IUHPFL

Graz
Student Handbook

Summer 2016

IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages
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iuhpfl@iu.edu
812.855.5241
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IUHPFL OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

While abroad this summer, you can reach the IUHPFL Office via e-mail or telephone:

**Loni Dishong**  
Managing Director  
ldishong@indiana.edu  
Skype: loni.dishong  
Office: 812-855-7957  
**Cell: 812-369-6333 (for emergencies only)**

**Amy Dowell**  
Program Coordinator  
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**Denise Humphries**  
Administrative Coordinator  
djhumphr@indiana.edu  
Office: 812-855-5241

**Cheryl Jeffers**  
Accounting Representative  
cjeffers@iu.edu  
Office: 812-856-0623

**General Office Email:** iuhpfl@iu.edu  
**IUHPFL Office Skype:** IUHPFL

The best form of communication with the IUHPFL Office is via e-mail to iuhpfl@iu.edu or by calling 812-855-5241. The team will do its best to return e-mails within 24 hours. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EST.

During program dates, if there is a time-sensitive matter that needs immediate attention, it is best to contact Managing Director, Loni Dishong directly. Please only call her cell phone in cases of emergency or if that is the number she requests you call.

Please keep in mind that we are a small (but mighty!) staff and that your patience when communicating with us is much appreciated.
WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome you to the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages! In 2016, we will celebrate our 54th summer of providing language and culture immersion experiences to Indiana high school students! Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey!

You are now part of a legacy of over 7,500 past IUHPFL participants who currently range between 16 and 72 years of age, live all around the world, work in various professional fields, and, in some cases, have children and grandchildren who have participated in our programs!

The IUHPFL network of onsite coordinators and host families includes hundreds of people and stretches across 6 countries – Austria, Chile, China, France, Mexico, and Spain. In 2017, Japan will join this list, when we launch our Japanese immersion program in Osaka! This is a wonderful time to participate in IUHPFL, as we continue to build upon the expertise and dedication of our predecessors and look toward a future with unprecedented potential for international communication, collaboration, and friendship.

IUHPFL is both an individual and a collective experience. Each student is encouraged to set academic and personal goals and to consider the unique talents and insights that he or she brings to the team. Additionally, each team has a unique identity and vision and works toward accomplishing projects and objectives together. We are eager to see how this program and the friendships you create will enrich your life and we are confident that you, just by being who you are, will make your program site team even better!

We wish you safe and happy travels and will be here to encourage and support you along the way!

IUHPFL Office Team
Loni Dishong – Managing Director
Amy Dowell – Program Coordinator
Denise Humphries – Administrative Coordinator
Cheryl Jeffers – Accounting Representative
Priya Pierie – IUHPFL Alum and Intern
William Niezgodski – IUHPFL Alum and Intern
Dane Fetterer – IUHPFL Alum and Intern
IUHPFL — A UNIQUE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

IUHPFL has a long and prestigious history in the state of Indiana for providing high-quality language and culture immersion experiences that transform students’ lives and career paths.

Instructors, Host Families, Onsite Coordinators and our Office Team are working in unison to help every student achieve the following OUTCOMES:

- Greatly improved language proficiency
- Desire to continue studying the language and culture
- Ability to see commonalities between diverse people
- Self-confidence and independence
- Stronger interpersonal skills
- Strategies for problem solving
- Creative thinking and expression
- Clearer vision of their future studies and careers
- Positive relationships with peers, host families, and instructors
- Seeing themselves as global citizens

The 3 Pillars of IUHPFL

We believe that 3 key components, or pillars, make IUHPFL effective:

- Language Commitment
- Academic Excellence
- Host Family Experience

Each one will be discussed more in-depth throughout this handbook.

The 8 Core Values of IUHPFL

IUHPFL wants every participant to have a wonderful, memorable, and transformative experience while abroad. These 8 Core Values express the spirit of IUHPFL, including its Office Team, Instructors, Onsite Coordinators and Host Families.

- **Appreciation**: Acknowledging the qualities and kind acts of others
- **Diligence**: Focusing with enthusiasm on academic and personal goals
- **Discovery**: Being open to new ways of looking at the world and oneself
- **Empathy**: Choosing words and actions that express compassion and create connection
- **Encouragement**: Helping others to reach their goals and see their unique talents
• **Honor**: Acting with integrity and adhering to the IUHPFL Honor Code  
• **Respect**: Treating others with dignity at all times  
• **Unity**: Fostering team spirit and trust

**THIS STUDENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK**

This handbook is designed with students and guardians in mind and provides answers to common questions and concerns that you will have at some during the IUHPFL experience. As part of the IUHPFL Honor Code, it is required that all students read this handbook completely. It is strongly encouraged that guardians also read it in order to have a complete vision of the program’s structure and expectations and to help students meet pre-departure requirements.

Students should take this handbook with them abroad and consult it when necessary. It is the only item in English they are allowed to take with them abroad.

The first section of this handbook contains general information for all IUHPFL students and their guardians. The second section will provide site-specific information.

An electronic copy of this handbook and all other program information can be found at our website: IUHonorsProgram.org.

Note: Parts of this handbook were adapted from the ‘Getting Started’ guide offered by Indiana University’s Office of Overseas Study to university students going abroad. Consequently, many of the links made available are associated with the Office of Overseas Study at Indiana University.

**STUDENT/GUARDIAN ORIENTATION**

Orientation for all participating students and their guardians is held in the Whittenberger Auditorium inside the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU), (900 E. Seventh St., Bloomington, IN 47405) on the IU Bloomington campus. Check-in begins at 9 am, and the event ends at 4 pm EST.

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Orientation is considered to be the first official day of the program, and its purpose is to acquaint students and guardians with:

- Program procedures, policies, and expectations
- Instructors
- Fellow students
- The host culture and its norms

Orientation is extremely important for a student's acclimation into the program and is therefore mandatory for every student and at least one of his or her guardians. Both general and site-specific sessions will be offered, and students and parents typically feel well informed and ready for their IUHPFL experience afterwards. Most importantly, this is the student’s only chance to meet peers and instructors face-to-face before Departure Day. Teambuilding is an integral part of IUHPFL, and the sooner a student can get to know his or her teammates, the better!

Occasionally a student will have to attend the opposite Orientation for reasons beyond his or her control. In these cases, students should begin to email their instructor team immediately after Orientation and join the team’s Facebook page to be kept informed and to begin to meet his or her teammates. The links to each team’s Facebook page will be provided on our website.

During check-in at Orientation, students receive a name tag to wear during Orientation, as well as on Departure Day and the first days at the program site to help instructors learn names quickly. Students also receive their IUHPFL t-shirt, which they will wear on Departure Day, during excursions, and on Return Day; alums typically keep and wear their t-shirts for years following their IUHPFL summer abroad!

**IUHPFL Course Materials Distributed at Orientation**

Also during check-in at Orientation, students receive the materials pertaining to the courses they will take abroad: Grammar, Culture, Literature, and Phonetics/Linguistics. They might also receive additional information from their instructors about Afternoon Activities (Choir, Dance, Theater, Sports) and excursions, depending on how their instructor team prefers to share this information with students. For this reason, it is a very good idea to bring a backpack to Orientation!
PRE-DEPARTURE—GETTING PREPARED

Pre-Departure Checklist

Please be sure to consult the IUHPFL Program Schedule & Checklist, available on our website and sent to you via email, so you are aware of program deadlines and your responsibilities before departure.

Pre-departure considerations include but are not limited to:

- Completing and submitting all Acceptance Materials
- Having doctors and other health professionals complete and sign the Statement of Medical History
- Submitting all Program Fees to IU Accounts Receivable by the May deadline
- Submitting final payment for Airfare to Travel Leaders by the April deadline
- Ensuring that passports (all students) and tourist visas (China only) are acquired before departure and emailing the Office a copy
- Watching your email for program updates and information
- Obtaining a bank debit card and a credit card, both with a security chip
- Informing your bank of the dates of your trip abroad
- Following flight information online to be aware of any changes
- Getting to know your host family via email, social media, and Skype, if possible
- Obtaining $50-$100 worth of the host country’s currency before departure
- Discussing an appropriate travel budget with your guardians
  - All meals are provided, although students should be prepared to purchase 3-4 meals on their own.
  - There will be a few optional excursions for no more than an equivalent of $20 each (going to a movie, bowling, etc.)
  - As a general guideline planning for an equivalent of $50-$100 per week for spending money is a good idea. You might not even spend $50 during one week, but the next you might spend more than $100 while shopping on excursion, etc.
- Journaling about what you want to accomplish academically and personally during your time abroad. Setting and working toward goals is part of the IUHPFL experience.
- Discussing with your guardians how you will deal with limited communication and adhere to the Language Commitment and Honor Code
- Informing your friends and family about your IUHPFL experience, so they are aware of the commitment you have made to IUHPFL and can be supportive of your goals
• Planning what to pack – pack smart and LIGHT!
• Learning more about the host city and host country so you know what to expect and are ready to embrace the culture
• Immersing yourself in your language. Practice, practice, practice!

PASSPORTS AND TOURIST VISAS

Students cannot travel abroad without a passport; students and guardians are encouraged to doublecheck that their passport is in their backpack before leaving for the airport. Do not pack passports inside luggage, as you will show it frequently to officials at the airport.

Students participating in the Hangzhou Program will also need a China Tourist Visa, which is an adhesive ticket that is placed inside the passport by a visa processing company. IUHPFL currently works with CIBT Passport and Visa Expediting Services. Once the passport has been obtained, students must follow the instructions provided to them by the IUHPFL Office and send their passports to CIBT for their China Tourist Visas. Students should allow 3 to 4 weeks for visa processing in order to avoid high fees. One cannot participate in the IUHPFL Hangzhou Program without a China Tourist Visa.

Upon arrival to the host country, all passports will be collected by the instructors and stored safely until return to the US in July. For this reason, it is important that students keep one or two copies of their passports in their luggage. In rare cases when a student might need his or her actual passport while abroad, instructors will be able to provide it easily.

Note: It is also important for guardians to keep a copy of the student’s passports at home in the US during the program, as well as copies of any other identification, debit cards, credit cards, etc. that the student might have taken abroad.

Luggage Requirements

Students are encouraged to visit the airline’s website for more information about the requirements for weight and dimensions of luggage.

As many of us know, international travel can be hurried, stressful, and often cumbersome, especially if we are hauling too much luggage with us. Although we want students to be prepared with the necessities, we strongly encourage them to pack as light as possible in order to ensure they can move quickly with the group and not be too exhausted during the process. Furthermore, hauling heavy luggage
can result in missing trains and subways and can even cause bodily injury when students are hurrying to make flight connections and so forth.

Here are some tips for packing, selecting luggage, and traveling:

• Pack LIGHT! You’ll thank yourself later – promise!
• We recommend no more than two luggage items, including a backpack.
• Large suitcases are strongly discouraged.
• Be sure your luggage is VERY STURDY and has good wheels.
• Don’t take anything that might be considered dangerous by airport security.
• See the airline’s website for packing advice and restrictions.
• Check off each item as you pack it to ensure you don’t forget it.
• Remember to pack your passport in your backpack, along with one or two copies in your luggage.
• Pack your school photo ID, which will be useful for getting discounts into museums.
• Pack travel sized items; larger quantities will not be allowed by airport security, and you can buy more of every kind of toiletry, cosmetic, etc. in the host country.
• Consider packing or buying while abroad a large canvas bag for gifts and other purchases you will bring back with you to the US.
• Check weight requirements for larger suitcases, so you don’t have to pay to check yours in at the airport; this can be very expensive.
• Keep the items you will need for immediate and frequent access in your backpack, including money, debit and credit cards, passport, and other ID.
• Also pack a few healthy snacks for the flight, such as granola bars or carrots.
• You will need to guard your backpack while traveling, so we recommend keeping it light enough to wear comfortably at all times.
• Wear comfortable shoes and clothing while traveling; sometimes it’s necessary to hustle in order to keep up with the group.

Students are responsible to pay for any expenses related to luggage, including overweight or additional luggage. Students will be responsible for transporting their own luggage while abroad.

In the event that students’ luggage is delayed in arriving abroad, the student should always keep the baggage claim tickets in their backpacks. In case of lost luggage, it is recommended that students pack a few clothing items in their carry-on bags.
General List of What to Pack: Clothing and Incidentals
Students don’t need to take a lot of clothing with them abroad! You will have access to laundry facilities on a regular basis. During Orientation, instructors will provide information on local climate, and they will go over specific items you should pack pertaining to your program site. Also be sure to see the site-specific section at the end of this handbook for a detailed packing list provided by your instructor team that complements the general list of items below.

