectations

Regarding the Honor Code

- Language Commitment will be hardest part
  - Classes
  - Living with a host family

- What can you do now to prepare?

- The rest is…common sense!

- Group accountability: build a solid foundation…starting today
Student Expectations

- Regarding the Academic Focus
  - Difficulty of classes
  - Varying levels of ability
  - Homework load
  - Classes will likely be the most familiar part of the Program for you
Student Expectations

- Regarding the Host Family Experience
  - ‘A second family’
  - Your ‘ideal’ family
  - The ‘typical’ family
  - A possible roommate?
  - When expectations don’t meet reality…
    - Time for another case study!
  - Even if your host family experience isn’t what you expected…
Student Expectations

- Regarding the overall experience
  - Beware of the ‘F’ word…
IUHPFL’s expectations

- An ‘Honors’ Program—who are you all?
- This will take you out of your comfort zone…and that’s an understatement.
- This will be one of the toughest things you’ve ever done…and that’s an understatement.
- But…
  - you have help!
  - you are not alone!
IUHPFL’s expectations

- Students’ support systems (pg. 25):
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
Students’ support systems:

1. Peers
2. Onsite instructor team
3. Host Family

Who is missing from this list?

Support Groups

Once a week
Willingness to listen and share
Tolerance for emotion
Why is this ‘hard?’
Student Support System and Communication Flow (pg. 29):
How can guardians support students from afar?

- Show confidence in student pre-departure and throughout Program
- Respond to the one communication per week (and no more!)
- Trust in IUHPFL system
- Two things to avoid:
  - Sending packages
  - Sharing host family contact information with others
Guardsian’s support systems:

1. IUHPFL Office
2. Other IUHPFL guardians
3. Site-specific blogs
One last word about expectations…

- You can expect:
  - To be homesick.
  - To go through culture shock. Twice!
  - To initially question why you wanted to do this in the first place.
  - To be alternately bored and busy.

- Pgs. 73 & 74
One last word about expectations…

- You can expect:
  - To struggle with the language.
  - To have a rough few first days, maybe even weeks—and if you arrive on the weekend, it will be even tougher!
  - Book, journal, cards, scrapbook, something from home
  - To have an experience that will teach you more than you know. Especially about yourself!
Our expectations for you are…

- To increase your linguistic abilities
- To challenge you academically
- To increase your cultural competence
- To help you strive towards global citizenship
- To help promote in you personal growth, maturity & independence
Before you go, think about:

- Setting some goals for yourself
- How will you go about accomplishing those goals?
- Keep a journal chronicling your goals and how you have worked to accomplish them
Let’s renew our Pledge!

- Two parts:
  1. Student and Guardian
  2. Student to Student
Instructor teams—who are you?
Ready, set, go!