ALL STUDENTS should remember to pack:
• Passport and copies
• Student ID for museums, etc.
• Any vitamins or medications that you need or have been prescribed
• Alarm clock
• Digital camera, additional memory card, batteries or charger and appropriate adapter/converter for your host country
• Water bottle
• Backpack
• A hat and sunglasses for hiking and outdoor activities
• Easy-care, wrinkle-free clothing
• Comfortable shoes; one sporty pair and one dressy pair
• Slippers to wear in the host family home; going barefoot is not common in many cultures
• A journal and/or sketchpad for recording memories and personal insights during the program
• Writing utensils and 5 two-pocket folders for their classes and other paperwork

Recommended Reading before Departure
For comprehensive information on the study abroad experience, the following book is recommended:


This book is aimed specifically at students who want to make the most of their study abroad experience. Its user-friendly design will help identify and implement a wide variety of language and culture learning strategies. It begins with three inventories designed to help you become more aware of how students currently learn language
and culture. The book contains many helpful tools and creative activities to enhance a student's developed learning strategies and try out new ones. It is recommended that students use this guide as they prepare for departure, as well as after they return, when Reverse Culture Shock can have an impact.

**DEPARTURE DAY**

During Orientation, instructor teams will give students and guardians specific information pertaining to departure plans. Students will also be given the link to the team’s Facebook page, where students and instructors will communicate prior to and even during Departure Day.

Students and guardians should check online regularly for updates pertaining to the team’s group flight. A simple search of the airline and flight number will provide this information.

**Travel to Program Site**

It is important to check online for the most up-to-date flight information before departure. Students should also check the team’s Facebook page regularly for updates from their instructors and teammates.

Students are responsible for the cost of travel between the US airport of departure and the host country on the required group flight through Travel Leaders. Students are also responsible for financing their own transportation to and from the airport in the US.

Arrive at the airport early, allowing approximately 3 hours for check-in and security procedures. Instructor teams will inform students and guardians of the expected arrival time at the US international airport.

**Communication on Departure Day**

Departure day is hectic for students, guardians and instructors alike, therefore general questions and concerns related to the program should be addressed to the Office or instructor team prior to Departure Day. Please prepare in advance so that when the day arrives everyone can focus on departure and make it as stress-free as possible.
In some cases IUHPFL Instructors may be on the same domestic non-group flight as students. However, they will not assume chaperone responsibilities until check-in at the terminal for the group flight.

At least two instructors will fly with the students on the group flight to the host country, and one or two will return to the US with the students at the end of the program. Instructors arrive at the international airport on Departure Day with the list of students, which includes guardian names and cell phone numbers. Students and guardians will also know how to reach instructors on that day, in case there are delays in arriving at the airport. It is critical that students and guardians take every precaution to ensure prompt arrival at the international airport, as the team will not be able to wait for late students.

Note: Due to recent international events, airport security is at an all-time high, which is resulting in long lines and wait times for checking in luggage and going through security check-points. If you student is flying to the international airport, please be sure that he or she will have enough time to claim his or her luggage and arrive at the international terminal to meet up with his or her team.

In the event that connecting flights are delayed or canceled, students and guardians should be prepared to call their instructors immediately to inform them. The instructors will alert Travel Leaders and the IUHPFL Office in an attempt to find alternative ways to transport the student to Chicago or Indianapolis and meet up with the team for departure.

Arrival to Host Country and Program Site

Once students arrive at the international airport abroad, they can expect a bus ride to the program site, ranging anywhere from 30 minutes to six hours. Students will have opportunities to use the restroom and purchase snacks along the way.

When the team arrives in the host country, one of the instructors will eventually contact the IUHPFL Office. Depending on the time of day, the Office will notify guardians via email as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that instructors might not be able to inform the Office right away due to Internet connectivity issues or being busy with helping students with their luggage, finding the bus that will take the team to the program site, etc. In some cases, instructors might not be able to contact the Office until they have arrived at the program site, so we ask for patience and understanding from guardians.
**FIRST DAYS OF THE PROGRAM**

During the first several days of the program, students will be adjusting to a completely new setting: new people, new foods, new sounds, new architecture, new customs, and so forth. Even though they have been studying the target language for some time, many aspects of the language will be new as well, including nuances of the local dialect and the speed at which people speak. It is very important for students to care for themselves in these early stages of the program by getting plenty of rest, eating well, and staying hydrated. It’s also essential to have a good sense of humor and not take things too seriously during this time and throughout the program. Being patient with yourself and focusing on what you are learning, rather than what you don’t know, is the best way to maintain a healthy attitude and get the most out of your IUHPFL experience.

Among the adjustments and challenges students will face during the first days and throughout the program are:
- Trying to communicate solely in the target language
- Meeting and getting to know host families. The Host Family Experience is discussed later in this handbook.
- Getting over jetlag
- Settling into a new living space
- Learning one’s way around the host city
- Building friendships with teammates
- Becoming acquainted with one’s instructors and understanding program expectations
- Adjusting to new foods, schedules, and customs
- Acclimating to an advanced level of coursework in the target language
- Missing friends and family back home and feeling out-of-touch
- Beginning to discover the breadth of one’s own strengths, qualities and interests

Because of these adjustments and challenges, emotions can run high for some students. Others adjust quite quickly. Each person’s journey is unique, and each person will have challenges somewhere along the way, regardless of how advanced they might be in the target language.

Guardians can best support their students by understanding that this transformation is happening and that it takes time to adjust. The best way to support students during this time is to encourage them, remind them of their goals, and give them the space necessary to settle into their surroundings.
**Student Phone Call to the US**

Students are permitted to call their family once during the program, and that call happens typically between Days 3 and 7 of the program. Each instructor team will have a plan or instructions for this phone call, as protocol varies from site to site. Before Departure Day, students and guardians are advised to discuss a day and time for the call, keeping in mind students’ class and activity schedule and guardians’ work schedules. The call should last no more than 5-10 minutes, because international calls are expensive. Plus, longer calls can exacerbate homesickness at a time when students are already experiencing jetlag and acclimating to a completely new environment.

If for some reason guardians miss the call, the student can call back at a later time. If a student’s parents are divorced or live separately, it is acceptable for the student to make a 5 minute call to each parent.

As mentioned, students can be tired and experiencing a range of emotions during the first days of the program. Therefore, if the student seems distressed during their phone call home, guardians are encouraged not to worry and to remember that they are always welcome to call the IUHPFL Office for updates on their student's adjustment and well-being.

**THE STUDENT’S PROGRAM EXPERIENCE**

**Typical Weekday and Weekend Schedules and Expectations**

During a typical weekday, students will attend their academic classes in the morning, which begin between 8:30 and 9:30 am, depending on the host culture. At some program sites, host families pack lunches for students; at others, students eat lunch in school cafeterias or other community venues; at others still, students go home to their host families and have lunch with them. After lunch, students might have additional classwork, depending on what time classes begin. All program sites will have Afternoon Activities, which can include sports and games, dance, choir, theater and art classes.

Students often have time later in the afternoon or early evening to explore their communities with their peers and/or their host family members. Whenever students are out and about together, they are always to be in groups of at least three, as per the Honor Code. Students are to discuss with their host families what time they should arrive home every afternoon and respect the requests and norms of their families.
Weeknights and weekends are reserved for host families, and students are expected to follow their families’ schedules, plans, and requests. Host families often make special plans for their students during these times and put a lot of time and effort into cooking with them, introducing them to family members and friends, and showing them around their cities.

**Note:** As mentioned in the section of this handbook, The Host Family Experience, students may travel with their host families within the host country, as long as they have permission from their instructors and their travel plans do not conflict with the Program Site Calendar and scheduled classes, excursions, and other activities. **Students may NOT travel outside the host country with their host families.**

**Transportation at the Program Site**

A student’s mode of transportation to and from school will depend on the program site. Students may walk or use public transportation, since host families can live in the city or outside the city limits. Public transportation is common abroad and typically very safe; students may be expected to use public transportation as their primary means of commuting to and from the school or classroom facility. A student’s commute could last anywhere from ten minutes to an hour. Students may be required to change buses or trains one or two times. Host families, instructors and Onsite Coordinators will work with students to ensure they travel safely to and from school and that they are confident with transportation options and routes. Students are provided with bus and metro passes within the host city, as needed.

**Note:** As per the Honor Code, students may not operate a motorized vehicle abroad nor be a passenger on a motorcycle. They can be a passenger in a car if the driver is a licensed host family member, Onsite Coordinator, or program instructor.

More information about onsite transportation will be provided by instructors at Orientation.

**Classes and Homework**

IUHPFL is an intensive immersion study program. In addition to living with host families and speaking the target language 100% of the time, students attend weekday classes that address 5 subject areas: Grammar, Culture, Literature, Linguistics/Phonetics, and Communication. Class attendance is mandatory. Students should
expect daily homework in all classes and several assessments throughout the duration of the program.

Students and their classmates will be divided into two or three smaller groups for each of the morning classes. Small class size allows students to hone their speaking skills and receive more individualized attention from instructors. Students are encouraged to be active in their classes and to complete all homework with care. Homework assignments will prompt students to engage with their host families and communities and should not require more than one hour per night to complete.

**Afternoon Activities**

As mentioned, all students participate in Afternoon Activities, such as sports, games, dance, choir, theater and art classes, all of which are typically related to local culture. Students are given options for the kinds of activities they wish to do as much as possible.

**Farewell Show**

At each program site, students present a Farewell Show, a stage performance for their host families, Onsite Coordinators, community friends, partner organizations, and sometimes city officials, before departing from the host city. This show involves musical numbers, skits, dance routines, and sometimes comedy or magic acts, depending on the desires and talents of the students on the team. The show is always funny, entertaining and much appreciated by everyone who attends. Students will spend a portion of their Afternoon Activity time creating and rehearsing their Farewell Show.

**Individualized Sports or Music Practice**

IUHPFL attracts students with solid academic performance, good character, and often impressive athletic or musical talent. It is common for students to request time during the program to practice an instrument or train for a sport, and these arrangements can certainly be made. Students should communicate their needs to the Office before or shortly after Orientation, so that their requests can be communicated to Onsite Coordinators and Host Families.

**Community Engagement Activities**

When the Viña del Mar, Chile program was established in 2014, Community Engagement activities were included in the program site calendar from the start. Students in that program work with the Mapuche indigenous community as well as other local organizations that focus on the environment, youth issues, and more. In 2015, the
Mérida, Mexico program provided opportunities for students to engage with a community of Maya. Proudly, more program sites will offer Community Engagement to their students in 2016, with a goal of all sites participating by 2017.

Many larger high schools throughout Indiana offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma to their students, which is recognized by universities around the globe. The criteria for the IB include volunteerism, and for this reason students often choose Spring Break and summer programs that focus on community service. IUHPFL prefers the term, “Community Engagement,” because it stresses the mutual respect and benefit that are inherent in these activities between our students and the locals with whom they interact.

Examples of Community Engagement at IUHPFL program sites can include:
• Community gardening
• Visiting senior citizen residences
• Working with young children
• Cleaning up neighborhoods and beaches
• Doing art projects or playing sports with local teens
• And so forth...

Returning instructors and Onsite Coordinators suggest ideas and specific organizations for these activities to the Managing Director. Students are always accompanied by instructors and oftentimes the Onsite Coordinator during these activities, and host families are invited, if an activity is approved and planned during a weekend.

Typically, no more than 2 days or 4 afternoons are dedicated to Community Engagement activities, although students have been known to enjoy them immensely and request more time.

**Support and Success Groups**

Students are divided as equally as possible into groups, one for each instructor, and meet at least once per week in order to set personal goals, address questions and concerns, talk about their host families and experiences, and celebrate their achievements together. Support and Success Groups add yet another network of support and encouragement for students, as the small setting allows them to comfortably share their thoughts, ideas and emotions. Additionally, they fine-tune their conversation skills!
In order for Support and Success Groups to be beneficial for every student, an atmosphere of caring, non-judgement and confidentiality must exist. Once this happens, students are willing to open up about themselves and listen attentively to their peers. Although sharing with others on a personal level, especially in another language, can be intimidating at first, students find that they value these sessions as one of the most beneficial aspects of the IUHPFL model.

Specific objectives of Support & Success Groups include helping students to:

- Adapt to their new environment
- Handle possible miscommunication/issues with the host family
- Manage time and course requirements
- Deal with difficult aspects of the Honor Code
- Set academic and personal goals
- Develop strategies to meet goals and get the most out of their time abroad
- Celebrate their successes with their peers

**Individual Student Meetings**

Many students benefit from a private meeting with their Support and Success Group leader to share personal concerns, asks questions and seek advice and guidance. Individual meetings with students can replace the usual group meeting during a given week, if instructors decide one-to-one time with students is needed or beneficial.

A student can also request to have an individual meeting with an instructor. However, one instructor is not allowed to meet with one student in a private or secluded setting. Either two instructors must be present to talk with the student or one instructor may talk with the student within eyesight yet out of earshot of other adults.

**Excursions – Planned and Optional**

Students at every site enjoy overnight and day excursions of historical and cultural significance. Instructors accompany students on every excursion and teach relevant facts about historical sites beforehand.

**Planned Excursions** are organized primarily by the Onsite Coordinators with input from the Managing Director and program site instructors. They typically involve travel to other cities, possible overnight stays, and are included in the Program Fees. Whereas Onsite Coordinators sometimes accompany the team on Planned
Excursions, host family members are not permitted to participate, because these trips are intended as bonding experiences for the team.

**Optional Excursions** are often decided a few days in advance and are not part of the Program Calendar nor are they paid with Program Fees. Students can decide whether or not they wish to participate, and the cost is less than an equivalent of $20 USD. Examples can include going to the movies, getting ice cream, bowling, and much more. Onsite Coordinators and host family members can attend at the discretion of the instructor team. These experiences allow students to learn more about their communities.

**Program Site Magazines**
Students at each program site work with their instructors to create and compile photos, drawings, stories, poems, letters and other memorabilia, which are then printed and bound into a magazine and presented to Onsite Coordinators and Host Families before students’ return to the US. After the program, more copies of the magazine are printed by the IUHPFL Office and mailed to students as part of their Final Student Evaluation packets. Printed copies are also sent to the program site’s instructors, and one copy is kept in the Office.

**SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR STUDENTS**
It is common for students to experience a transition period abroad when they feel uncomfortable and vulnerable. Having to speak a different language, not having their guardians and friends, living and sleeping in a different home, not having their cell phones and daily access to social media… all of this can feel strange and unsettling. This is called Culture Shock. Dealing with Culture Shock requires flexibility, adaptability and a sense of humor!

It is important for students to remember that their feelings are typical and to be expected. Every student experiences Culture Shock to a certain extent, which is why IUHPFL has strong and extensive support systems in place to help students adjust and have a successful IUHPFL experience.

Support systems for students include (in no particular order):
- Teammates (fellow students)
- Instructors
- Support and Success Groups
- Host Families
- Onsite Coordinators
- IUHPFL Office Team
It is important to note that the students’ US friends and family are not mentioned as a support system, because students have such limited communication with them, per the Honor Code, and because students need to learn to rely on those around them and engage with their surroundings in order to have a fulfilling immersion experience. Additionally, friends and family back home might not have the perspective and cultural experience needed to help with problems or difficulties onsite. IUHPFL does not ask students to withhold information from their US friends and family; it merely recommends that students reach out first to their onsite support systems in order to resolve matters quickly and to avoid excessive worry and stress for all parties.

IUHPFL recognizes that it might be challenging for students not to reach out to friends and family at home when they are struggling to adjust or dealing with difficult situations abroad, however, in order for students to become more independent and accountable for their own success, they must learn to rely on the onsite support systems that have been put in place for them. IUHPFL highly encourages students to be proactive in forming close bonds with fellow students, instructors, and host family members, a process which can start even before departure.

IUHPFL asks students and guardians to trust the well-developed systems and processes that have proven to be highly effective and beneficial for students since the program’s inception in 1962.

GUARDIAN ROLES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

The role of guardians before, during and after the program dates is essential. Here are just a few ways that guardians can help students be successful:

- Be aware of program deadlines and expectations and help students meet them
- Research the host city and country with students
- Become acquainted with the host family before departure
- Plan with students what to pack
- Talk with students about their feelings and goals before departure
- Encourage students to adhere to the Honor Code, particularly the Language Commitment
- Prepare students for Reverse Culture Shock upon their return to the US and learn ways you can help them reacclimate to US culture
It is also recommended that guardians consider the frequency and content of their online messages to students. Sending one update per week is suggested rather than several messages that will take time to read and reply to. Keeping messages positive and upbeat is also very helpful. Oftentimes, what students need to hear most from their guardians, friends, and loved ones back home are words like, “You can do this,” “You’ll have a wonderful time,” “We know you’ll turn this challenge into an opportunity,” and “We believe in you.”

Support for Guardians during the Program
It can be very difficult for guardians to “let go” of their students for 5 to 6 weeks, especially when they are in another country and communication between students and their family and friends in the US is strictly limited. IUHPFL asks guardians that they, too, trust the support systems IUHPFL has in place for students.

Resources for Guardians include:
• The Program Site Blog
• Fellow Guardians
• The IUHPFL Office Team

Program Site Blog
The instructor who acts as Public Relations Coordinator will create a blog for the program site before Orientation. This blog is specifically for guardians and will be updated on a weekly basis with photos and descriptions of activities.

Fellow Guardians are another source of support during the program. Exchanging e-mail addresses and phone numbers with one another at Orientation is a good idea so you can share stories, ideas and resources with one another.

IUHPFL Office Team
If guardians need more support than the blogs and other IUHPFL families can provide, they are encouraged to contact the Office. Our team is always happy to help and can usually offer helpful advice and ideas.

PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS
IUHPFL Instructors are highly-qualified educators, who specialize in their respective languages and have diverse professional backgrounds and skills. They are native or near-native speakers of the languages they teach, have traveled extensively, and in most cases have lived
abroad. Additionally, they enjoy working with youth and are able to wear many hats during the program: teacher, mentor, coach, advocate, facilitator, and tour guide, to name a few. Their top priority during the program is each student’s well-being, safety, happiness, and success.

**Note:** Each program site has a team of two, three, or four instructors, depending on the number of students. IUHPFL strives for a 7-9:1 student-instructor ratio at all sites.

Students will become acquainted with their instructors at Orientation. Throughout the program, instructors are the ones who will spend the greatest amount of time with the students, helping them and guiding them at every step. Since most instructors have spent extended amounts of time in countries other than their own, they fully understand the immersion experience and can relate to the stages and challenges of adjusting to a new culture. Students should never hesitate to talk to them about any concerns they might have.

**IUHPFL Instructors must meet the following criteria:**

- Teach the target language as an Assistant Instructor (AI) or Lecturer at IU Bloomington or as a Teacher at an Indiana high school
- Pass the Indiana University Background Check
- Demonstrate excellent knowledge of pedagogy and content area
- Apply outstanding classroom management and student engagement techniques
- Be a native or near-native speaker of the target language
- Have familiarity with the host culture
- Complete 3 all-day IUHPFL Instructor Training sessions
- Work within their instructor teams to develop course materials and plan the team’s vision, schedule, and activities
- Enjoy working with and teaching youth

**Note:** At least one instructor at each program site must be CPR and First Aid certified, and copies of their certification cards are kept by the IUHPFL Office. A fully stocked first aid kit is accessible to instructors at all times at every program site.

**Coordinator Roles of Instructors**

Instructors must work closely together to teach students, facilitate Afternoon Activities, lead excursions, and administer the program onsite. The four administrative roles the instructors fulfill are: Student Coordinator, Finance Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator, and
Public Relations Coordinator. Although these roles encompass various responsibilities, a general description of each is as follows.

**Student Coordinator**
The instructor acting as Student Coordinator is primarily responsible for handling matters pertaining to student well-being and host family situations in collaboration with the Onsite Coordinator.

**Finance Coordinator**
The Finance Coordinator implements the program site budget and oversees and tracks all onsite purchases and expenditures during the program.

**Logistics Coordinator**
This instructor ensures that the Program Calendar and excursion plan are carried out and that all necessary arrangements are made and confirmed to allow the team to travel and tour safely during the program.

**Public Relations Coordinator**
The role of this instructor is also multi-faceted, but primary responsibilities include: documenting the team’s activities through photos and videos; creating and maintaining the Program Site Blog and Facebook Page; arranging for team visits with city officials and inviting local media to attend; and sending newspaper articles, videos, etc. to the Office for posting on the IUHPFL website.

**ONSITE COORDINATORS**
Onsite Coordinators (OSCs) play a vital role in the success of each program site. They are individuals who live in the host city year-round and who are contracted with IUHPFL from January through August. Most of the OSCs have worked with IUHPFL for several years and in some cases decades. All of them are dedicated and caring people, who do a tremendous amount of work on behalf of our students and instructors.

The primary responsibilities of the Onsite Coordinators involve:
- Finding, vetting, and training qualified host families
- Training students and instructors in onsite emergency procedures
- Arranging for transportation and accommodations within the host city and while on excursions
- Organizing special events with the team, such as meetings with city officials
- Being present every day to answer questions and lend support to the team during the program
- Facilitating any necessary host family changes

THE HOST FAMILY EXPERIENCE

A student’s host family contributes greatly to both linguistic progress as well as cultural assimilation. Students should spend as much time with their host family as their schedule allows and endeavor to form friendships with them that could last a lifetime. Students are also encouraged to show gratitude and appreciation daily for being welcome in their home.

Students need to be aware that gratitude takes different forms in other countries; in some cultures, it may be more appropriate to give small tokens of appreciation (flowers or chocolates), while in other cultures, words and verbal communication are more appropriate. It may prove particularly challenging for IUHPFL students who are more introverted to express their appreciation verbally; such students should try to step out of their comfort zones and express appreciation to their host families to the best of their ability; doing so will make their experience and relationships better and more enjoyable in the long run.

How Host Families are Selected and Matched with Students

All host families are carefully vetted by the IUHPFL Onsite Coordinator (OSC), including interviews and personal visits to each home. IUHPFL strives to find suitable host families who wish to invite a US student into their home as a member of the family.

Host families receive a stipend for food and utility costs incurred while hosting the students, but the motivation for being a host family should never be monetary. If a family does not show genuine care and concern for their student/s, then the student/s need to inform their instructors right away.

Through the OSC, host families receive general information about IUHPFL, including the Honor Code, Strategies for Hosting Language Learners, and the IUHPFL Property and Liability Policy. They also receive their student’s Personal Information Form and sign a Host Family Agreement, which outlines their responsibilities as an IUHPFL host family.
The Personal Information Form (PIF), which is submitted to the IUHPFL Office as a part of the Acceptance Materials, lists the student’s food, smoke and pet preferences, hobbies and other interests, as well as any medications the student is taking. The PIF is the primary tool the OSC and office team use to match a student with a host family. Students’ needs, allergies, and interests are always taken into account, however students and guardians should understand that the program cannot meet all requests.

Students’ Statement of Medical History, also part of the Acceptance Materials, provides valuable, sometimes lifesaving information about the student. It is safeguarded onsite by the instructor team and is only shared with a host family on a need-to-know basis.

**Getting to Know Your Host Family**

Ideally, all students will have started corresponding with their host families before traveling abroad. In many cases, students will not hear from their host family until right before departure. Students will receive their host family placement via e-mail from the IUHPFL Office by late April or the beginning part of May, depending on the program site. Sometimes matches are finalized even a bit later in May; this is all a normal part of the matching process.

**Note:** It is very important for students and guardians NOT to share host families’ contact information with the public via social media, email or otherwise. This information is to be kept confidential and not given to even the friends or family members of the student.

**Tip:** It is appropriate to bring the host family a small gift upon arriving to their home, perhaps memorabilia from the student’s hometown or a product unique to Indiana. Additionally, it is appropriate to thank them periodically throughout the program with flowers or chocolates, as well as leave them a parting gift before returning to the US. Gift ideas and appropriate ways of expressing gratitude can discussed further with instructors at Orientation or onsite. Do not feel pressured to give expensive gifts; the sentiment behind the gift is truly of greater importance than the gift itself.

**Tip:** In addition to a small gift, the program suggests that each student prepare a "conversation piece" for the first few days after arrival; perhaps a lightweight album or scrapbook, containing photos, postcards and newspaper clippings of the student’s family, town or school. Be creative and ask your US friends and family to help you!
Becoming a Part of a Family Abroad

While being a part of the family implies feeling comfortable in the host family's home, it also implies participating in household activities and chores as any other member of the family would. Students are asked to make their best effort to communicate well with their host family and to be courteous and respectful during the stay at their home.

Upon arrival at the host family’s home, the student’s host family should discuss the rules of the house. In the off-chance a family does not discuss house rules, students should ask about the ground rules of the house to avoid potential misunderstandings. It is important to consider that the rules of the host family may differ greatly from those of the US family. Students should always ask permission for favors or privileges, including visits to the refrigerator or making local telephone calls, which can be quite expensive.

Tip: In order to facilitate communication onsite during the early stages of the program, it is recommended that students make a list of key words and phrases in the target language and practice them often before Departure Day. Household items, as well as phrases like, “I’m tired”, “Can you please repeat that?” “Thank you, I appreciate it”, etc. can be very helpful in easing initial conversation with the host family.

Students spend weekday evenings and the majority of their weekends with their host families. It is therefore important to cultivate a relationship with each member of the host family. Good relationships with the host family will take time, patience and a concerted effort to build, but the more care students put into developing good relationships with their host families, the more benefits they will reap!

Students’ Minimum Expectations for Host Families

Above all, students should remember that host families come in all shapes and sizes. Some host parents will be young, some older. Some might be single or widowed. Some families may live on the outskirts of town, or even in the countryside. In many families, both parents work outside the home.

Although host families and the “perks” students might gain from their host family experience can vary greatly, students should expect the following minimum criteria from their hosts:

- Privacy while dressing and bathing
- Safety in the presence of all family members and guests in the home
• A separate bed or couch on which to sleep
• A private bedroom or sleeping space OR sharing a room with a family member of the same gender and approximately the same age
• Ample and nutritious meals and snacks
• Eating with family members as often as possible
• Feeling welcome and included; having companionship
• Cleanliness of the home within reasonable standards
• Treated with kindness, patience, and encouragement by all family members and guests in the home
• Respect for and adherence to the Honor Code by all members of the host family
• Accuracy provided by host family on the Host Family Information Form regarding the accommodations provided, family members living in the home, pets, smoking, etc.

If a student feels that these minimum expectations of his or her host family are not being met, he or she should speak with an instructor immediately. Instructors, particularly the one who is acting as the Student Coordinator, will then tactfully assess the situation and give any needed support to the student with assistance and guidance from the Onsite Coordinator.

Host Family Challenges
While most host family experiences are positive, some incompatibilities between a student and host family might arise. Students are asked to follow the protocol outlined below if they experience difficulties with their host family:

• Consider filling out and submitting to the instructor team a Host Family Inventory Form. This form will be available in hard copy to the student by the Instructor Team and is meant to guide the student’s thoughts regarding the issue(s) he/she may be having with his/her host family, what measures have already been taken to improve the situation and what course of action should be taken next.
• Discuss the issue with the host family. The host family will appreciate the student’s honesty and attempt to communicate openly with them.
• 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; they are the student’s advocates during the
program and can be trusted to always have the student’s best interest at heart. Students can seek the help of the instructor acting as Student Coordinator or any instructor with whom they feel comfortable. If necessary, an instructor or Onsite Coordinator can visit with the student and host family to help mediate the situation.

**Note:** Onsite Coordinators must be informed of any and all difficulties or issues between students and host families, since they are responsible for selecting the host families. They know the host families well and can be very valuable in helping to settle conflicts and misunderstandings.

A student who has difficulties with a host family, should communicate with their instructors before telling their US family and friends. Whereas instructors and Onsite Coordinators can help resolve host family situations, friends and family back home cannot. As much as possible, try to save your loved ones from excessive worry by waiting until a solution is underway before telling them about issues onsite. US families will receive weekly updates regarding the health and well-being of their students via the program site blog and during the students’ one-hour-per-week Internet time, and serious matters will be addressed with US guardians immediately.

**Note:** In false or legitimate cases where a host family says that a student has done damage to their property or personal belongings, it is important for students and guardians to be aware of the IUHPFL Property and Liability Policy, which is provided as an appendix to this handbook. This protocol must be followed with guidance from the instructors and Onsite Coordinator.

**IUHPFL Policy Regarding Host Family Changes**

*Host family changes happen rather infrequently, but they do happen and for a variety of reasons.*

Should a student face difficulties with their host family, they are asked to follow the previously outlined protocol. If after talking with their host family directly and after seeking out the help (and possible mediation) of the instructor team and/or Onsite Coordinator, 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, instructors, Onsite Coordinator, and host family).
Grounds for host family changes can include (but are not limited to):

- Student’s physical health or well-being is in jeopardy
- Severe incompatibility of personalities (between student and host family)
- Severe incompatibility of personalities (between two IUHPFL roommates)
- Severe lack of communication between the student and family
- Host family’s lack of time to accommodate student (i.e., student spends most of his/her free time, meals, etc. alone)
- Host family’s failure to comply with the Host Family Agreement or adhere to the IUHPFL Honor Code
- Inappropriate behavior of host family members towards student or vice versa
- Host family providing inaccurate information regarding the accommodations, who is living in the home, smoking, etc. on the Host Family Information Form.

**Note:** 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. Therefore, IUHPFL strongly encourages students to spend at least a week (i.e., enough time to follow the previously outlined protocol) with their host family before making the request to explore a host family change.

In the event that a permanent host family change is necessary, at least one instructor and the Onsite Coordinator will mediate the situation and help the student to move to a new family. Instructors will provide the Office with a completed Host Family Change Form, which will give the contact information of the new family, and the Office will forward this form to the US guardians as soon as possible, along with details of the situation.

**Important Note:** In very rare cases when a host family says that they no longer wish to accommodate a student, for any reason, the student will be moved to another family immediately and with help from the instructors and the Onsite Coordinator.

Occasionally, circumstances can arise for a host family that require the student be temporarily relocated to another home. For example, if an out-of-town relative of the host family passes away and the host family needs to travel to attend the funeral, arrangements will be made for the student to live with another IUHPFL student and host family during that time. In the event that any student is temporarily
relocated, IUHPFL instructors will inform all parties (the IUHPFL Office, the student's US family, etc.) of such arrangements.

**Making the Most of the Host Family Experience**

To make the most of any host family experience – positive or challenging - students should:

- Always be respectful
- Have a kind and helpful attitude
- Express appreciation to the host family
- Inquire about expectations and help with household chores
- Keep your space clean
- Have an open mind to assimilating to the new family’s way of life
- Be willing to try new foods and show when you enjoy what they serve you
- Be open to communicating daily with the host family
- Make their best effort to adapt
- Ask lots and lots of questions, both to clarify any information that is not clear and to show interest
- Be an outstanding representative of your school, family, and country!

**Remember:** The more effort you put into getting to know your host family and maintaining a positive attitude, the more you will get out of the Host Family Experience!

**GOAL SETTING AND TEAMBUILDING**

The IUHPFL experience is a journey that requires each student to set personal and academic goals for their time abroad. Regardless of a student’s language proficiency or international activities prior to the program, there are several other skill sets that the program will encourage students to finetune, and this can be challenging for even the most linguistically advanced and travel savvy student.

In addition to personal goals, each program site team will work together to set and reach collective goals. IUHPFL stresses that while students are ultimately responsible for the degree to which they will personally benefit from the program, they are each also responsible for supporting the growth and encouraging the success of their peers and their team.

IUHPFL encourages students to set S.M.A.R.T. Goals (Strategic, Measurable, Action-Oriented, Realistic, and Timebound). You can
find more information about this model online and in the IUHPFL Teambuilding Guide, which is available on our website.

Teambuilding is a core component of our program, and instructors will implement various activities during the Student/Guardian Orientation and throughout the program to enhance team cohesiveness.

Keeping in mind the 8 Core Values of IUHPFL is always a good idea, because they help individuals and teams be the best they can be:

- **Appreciation**: Acknowledging the qualities and kind acts of others
- **Diligence**: Focusing with enthusiasm on academic and personal goals
- **Discovery**: Being open to new ways of looking at the world and oneself
- **Empathy**: Choosing words and actions that express compassion and create connection
- **Encouragement**: Helping others to reach their goals and see their unique talents
- **Honor**: Acting with integrity and adhering to the IUHPFL Honor Code
- **Respect**: Treating others with dignity at all times
- **Unity**: Fostering team spirit and trust

**IUHPFL STUDENT MANAGEMENT**

In addition to having expertise in educating and mentoring youth, IUHPFL instructors genuinely enjoy spending time with students and encouraging them to reach their academic and personal goals. Program wide, instructors, Onsite Coordinators, and host families embrace an Authoritative Management Style that provides firm but kind guidance to the students, seeks their contributions, and honors their opinions and perspectives.
STUDENT GRADES AND ASSESSMENT

As mentioned, IUHPFL instructors are professional language educators, who have broad experience teaching and working with adolescent students. They are entirely qualified to accurately assess students’ linguistic and academic progress, as well as their personal development and acculturation throughout the program.

IUHPFL emphasizes and values the unique talents and gifts of each student. Whereas some students are athletic, others prefer not to engage in sports. Some students are gifted musicians or artists, while others are writers or enjoy focusing on academics. Some students are outgoing, while others prefer to observe and participate quietly. All kinds of skills and personalities are required to form a successful team, and no student’s attributes will go unnoticed or unappreciated in our programs.

Course Grades

Students will receive a letter grade in each of their classes, which will take into consideration attitude, effort, and improvement. Students
will also meet with their instructors to discuss progress throughout the duration of the program. Instructors are eager to encourage and help students to succeed and give guidance that is constructive and useful.

**Assessment of Afternoon Activities and Community Engagement**

These activities are designed to allow each and every student to contribute and shine in their own unique way. Students are assessed based on their attitude and willingness to participate to the **best of their ability**; they do not receive letter grades for these activities. Students are not expected to be athletically or musically inclined, for example. The goal is for each student to find a way to participate that they enjoy and that benefits the overall team experience.

**Final Student Evaluation**

Students receive their IUHPFL Final Student Evaluation by regular mail in early fall, **after they have completed the Student Exit Survey online**. This evaluation is also sent to the student’s language teacher.

The instructors complete this evaluation, which indicates the student’s performance in their coursework, as well as their attitude and participation in Afternoon Activities, Community Engagement Activities, and overall success in the program. The Final Student Evaluation also allows instructors to comment on the students’ success in adhering to the Honor Code and to determine whether or not the student has earned the IUHPFL Award of Excellence. The student’s scores on the linguistic progress test administered at the beginning and end of the program are also included.

**Important Note:** A student who has completed at least half of the program before having to return early to the U.S. for any reason, will receive their Final Student Evaluation. If a student leaves during the first half of the program, he or she will not receive the Final Student Evaluation.

**IUHPFL Diploma**

Students who participate to the best of their ability during the entire program receive the IUHPFL Diploma along with their Final Evaluation.

**IUHPFL Award of Excellence**

Students who meet the following criteria, earn IUHPFL Award of Excellence:
- A **combined grade** of B+ or higher in all classes, taking into account attitude, effort and improvement
- Participating to the best of their ability and with a good attitude in Afternoon Activities and Community Engagement Activities
- Adhering to the IUHPFL Honor Code and receiving not a single Incident Report.

**Certificate of Participation**
Any student who participates to the best of his or her ability but must leave the program due to circumstances beyond his or her control will receive the Certificate of Participation.

**Note:** Students who are expelled from the program due to egregious or defiant behaviors, will not receive the IUHPFL Diploma, the Award of Excellence, or the Certificate of Participation.

**PROGRAM EVALUATIONS**
Students, instructors, and host families participate in various evaluations to help identify potential areas of student and program improvement.

**Evaluations Overview**
Each of the following evaluations is administered once, sometimes twice, during the program. In all cases, evaluators are asked to be fair, encouraging, and respectful in their evaluations of others.

- **Evaluations of Students by Instructors** provide instructors with an opportunity to praise students for their progress in goal setting and achievement, as well as to give constructive and helpful feedback on how to improve in specific areas.
- **Evaluations of Instructors by Students** provide students with a chance to comment on the courses, materials and specific methods and approaches to teaching the various subjects.
- **Students’ Self-Evaluations** offer students important opportunities to reflect upon their IUHPFL experience at different stages of the program and to assess their own progress in working toward personal and collective goals. They also allow them to identify their own strengths and areas for improvement on topics related to their academic progress, adherence to the Honor Code, participation in activities, and overall performance within the program.
• **Evaluation of Students by Host Families** allows host families to express praise and appreciation, as well as any concerns, for the students under their care.

• **Evaluation of Host Families by Students** allows students to discreetly communicate their likes, dislikes, questions and concerns about their Host Family Experience to their instructors.

• **The Host Family Survey** allows host families to comment on their overall impressions of the program, its staff, policies and procedures. Results of this survey are compiled and shared with the Onsite Coordinators by the IUHPFL Office.

• **The Student Exit Survey** is completed online by students after the program and allows them to evaluate all facets of their IUHPFL experience: instructors, courses, materials, excursions, host families, Student/Guardian Orientation, IUHPFL Office support, and so on. **Students must complete this survey before they can receive the IUHPFL Diploma, Award of Excellence (if applicable), program site magazine, and their Final Student Evaluation via mail.**

**LANGUAGE COMMITMENT & COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**

Students have very limited communication with their US family and friends for the duration of the program and they must speak only in the target language 100% of their time abroad. While these rules and guidelines can seem difficult and sometimes challenging to follow, their purpose is to ensure success for the student. IUHPFL provides a unique, time-tested immersion experience that will significantly increase a student’s language proficiency, create lifelong friendships, and instill the skills and confidence to succeed in a complex global economy.

**Students and guardians are asked to remember the desired OUTCOMES of IUHPFL for each and every student participant:**

- Greatly improved language proficiency
- Desire to continue studying the language and culture
- Ability to see commonalities between diverse people
- Self-confidence and independence
- Stronger interpersonal skills
- Strategies for problem solving
- Creative thinking and expression
- Clearer vision of their future studies and careers
- Positive relationships with peers, host families, and instructors
- Seeing themselves as global citizens

In order for students to achieve these outcomes, it is essential to respect and follow all rules and guidelines and to adhere to the...
Language Commitment, which is one of the 3 Pillars of IUHPFL and part of the Honor Code, as well. You’ll be extremely proud of yourself after the program, because you’ll see the results!

**IUHPFL Language Commitment**
The Language Commitment is one of the 3 Pillars that make IUHPFL a unique and effective program for language learners and applies to each and every program participant, without exception. It is taken seriously by every instructor and Onsite Coordinator and stressed to all host parents. The student’s commitment to speak only the target language during the program, except in cases of emergency, is key to his or her success. This means that no music or books in English are allowed during the program, with the exception of this handbook, which students should take abroad for quick reference. See the IUHPFL Honor Code at the end of this handbook and on our website for more information about the Language Commitment.

**Phone Communication**
The Honor Code indicates that phone communication is limited to one 5 to 10 minute call to the student’s guardians within the first 3 to 7 days after their arrival at the program site. From that point on, calls to the US are to be made only in emergency situations and with permission from the instructor team.

**Internet Access**
Students are allowed to access the Internet for one hour per week from a computer onsite in order to communicate with friends and family in **written** English. No Skyping or speaking English is allowed. This hour can be taken in one 60-minute session or two 30-minute sessions; students will have a more successful assimilation process if they make contact with home just once or twice per week versus multiple times.

IUHPFL suggests that guardians respond to their students only once per week in order to encourage them to uphold the Language Commitment, to help curb homesickness, and to foster their student’s independence.

**Tip:** Students can make the most of their one-hour-per-week Internet time by posting to Facebook or a personal blog, rather than trying to send individual messages to each friend and family member.

**Note:** Please remember that not all host families may own a computer. Students may have to go to an Internet café to access the Internet. The
program instructors can provide suggestions for Internet access at cafés, computer labs, etc. at each program site.

Encouragement for Guardians

Until just a few years ago, communication limited itself naturally, because the Internet, inexpensive overseas phone calls, blogs, Skype and Facebook were unavailable. Now, in our technology-saturated society, it seems unthinkable not to be in touch at a moment’s notice. This is true for students as well as guardians. When entering a program such as IUHPFL, however, students and guardians must learn to trust the proven process of the program, one that has worked quite effectively since the program’s inception in 1962.

The limited access to communication with friends and family in the US serves to empower the students in several ways:

- They become immersed linguistically by relying less on the native language and more on the language of the host culture
- They become immersed culturally and learn new ways of seeing the world, other people, and themselves
- They are less inclined to be homesick, because they are able to focus on the present moment and enjoy their surroundings
- They learn to take control of their own well-being and to rely on their host families, instructors and peers, as needed.

In order for students to be successful in their IUHPFL experience, they need for their guardians to respect these communication restrictions and to support their full immersion while abroad. They need to feel empowered by the adults they love and admire!

While these restrictions on communication between students and guardians can be difficult for both, particularly if the student is having challenges onsite, it can help guardians to remember that, especially at the beginning of the program, students might feel safer expressing their worries, concerns and complaints to their guardians, rather than people in the host country. For this reason, guardians might be learning more about students’ negative feelings and experiences than the positive ones.

During times when a student seems sad or discouraged, it's extremely helpful when their guardians encourage them and remind them that challenges are a normal aspect of being abroad and an important part of their personal and academic growth. Oftentimes, just hearing that their loved ones at home believe in them and are cheering them on makes all the difference!
If student communication is uncharacteristically sparse or negative, however, and family members in the US are concerned, they are encouraged to contact the IUHPFL Office Team, who will then reach out to the instructors to assess the student’s state of well-being. The Office Team will report back to the guardians as soon as possible. In most cases, students experience no difficulties and enjoy themselves thoroughly.

**Flow of Communication between All IUHPFL Parties**

Instructors, guardians and students should all be familiar with how communication should flow between IUHPFL parties, which include the IUHPFL Office, US Families, Students, Host Families, Onsite Coordinators, and Instructors.

Please refer to these guidelines frequently during the program to understand expectations for communication between parties:

- **Students, Instructors and Host Families** are in communication with each other at all times. These constitute the primary support network for students.
- **The IUHPFL Office, Onsite Coordinator, and US Family** provide only marginal and crisis support for the students during the program.
- If the student should experience difficulties of any kind during the program, they should first reach out to those they trust within their immediate onsite support system: Instructors, Program Peers, and Host Family.
- **The IUHPFL Office** acts as a conduit for communication between the US Family and the Instructors. As instructors are typically very busy during the program, the Office seeks to find quick solutions and to ease concerns for all parties. Guardians should not attempt to contact instructors directly.
- **The program site’s blog** provides weekly and direct communication to US Families from the instructors. Guardians and loved ones are encouraged to visit the blog often to see photos and to read about the team’s activities and excursions.
- **The Managing Director and Program Coordinator** are in contact with instructor teams and Onsite Coordinators at each site on a daily or at least weekly basis.

**Communication during Urgent or Emergency Situations**

If there is an emergency or urgent situation onsite, the instructors and/or Onsite Coordinator will immediately reach out to the
Managing Director via cell phone or email, which can be accessed from a cell phone. The Managing Director will then contact the US Family.

The US Family can likewise call or email the Managing Director during times of crisis or emergency. For less urgent matters, please call or email the Office during normal business hours. Contact information is provided at the beginning of this handbook.

**Communication: Infractions against the IUHPFL Honor Code**

The Honor Code is an integral part of the program, and students are expected to follow its stipulations at all times. Upon acceptance into the program, the student agrees to follow the Honor Code and his/her guardian agrees to support him/her in doing so, as well as support the instructor team’s reinforcement of the Honor Code. Students are also expected to hold one another accountable in adhering to the Code.

If the student receives an Incident Report for not adhering to the Honor Code, guardians will be contacted by the Office during the next business day. Once an Incident Report is received the student is no longer eligible for the IUHPFL Award of Excellence. Egregious or repeated infractions will likely result in the student’s expulsion from the program and early return to the US. The student will be accompanied to the international airport by an IUHPFL Instructor.

**Note: Per the Payment Schedule & Terms Agreement that guardians sign, if a student is expelled from the program, no fees or costs will be refunded and the student and guardian are expected to cover any expenses related to accompanying the student to the international airport and flying him or her to his or her home in the US as soon as possible.**

**HONOR CODE INFRACTIONS AND DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL**

It is important for students and guardians to understand that, while IUHPFL is a challenging program with high expectations of its participants and program outcomes, we also provide students with the tools and a strong support system, so they can succeed. Students are invited to participate in the program, precisely because instructors and administrative staff alike have determined that they have the skills and qualities required a) to benefit greatly from all that the program has to offer, b) to strengthen and support their teammates and c) to be an enjoyable and helpful guest for their host family.
Instructors and host families understand that their primary role in the program is to mentor and coach students and to give them encouragement and praise as often as possible. They enjoy this role immensely and want students to succeed in every facet of the program. They take pride in the fact that students return home with wonderful memories and stories to share, increased language and cultural proficiency, a deeper sense of self-confidence, broader horizons for their future plans, and friendships that will last for years to come!

It is also the responsibility of the instructors to determine suitable disciplinary actions when students engage in behaviors that **blatantly defy** the IUHPFL Honor Code, and this is not a responsibility that any instructor enjoys. In these cases where a student’s actions are **deliberate, repeated and/or openly disrespectful**, the following protocol will be applied by the instructors, with the awareness of the US guardian/s.

**Step 1 - Behavior Action Plan, which will include:**
- Specifics of the misconduct, including the instructors’ and the student’s points of view
- Concrete suggestions for eliminating the behavior
- Ways in which the instructor team will support and encourage the student’s growth and success in completing the requirements of the plan
- At least 3 actions that the student will undertake to rectify or compensate for the behavior, possibly involving community service
- A date by which these actions will be completed
- A reward for completing the plan successfully
- Consequences that will be carried out if not completed successfully, including an Incident Report
- The instructors’ and student’s signatures

The plan will be shared with the Managing Director, the US family, and possibly the Host Family.

**Step 2 - Issuing an Incident Report**
- If the student does not successfully complete the Behavior Action Plan and/or continues with the same type of misconduct against the Honor Code, an Incident Report will be issued.
- At this point, the student cannot receive the IUHPFL Award of Excellence at the end of the program.
• The US family and the Managing Director receive a copy of the Incident Report.

**Step 3 - Student is Sent Home**
• For cases involving ongoing, dangerous or egregious acts that violate the Honor Code and affect the well-being and safety of any one individual or the group and (in most cases) after the steps above have been taken and failed, the only option remaining is to send the student home to his or her US family.
• This measure should not be taken lightly and should be discussed with and condoned by the Managing Director, who will inform the US family and make arrangements for the student’s flight back to the US.
• All expenses related to the student’s early dismissal from the program (expulsion) must be paid by the student’s guardians as stated in the Payment Schedule and Terms Agreement signed by students and guardians prior to departure.
• At this point, the student will not receive the IUHPFL Diploma for completion of the program.

**Important Note:** Although instructors prefer and will always try to follow the above protocol, extreme cases might require that the student be expelled from the program and sent home immediately. The instructors, in consultation with the Onsite Coordinator and with approval from the Managing Director, reserve the right to send a student home to his or her US Family at any point during or to the exclusion of the above protocol, if they determine that the student’s actions or behavior pose an immediate threat to him or herself, another person, or the integrity of the program.

**MANAGING MONEY ABROAD**
With respect to managing money abroad, a few general suggestions follow. Instructor teams will have additional suggestions for their individual program sites at the Student/Guardian Orientation.

• **A Debit Card with SECURITY CHIP and four-digit PIN** is necessary to allow students to withdraw money directly from a US checking account at an ATM. This option is fast and convenient and typically offers a good exchange rate. It also allows guardians to provide spending money to students gradually, which can help them to budget while abroad.
Students should use their card at least once before leaving the US and search online or ask at the bank for information on overseas ATM fees, as well as limits on a single withdrawal or the number of withdrawals allowed in a 24-hour period, etc.

ATMs are plentiful throughout all of the host countries, but students need to be sure their particular debit card/bank affiliation will be recognized by ATMs abroad. Talk to your bank to learn about their partners and affiliates in the host country and ask if they participate in one of the “global ATM alliances”. Major banks, like Bank One, Barclays, and Deutsche Bank, are members of large financial networks that allow account holders to use ATM’s worldwide without high withdrawal fees.

- A Credit Card with SECURITY CHIP and four-digit PIN is a good idea for unexpected costs such as visits to hospitals or clinics. These also permit cash advances, if necessary, although fees and high interest can apply. VISA and MasterCard are widely used throughout the world, but Amerian Express, Traveler’s Checks, and Discover are NOT and should be avoided.

Important Reminder: Be sure to tell your bank and your credit card companies the dates when these cards will be used abroad and where they will be used. Otherwise, there is a strong possibility that they will block purchases and disable the cards as a security measure against identity theft.

More useful tips on currency exchange and managing money abroad:

- IUHPL recommends exchanging $50-$100 USD for host country currency before departure. This way, students arrive in the host country with the ability to buy snacks and incidentals right away. Instructors and students will locate convenient and low-fee ATM’s during the first few days onsite, as they tour the host city together.

- Students and guardians can plan ahead and order host country currency from a local bank in their town. While it is certainly possible to exchange currency at any international airport, you must arrive with plenty of time to do so and still be able to meet the rest of the team at the check-in counter at the scheduled time. Planning ahead is key to acquiring needed currency before boarding the international flight.
• Students should avoid taking US dollars to exchange at banks abroad. Again, students will not likely get a good exchange rate, and they will need to be physically present at a bank, which will not be possible due to their scheduled classes and afternoon activities.

• Students and guardians should come to an agreement on how much spending money is reasonable for the duration of the program. Each family’s unique financial circumstances should dictate the student’s travel budget. Generally speaking an equivalent of $50-$100 per week provides sufficient spending money; some weeks students will spend less than $50, other weeks they might spend more than $100, especially while on excursions.

• Students should be prepared to purchase 4 of their own meals during the program at an equivalent of $10-$15 per meal. Sometimes when the team is traveling together, it isn’t possible for everyone to eat at the same location. Students will divide into small groups and eat at venues within close proximity. Other than these occasions, all meals and snacks are provided to students and included in the cost of the program.

• Using a debit card or credit card abroad to make purchases will involve additional fees every time, thereby using up a student’s spending money at a rapid pace. The best approach is to use the debit card to withdraw money at ATMs and the credit card for emergencies. Withdrawing money from an ATM will most often incur some fees, as well, so the trick is to know how much to withdraw at one time. Find that comfort zone between having the funds you need for a few days and not having too much money on hand, in case of theft or loss.

• Students should not commit themselves to buying a souvenir for every friend and relative. A good alternative to buying gifts for friends and relatives would be sending them postcards from the host country, as postage abroad is fairly inexpensive in comparison to buying souvenirs.
  o Additionally, large souvenirs and gifts require the purchase of more luggage, which can be quite expensive.
  o If you pack a large canvas bag, as recommended, it can be used to carry a few small gifts and souvenirs back to the US.
Important Note: Under no circumstances are instructors, Onsite Coordinators or the student’s host family permitted to lend money to the student — for purchases large or small, emergency or non-emergency. It is for this reason that we recommend students arrive abroad with at least some local currency, and that all participants have their own credit card while abroad for emergencies.

Financial Issues, Banking Problems
Although increasingly less common, occasionally a student might experience problems accessing funds from their bank accounts. This may be due to a number of different reasons, including faulty ATM machines, wrong PIN numbers, trying to withdraw more money than the bank limit allows, etc. In a cases like this, instructors will help the student to locate another ATM or contact their guardians or banks in a timely fashion.

Again, having both a debit card and a credit card, as well as a small amount of currency on-hand at all times provides the student with options and prevents situations where they are without a means to make purchases onsite.

MEDICAL INFORMATION AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Medical History
Living abroad creates emotional and physical stress and may exacerbate pre-existing conditions, requiring adjustments to changes in climate, diet, exercise and living conditions. Therefore, accurate and up-to-date information on the student’s Statement of Medical History is essential to the student’s health and safety, helping the program to acquire the appropriate assistance for a student in case of an accident or illness.

Language barriers, incomplete medical records, and undisclosed medical conditions can delay treatment and threaten a student’s health abroad. For the student’s own well-being, students are encouraged to provide current and complete information about medications they take, drug allergies, and chronic or recurring physical and psychological conditions, including eating disorders, depression and anxiety. To ensure accuracy, students and guardians should inform the IUHPFL Office of any significant changes to the Statement of Medical History before departure.

Students who are currently under medical or psychological care should talk frankly to their physician and/or counselor about the
support they might need abroad and relay that information to the IUHPFL Office. In most cases, the program can accommodate a student’s needs, but only if these needs are known.

For more information on health abroad, visit the websites for the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization:

www.cdc.gov/
www.who.int/en/

**Different Abilities**

The passage of legislation such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act has spurred schools in the US to accommodate students with varying abilities. Other countries are not bound by US legislation, of course, and physical facilities and academic resources vary significantly from one overseas site to another.

The IUHPFL complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) and engages in the interactive process required by the ADA to provide reasonable accommodations for eligible students. The first step in this process is disclosure and documentation on the part of the student of a disabling condition(s), e.g. physical, learning, etc. If you anticipate needing disability-related accommodations at your overseas site, submit documentation to the IUHPFL confirming the disability and including information about accommodations you might need, as well as any details relevant to your request for accommodation(s) abroad. If a student chooses not to disclose disability-related needs prior to the program, the IUHPFL will not be able to assist in arranging reasonable accommodations.

**Medications Abroad**

Students who currently take medications should talk to their physician or about arrangements for continuing the medications abroad. Students should make sure to take the amount of medication they will need for the entire five or six weeks. If this is not a possibility, students should ask their physician to provide a typed prescription with the *generic name of the medication* (not the commercial name) clearly indicated in order for adequate supplies to be filled while abroad. **Students should not alter their medication—type, dosage, or frequency of dosage—during the program.** Any medications carried overseas should be left in their original containers and clearly labeled. Students should also carry a letter
from their physician describing the medical condition and any prescription medications, including the **generic name** of each medication.

**Travel Insurance**

Included in the Program Fees paid by students and guardians is the premium for health, medical and emergency evacuation insurance coverage. Students in Austria, China, France, and Spain are insured by HTH Worldwide Insurance Services during the program dates. Students in Mexico and Chile are likewise covered through CISI (Cultural Insurance Services International).

Information on the coverage provided by HTH and CISI is provided during the Student/Guardian Orientation.

Should a student become ill while abroad, he or she should not hesitate to see a physician. At all program sites, highly skilled physicians are available to provide excellent care. Either a host family member or instructor will accompany the student to the clinic or hospital. At least one instructor will be present with the student shortly after he or she arrives at the facility, if the student was escorted there by a host family member.

Onsite Coordinators are aware of all clinics and hospitals in the host city and make recommendations to students, instructors, and host families based on the quality, type, and cost of service. Whenever possible, OSCs seek facilities that are already partnered with either HTH or CISI Insurance, in order to save students and their guardians from paying for medical care out-of-pocket. If an arrangement does not exist between the facility and the insurance provider, the student will need to arrange up-front payment with their guardians, who can then submit the following to the insurance provider for reimbursement:

- A claim form (instructors have access to these)
- A description from the doctor of the condition and treatment
- An **itemized** bill from the hospital or clinic; it MUST be itemized
- Copies of all prescriptions
- Copies of all receipts for payments made

**Note:** It is critical to submit complete and clear records, bills, and receipts to the insurance provider for reimbursement. Otherwise, processing can be lengthy or simply not be granted by the insurance provider.
Note: Per Indiana University policy, the IUHPFL Office, Instructors, Onsite Coordinators, and host families cannot pay for a student’s medical costs or sign any promissory note for payment on behalf of the student or US family.

In rare cases, should care beyond the extensive coverage of HTH or CISI be needed for the student, guardians need to be informed of their family insurance coverage and the provisions for health and medical care available to the student while abroad. Students will want to carry an identification card or other documentation from their insurance company as proof of coverage.

Students who plan to spend some time abroad after the program may need to purchase supplemental medical insurance to cover the additional time. Students are only insured by HTH or CISI for the duration of their specific program dates.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ABROAD

The IUHPFL Office, instructors and Onsite Coordinators are careful to protect students’ health and safety overseas, but students must ultimately take responsibility for the consequences of their decisions, choices and behavior. Students and guardians are encouraged to read this section carefully and to be aware of how they can help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer abroad.

How IUHPFL works to ensure student safety and well-being:

- High qualified and well-informed Onsite Coordinators and host families
- Careful selection and extensive training of instructors
- At least one instructor per site is CPR and First Aid certified
- A well-stocked first-aid kit travels with students at all times
- Travel Insurance for every student
- A licensed therapist or counselor is aware of our students and available at every program site
- Identification of high-quality health and medical facilities at every site
- IUHPFL registers all program participants who are US citizens at the respective US Embassies in each host country
- Careful adherence to Indiana University student safety and study abroad procedures

Note: While the IUHPFL Office can provide information about health and safety issues and crisis management, not all study abroad risks
can be avoided nor can it be ensured that US standards of due process will be applied in legal proceedings outside the US. It is also important to note that due to the fact that IUHPFL is a program for minors, not all student crises can be revealed to the larger group of students and guardians; confidentiality and privacy laws must be respected.

**First steps:**
- Be sure to read the IUHPFL Honor Code thoroughly to understand how it is intended to keep students safe during the program. It is provided at length at the end of this handbook.
- Before the program, students should consider any special conditions or needs of the student and be sure to disclose these to the Office right away, so reasonable accommodations can be made.
- Guardians and students are also encouraged to consult the US Department of State website for Consular Information Sheets and Travel Alerts or Warnings, and the Centers for Disease Control website:
  - [http://travel.state.gov/](http://travel.state.gov/)
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

**Emotional Health**
Students are likely to experience some form of culture shock during their time abroad, but this should not be confused with a real emotional crisis. If a student feels withdrawn or detached and cannot cope with the environment, he or she needs to talk with an instructor right away. If necessary, the student can see the licensed therapist or counselor onsite.

**Public Disturbances and Protests**
Students should keep a low profile during political events abroad that may be anti-American in nature. At such times, places that attract Americans should be avoided. Students should dress to fit in with the local culture and be wary of unattended packages or backpacks in public places like subways, trains and buses and report such unclaimed objects to a local authority.

In the event of public disturbances abroad—including violent demonstrations, terrorist acts and natural disasters—the Instructors and Onsite Coordinator will immediately contact all students and their host families about the appropriate protocol. If such an event occurs, the IUHPFL Office will send an email to all US families, informing
them of the students’ safety and whereabouts. If possible, students will also be allowed to contact their guardians, once they are out of harm’s way.

Sexual Harassment
If a student feels like he or she is a victim of sexual harassment, it is essential to speak with the instructors immediately. They will help sort out the difference between unacceptable harassment and culturally typical behavior, which may be nonetheless uncomfortable, and they will know how to advocate for and protect the student’s interests in such situations.

Personal Safety
When traveling abroad most risks to tourists involve petty theft, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching. However, it is still important to take measures to prevent becoming a victim of a crime.

By following the IUHPFL Honor Code, students will be on the right path to maintaining personal safety. What follows is even more practical advice on how to be safe while in an unfamiliar environment anywhere and while abroad.

Consider the following:
- Always remain in groups of three or more, as per the IUHPFL Honor Code
- Take care of your teammates at all times, including telling instructors if one of them is at risk
- Wear clothing that helps you to blend in with your environment
- Do not draw attention to yourself as a non-resident
- Do not appear to be lost or wandering around
- At night, stay in a group and remain in well-lit areas
- Be cognizant of your surroundings at all times
- Never accept food or drink from a stranger
- Avoid areas where protests or demonstrations are taking place
- Do not carry large sums of cash on you and keep your valuables in a secured backpack close to your body
- Know local traffic patterns and pedestrian signs and move through city areas watchfully and with purpose
- Listen to your instructors, Onsite Coordinator and host parents at all times and understand that they care about you and wish to keep you safe and happy!
- Do not consume alcohol or illegal substances under any circumstances
Always be where you should be!

ASSIMILATING TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT

Consider what it means to be from the USA

Part of a student’s success abroad will depend on how well he or she has prepared for cultural adjustments and personal growth in the host culture.

Before a student can understand another culture, it is important to understand his or her own. What does it mean to be American? What characteristics, values and attitudes define American culture? What generalizations can the student make about American attitudes towards education, gender, family, money, politics, race, relationships, religion, success, time and work? How do American values affect attitudes toward others, friendship patterns, work habits, spending free time and money? How do Americans measure success in life? What role does tradition play in the U.S. culture? A clear understanding of what is characteristically “American” (and its many variations) will give students a better chance of appreciating similarities and differences in another culture.

Every student abroad is inevitably put in the position of having to explain (or even defend) the home country’s political or economic system or its stance on global issues. If a student begins to keep abreast of the US role in global activities now, s/he will be more articulate when questioned about US policies and reactions to world issues. In addition, students often report that they wish they had brushed up on such basics as how a bill becomes a law in the US, the names of the US Presidents, and other aspects of American history, as well as current foreign and domestic affairs, before going abroad. Students should remember, however, that they will not want to get into a hostile debate with questioners or automatically defend everything that is American. A student may want to think of some strategies for deflecting potentially hostile questions so that they lead to conversations in which everybody listens respectfully and everyone learns something new.

One useful point to consider and acknowledge when speaking with people from other countries about global politics: There is always more than one side to every issue, and access to complete and unbiased media coverage can be challenging, no matter where we are from. It’s okay to concede when you haven’t been following an issue or when you don’t know the answer to a question.
Learn about the Host Country
Students are encouraged to learn as much as possible about the country to which they are traveling, since understanding the culture will facilitate their adjustment to living there. Students are encouraged to research the host culture before departure.

Have Realistic Expectations
Students should take a personal inventory of their expectations. What does a student hope to get out of the experience overseas? Does s/he have any hidden or unspoken expectations? Students may want to identify their individual goals — linguistic, academic, personal and career. How can these be achieved? How can personal growth during this experience be measured?

Outlining goals now and keeping a journal abroad in the target language will help map both the inner and outer journeys. Indeed, daily writing, which attempts to interpret the cross-cultural meanings of the experiences, may be a powerful learning tool. Students will be exploring these topics in support groups and should be open to discussing them with peers and the instructor team.

Dress According to Norms of the Host Culture
Students should carefully consider how to dress. US students often comment that their clothing gives them away instantly as tourists. This can make them more vulnerable to derogatory remarks and as potential targets for petty thefts. While it shouldn’t be necessary to buy a new wardrobe for going abroad, students may want to wear clothing that fits in with the local culture.

UNDERSTANDING & RESPECTING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES
Students will adjust in many small ways over a period of time to the new culture, even though the familiar term “Culture Shock,” may indicate a jolting and immediate clash of values. While there are many differences between the US and the host country, the following are particularly significant.

Gender Roles
Both male and female students abroad will discover that growing up in the US has prepared them for different roles in society than the ones their contemporaries in other countries expect. Many events in recent decades have heightened US awareness of gender stereotypes, sexism, and the limitations of traditional male-female roles. However, it is not appropriate to suggest to friends in the host country that US
patterns would also be suitable for their culture. Instead, students may look at gender differences within the host culture from their historical and sociological perspectives and try to be understanding and flexible in their attitudes toward these differences.

**Sexual Orientation**

Just as traditional gender roles have been questioned in the US, we also have had extensive dialogue regarding sexual orientation. It should come as no surprise that distinct cultures approach the question of sexual orientation differently. For more information about sexual orientation and how it may be viewed abroad, the bibliography of international GLBT issues is available at:

http://www.rainbowsig.org/

**Religion**

Few countries have the religious diversity and pluralism found in the US and few have such a strong tradition of separation of church and state. As a result, students may be struck by the number of public holidays that are based on a religious calendar and the extent of public prayer and public religious ceremonies. Students may probe to understand the relationship between the external, ritual manifestations of religion and individual beliefs or the role of religion as a political element or an active social force. The instructor team and the Onsite Coordinator can be good resources for questions regarding religion in the host country.

**Ethnicity**

US citizens often identify strongly with their family’s cultural and ethnic heritage and refer to themselves as Asian-American, Italian-American, African-American or Hispanic-American. In other countries such ethnic differences are often overlooked, and US students report that for the first time they have been identified (and have identified themselves) as simply “American.” Sometimes, students might find that physical features that distinguish them from the host population may result in stares, comments or overt prejudice. Students will explore topics of ethnicity and self-identification in support groups.

**Culture Shock**

“Culture shock” is the term used to describe the disorientation that every student experiences to some degree when spending an extended period of time in a new culture. The common symptoms include homesickness, boredom, withdrawing from the culture by
spending excessive amounts of time alone or with other Americans, excessive sleeping, compulsive eating, irritability, stereotyping or hostile feelings toward locals, weepiness or even some psychosomatic illnesses (physical ailments that result from emotional or psychological stress). Although most students will inevitably experience some degree of culture shock, they certainly won’t have all these symptoms. One of the greatest ways to combat culture shock is to stay busy and active, which is one of the reasons why IUHPFL has established a consistent routine of classes, Afternoon Activities, and Excursions. Students will explore the topic of culture shock consistently in support groups.

The typical stages of Culture Shock are:

1. *Initial Euphoria*. On arrival in the new culture, everything seems wonderful and exciting, and students are struck with how similar people around the world can be.

2. *Irritation and Hostility*. The focus changes from the similarities between cultures to the differences, and the differences become irritating and frustrating. Small problems can seem like major catastrophes.

3. *Gradual Adjustment*. The crisis of adjustment passes. The new culture seems more familiar and the student moves more confidently within it. New friends are made. Students learn to interpret some of the subtle cultural cues.

4. *Adaptation and Biculturalism*. Students are able to function in two cultures with confidence. They are so well adapted to the new culture that returning to the US will provoke a “reverse culture shock.”

There are several ways students can minimize the impact of culture shock:

- Learn as much as they can about their host country before departure
- Keep an open mind
- Combine the best of your host country’s culture and life with all the good things in American culture. This “best of both worlds” approach will help get the most out of the full cultural immersion.
- Be flexible. There will be many surprises, and the more open a student remains to them, the more exciting and wonderful the experience will be.
RE-ENTRY: REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK

Expect to find your student changed in ways large and small upon return to the US. Coming home can represent a huge challenge to the student who has just spent time abroad in a country learning a language and culture that is not native to them. **Students and guardians alike should take as much time and thought into preparing for re-entry into the US as they spend preparing to leave for the host country.**

In particular, some struggles upon re-entry to the US might include:

- Speaking English
- Re-assimilating to the home culture
- Uncertainty of how to deal with increased maturity and independence
- Rollercoaster of emotions: mixed feelings of joy, elation, sadness, depression, being overwhelmed

Once students have adapted to life abroad, coming home will require readjustment to U.S. culture. Students will have to integrate what they learned abroad into their US lives. For many people, re-entry, or reverse culture shock, is more difficult and unexpected than initial culture shock. Most will cope with re-entry at various levels:

1. **Family:** Students may be expected to fit into the U.S. family, but find it difficult to communicate effectively because their families have not shared the international experiences. The family may have difficulty adjusting to the student’s new independence and changed values.

   **Strategies:** Students should try to share their experience with the family (photos, stories, etc.) and let them know how much they appreciate the chance to grow in new ways by studying and traveling overseas.

2. **Friends:** Students and their friends may no longer be as close. Students may need to be sensitive about discussing their experience with them. They may also miss their new friends they made abroad.

   **Strategies:** Students should ask and listen to what their longtime friends experienced in their absence and ask them for updates on local events. Trying to do new things together may get the relationship on a new footing. Students should maintain contact with other IUHPFL alumni.
3. **School:** Students are likely to look at their high school in a new light, and may miss being part of a close-knit group of American students.

   **Strategies:** Students may want to discuss the academic experience abroad with the counselor, especially if considering new career goals as a result of the experience abroad. Students should consider making contact with international students on the high school campus and volunteer to talk to students who plan to study abroad through IUHPFL, including seeking out other students in the community who have studied abroad.

4. **Country:** Aspects of the US may no longer be entirely to the student's liking and he or she might have the sense they no longer fit in. Students will probably evaluate ideas and events in the context of the broader cultural perspective acquired abroad.

   **Strategies:** Students should recognize that we all tend to look past the shortcomings of our home culture when we are away, and to criticize it on the basis of changed perceptions when we return. They may seek out other students interested in international and intercultural matters. Keeping up an interest in local and foreign news through newspapers, literature, music, friends may help.

5. **Self:** Students may have become accustomed to a level of activity and anticipation that the home high school and/or culture might not be able to match. It is natural to feel a little restless or a bit depressed for a while after the return.

   **Strategies:** Students typically require recuperation from the physical journey. They may want to think over the ways they have changed: Which of those are positive? What was learned? How have family and friends reacted to the new you? Keeping a journal may help formulate and evolve thoughts. Talking with other returning students may provide new social outlets and a chance to compare perceptions. It is also very helpful to begin planning for another international trip or study abroad adventure! IUHPFL is just the beginning!
AFTER THE PROGRAM

Whether a student is still attending or has graduated from high school at the time of their participation in IUHPFL, readjusting to life in the US will have its challenges and its rewards. IUHPFL values its alumni and hopes that each and every one will continue to find ways to stay connected to one another and the program overall. There are several opportunities and activities that you will want to be aware of after your program ends:

- Students will want to complete the Student Exit Survey online, which will allow them to express their impressions of the program, as well as particular aspects that they enjoyed or would like to see changed.

- Every fall, alums are invited to submit their photos and videos from the program to the IUHPFL Office for a contest. Contest winners receive special recognition and exhibition of their entries on the IUHPFL website, as well as our annual newsletter, The Polyglot Press!

- Alums who receive the Award of Excellence are encouraged to act as Alumni Ambassadors the following school year and help to give presentations in their schools and around the state to new potential participants.

- Every alum can act as a Class Ambassador and help to maintain their team’s Facebook page, organize ongoing reunions, and keep the Office updated with current contact information for their teammates.

- Alums who attend IU Bloomington can become organizing members of the IUHPFL Alumni Association, which is forming now and throughout the 2016-17 school year on the IUB campus. All alums will be informed of events that they can attend!
APPENDIX A:

STRATEGIES TO PREPARE FOR THE IUHPFL EXPERIENCE

New experiences and unfamiliar situations happen every day during the program. The better prepared participants are, the more confidently they will be able to navigate these experiences. Below are a few suggested strategies to improve proficiency in the target language and help prepare students for some of the cultural challenges that lie ahead.

To improve language proficiency:
1. Participate in a Language Club in your school.
2. Participate in a community conversation group in the target language.
3. Label items around the house.
4. Watch movies & listen to music in the target language.
5. Read books in the target language.
6. Arrange for a language exchange with a native speaker.
7. Change the settings on your cell phone and computer so that the display language is your target language.

Upon arrival at the program site, students will experience different family and friends, different instructors, different city, different culture, and a different language. We highly recommend that participants prepare for this amount of change by getting out of their comfort zone before departure.

Some suggestions to ease cultural adjustment:
1. Research the city/region where you will be spending the summer.
2. Try new foods. Many cultures demonstrate caring through food; refusing to try a meal that has been prepared for you can be very offensive to your host family.
3. Stay at a friend’s home for an extended period (3 days to a week). Note the ways that the routine and expectations are different from your own home.
4. Go without your cell phone and/or social media for an extended period (3 days to a week—or more!).
5. Watch YouTube.com videos about the host city and country, so you are more familiar with the landscape, foods, cultural traditions, and appearance of the city. Knowing what to expect before you arrive can ease culture shock greatly.
6. Consider your routines—whatever it is that you do or eat regularly, places that you often go, even driving routes that you frequent. Recognize these patterns and challenge them!
APPENDIX B: PAYMENTS AND REFUND POLICIES

Guardians should follow instructions for payment of Program Fees as indicated on the Payment Schedule and Terms Agreement on the IUHPFL website.

IUHPFL Refund Policy for Program Fees:

- **Withdrawal before the program begins:** If a student withdraws from the program after they have paid fees but before the program begins, the program will consider a refund amount to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- **Fees that will NOT be refunded include:**
  - The $750 non-refundable deposit
  - Any fees non-recoverable at the time of withdrawal, which can include housing, meals, transportation and staff compensation that have already been committed or paid on your behalf.
- **Withdrawal after the program begins:** If a student withdraws from the program after it begins, a statement, explaining in detail the reasons for the withdrawal must be sent to the IUHPFL Office.
  - The program will consider a partial refund of fees only if the student developed an illness or was injured while abroad.
  - Early returns to the US due to pre-existing conditions that were not disclosed to the IUHPFL Office prior to departure are addressed on a case-by-case basis, but are likely to not merit refund of program fees and might also involve hotel and airfare costs for the student and a chaperone.
  - Any fees already applied toward program costs on behalf of the student cannot be refunded.
- **Expulsion from the program:** If a student is expelled from the program, no fees or costs will be refunded. A student will also be expected to cover the additional expenses incurred related to the necessary arrangements to change the return flight home.

Refund of Airfare Fees:

Any request for refund of airfare or exchanges must be discussed with Travel Leaders directly at 812-339-7800. Travel Leaders must respect and apply the refund policies of the individual airlines they serve.
APPENDIX C: THE IUHPFL HONOR CODE

The IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL), as an “honors” program, outlines clear norms of conduct for its students to follow and relies upon the individual student's sense of responsibility and honesty to understand and abide by this Honor Code. In order for a student to participate in the program, he or she must agree to and abide by the following terms:

1. **At all times during the program, students are expected to uphold the 8 Core Values of IUHPFL:** Appreciation, Diligence, Discovery, Empathy, Encouragement, Honor, Respect, and Unity.

2. **IUHPFL Pledge of Excellence:** In the IUHPFL model, the strength of the program as a whole is only as strong as its individual students. This means that the Pledge of Excellence is as much a pledge to one's team as to oneself. Students recite the pledge in unison at the Student/Guardian Orientation before departure:
   “As I embrace my IUHPFL journey and commit to the Honor Code, I pledge to speak only the target language, uphold the 8 Core Values, celebrate my host family experience, and remain self-disciplined. I will choose to discover the best in myself and others, foster team unity, represent my school, family, and community with pride, and be a good ambassador for IUHPFL.”

3. **Students must understand the 3 Pillars of IUHPFL,** which make it such a unique and prestigious program for high school students:
   - **A. Language Commitment:** The student's commitment to speak only the target language during the program, except in cases of emergency, is the first pillar and is key to his or her success.
     - Communication with U.S. family and friends is limited to one call home within a few days of arriving to the host country and one hour per week via the Internet. No other contact with U.S. family or friends is allowed, except in cases of emergency and only with instructor permission.
     - All personal cell phones and all electronic devices with Internet capability are prohibited during the program (including all smart devices, laptops, and tablets), because such use proves detrimental to the student's ability to fully immerse in the language and culture and to engage with those around him or her.
     - No books or music in English are allowed during the program. If students have summer reading assignments, these need to be completed before or after the program, unless the student can acquire them in the target language. Students may also freely listen to music in the target language, as long as the listening device does not have Internet capability.
     - A pay-as-you-go program cell phone will be provided to each student upon arrival at the program site to be used solely by him or her for unlimited local calls and text messages to fellow students, instructors and host family members in the target language. The program will pay a certain amount toward each phone, and if a student exceeds that amount, he or she is welcome to pay for additional minutes. Misuse of the program cell phone might result in
additional costs for which the student will be responsible.

B. **Academic Excellence**: This second pillar of IUHPFL requires that students give their best effort in all their program coursework, maintaining the highest level of academic honesty and refraining from academic misconduct, which is defined by Indiana University’s Code of Student Responsibilities as “any activity that tends to undermine the academic integrity of the institution,” and in which human, hard-copy or electronic resources are misused.

C. **Host Family Experience is the third pillar of IUHPFL**: Students are to treat their host families with respect, keep their space clean, and make every effort to follow household norms like a member of the family. Specific policies and procedures described in the Student/Guardian Handbook are designed to ensure student safety and well-being within the host family setting.

4. **No Dating Rule**: IUHPFL students may not date anyone in the host country during the program, including other program participants at their site, because focusing on one person can be counterproductive to the unity of the student team, the student’s interaction with his or her host family, and his or her overall learning experience.

5. **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Prescription Medications**: Even though the laws of other countries may differ from those of the U.S. with regard to the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and other substances, IUHPFL students are to conduct themselves abroad as minors from the state of Indiana. This means that students are not allowed to purchase or consume alcohol, tobacco or other substances at any time. Discos and other establishments whose primary business is serving alcoholic beverages are prohibited to IUHPFL students. It is also strictly forbidden to bring alcohol, tobacco and other substances back to the U.S. Students may only purchase, possess and use prescription medications that have been prescribed specifically to them for current medical conditions, and these medications and conditions must be disclosed to the IUHPFL office before departure.

6. **Risky Activities**: Operating a car or other motorized vehicle is forbidden during the program, as is riding passenger on a motorcycle. Students are only permitted to ride as a passenger in a vehicle with an adult driver who is a member of the host family or has been authorized by the host family or the onsite instructor and coordinator team. Students are also not permitted to engage in risky, high adrenaline activities or get tattoos and/or piercings during the program.

7. **Weeknight and Weekend Activities**: It is expected and encouraged for students to engage with their host families during weeknights and weekends. During these times, students must be accompanied by a member of the host family at all times. Any weekend travel away from the program site with the host family must have approval from the Instructor Team, be within the host country, and must ensure that the student will not miss class or group activities. Under no circumstances are students allowed to travel without being accompanied by their host parents or program instructors.

8. **Rule of Three**: Depending on the program site and with permission from their host families, students may spend one or two hours in the town center after daily classes and activities. Whenever students are outside the
classroom facility or the host family home and are not under the direct supervision of their instructors or host parents, they are required to stay in groups of at least three program participants at all times. The only exception to this rule is when students are commuting to and from classes.

9. **Students are not to host or meet up with U.S. or international friends or family** while the program is in session. However, students sometimes travel with their families after the program ends. The official end date for each program is the day when students are scheduled to depart from the host country to the U.S.; students may meet up with family members on that day.

10. **Post-Program Language Commitment:** IUHPFL students commit to helping to their schools’ language programs in any way possible and to continuing to study their foreign language through their senior year in high school or at the university level, if possible.

11. **Honor Code, Handbook and Orientation:** Students are required to read and abide by this Honor Code, as well as the Student/Guardian Handbook. It is also mandatory for students to attend the Student/Guardian Orientation with their guardian(s) before departure, on Indiana University’s Bloomington campus. Final acceptance into the program is contingent upon successful completion of the orientation.

12. **Terms and Conditions:**

   A. Adherence to this Honor Code is of critical importance. Any infraction against the Honor Code can result in repercussions, including communication with U.S. guardians and possible expulsion from the program.

   B. In the event that this Honor Code is violated by a large number of students collectively, the consequences can apply to the entire group of students. For this reason, students are highly encouraged to hold one another accountable for their actions and adherence to the Honor Code.

   C. Any infraction against the Honor Code on the part of a student, either acting alone or with other students, will result in that student not receiving the Award of Excellence at the end of the program.

   D. A student who is expelled from the program will also not receive the IUHPFL Diploma at the end of the program.
APPENDIX D: IUHPFL 8 CORE VALUES

- **Appreciation** – Acknowledging the qualities and kind acts of others
- **Diligence** – Focusing with enthusiasm on academic and personal goals
- **Discovery** – Being open to new ways of looking at the world and oneself
- **Empathy** – Choosing words and actions that express compassion and create connection
- **Encouragement** – Helping others to reach their goals and see their unique talents
- **Honor** – Acting with integrity and adhering to the Honor Code
- **Respect** – Treating others with dignity at all times
- **Unity** – Fostering team spirit and trust
APPENDIX E: IUHPFL PLEDGE OF EXCELLENCE

IUHPFL Pledge of Excellence: In the IUHPFL model, the strength of the program as a whole is only as strong as its individual students. This means that the Pledge of Excellence is as much a pledge to one’s team as to oneself. Students recite the pledge in unison at the Student/Guardian Orientation before departure:

“As I embrace my IUHPFL journey and commit to the Honor Code, I pledge to speak only the target language, uphold the 8 Core Values, celebrate my host family experience, and remain self-disciplined. I will choose to discover the best in myself and others, foster team unity, represent my school, family, and community with pride, and be a good ambassador for IUHPFL.”
APPENDIX F: IUHPFL PROPERTY AND LIABILITY POLICY

The following policy has been developed by the IUHPFL Office in collaboration with Indiana University Legal Counsel. Its purpose is to a) protect IUHPFL students and their U.S. families from fraudulent or excessive claims of property damage or loss by host families b) to protect host families in cases where their claims of such damage or loss are legitimate c) to prevent fraudulent and excessive claims on the part of host families from occurring in first place and d) providing a way for legitimate claims to be reported and managed quickly and effectively.

The policy reads as follows and is distributed to every IUHPFL host family at all program sites and in the respective host language:

Indiana high school students who are selected to participate in the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL) are typically high achieving youth and excellent students. They participate in a variety of school and community activities, often volunteering their time to help others, and are considered excellent role models to their peers by educators and adult mentors. In order to qualify for the program, they must pass a university level exam in their target language, complete an extensive application, receive outstanding recommendations from three adult appraisers, and then be accepted into the program by two screeners, who are program instructors and administrative staff. Some students are further interviewed to ensure their likelihood for success in the program.

Incidents of damage or loss to personal property caused by IUHPFL students in host family homes are extremely rare. In the program’s history since 1962, only a few minor cases have occurred to the present date. Our students take great care to respect their host families and to contribute to their host family households in positive ways. In order to prevent incidents or to address rare cases of damage or loss to property in a host family home, the following IUHPFL policy has been established.

Recommendations regarding coverage:
IUHPFL recommends that host families and U.S. Families include appropriate “general liability” coverage on their homeowners or renters policies. It is advised that host families and U.S. Families
check with their insurance provider to ensure they have the proper type and amount of liability coverage in place before the IUHPFL programs begin.

Storing Items Away:
IUHPFL also recommends that all high-value, non-essential items (e.g., collectibles) and items of high sentimental worth in host family households be stored away by host families prior to the program in order to avoid incidents of damage. Host families, IUHPFL Students, and U.S. Families will be better served, if host families take measures in advance to protect these items from potential damage. It will not be the responsibility of Indiana University, the IUHPFL Office, or Program Instructors to compensate host families for damage to or loss of personal items or property.

Reporting Incidents to Appropriate Parties:
The host family must contact the Onsite Coordinator within 24 hours of discovering an incident of damage or loss. The Onsite Coordinator will immediately inform the Program Instructors and the IUHPFL Office, who will then inform the U.S. Family of the incident as soon as possible.

Visit by Program Instructors:
Within 2 days of an Incident, at least 2 Program Instructors must visit the host family household together to gather evidence pertaining to the incident (e.g., take photos of any damage) and to ensure that the dynamic between the host family and the IUHPFL Student is healthy and safe for everyone in the host family household. When an incident involves bodily injury, a visit is to be conducted within 24 hours.

Statements and Photos of the Incident:
If the host family wishes to seek compensation for any damage or loss of their property incurred by the IUHPFL Student, the following must be provided to the Onsite Coordinator, the IUHPFL Office, and the U.S. Family within 3 days of the incident:

• A statement from the host family describing the incident and stating how they wish to resolve the situation
• Statements from the Program Instructors who visited the host family household describing their impressions of the incident
and making recommendations as to how to best resolve the situation

- A statement of explanation of the incident from the IUHPFL Student
- Photos and/or any other evidence pertaining to the incident from the host family, Program Instructors and/or IUHPFL Student

U.S. Family Response:
After receiving copies of all statements and photos of the incident, the U.S. Family will be encouraged by the IUHPFL Office to respond to the host family via the IUHPFL Office within 2 days in one of the following ways:  
a) agree to pay the host family the suggested compensation amount directly  
b) negotiate a different amount  
c) submit a claim to their insurance provider  
d) refute or deny the host family claim.

**Permission for IUHPFL Student to Pay Directly:**
The IUHPFL Student is not to compensate the host family directly for any incident of damage, loss or injury in the host family household unless instructed to do so by his or her legal guardian/s.

**IUHPFL Office Facilitation:**
In the event of a dispute between a host family and a Student or a Student’s family in the U.S., Indiana University and IUHPFL will encourage both parties to reach an amicable resolution on their own accord. Under no circumstances are Indiana University or IUHPFL responsible for claims or for dispute resolution between the parties.

**Excessive or Suspicious Claims:**
Host families who make excessive and/or suspicious claims of property damage or loss within their households incurred by IUHPFL Students, as determined by the IUHPFL Office, will not be invited to host IUHPFL Students in future IUHPFL programs.

**Indemnity of IU and IUHPFL:**
Neither Indiana University nor the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages is responsible for accidental or intentional incidents of bodily injury or damage or loss of items or property in host family households caused by IUHPFL students or other individuals.
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# Calendar

This is the tentative program calendar and minor changes are possible. More specific information for afternoon activities and excursion will be made available before and during the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 am Graz City Tour with volk</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Outdoor Camp with Freestyle</td>
<td>Departure to Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10:30 am Graz City Tour with volk</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>Outdoor Camp with Freestyle</td>
<td>Departure to Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6:30 pm Departure Chicago - Vienna</td>
<td>8:30 am Arrival Vienna (Bus to Graz)</td>
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**Academic Program**

Classes start at 8am on Monday and Thursday and at 8.30am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. There will be a snack break each day at either 11.20 or 11.50 (see below). Classes end at 11.20 or 11.50 each day and are followed by the mandatory afternoon activities and clubs, which change depending on the day. The daily program ends either at 1.30 or 2pm, unless an evening activity (Theater, Cinema) is scheduled, which will be announced in advance. There is no class on weekends. Each student will be part of a specific group (Red, Green, White). All three subjects of class will be taught each day.

![Class Schedule](image)

**Monday and Thursday**

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<td>Literature</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Grammar/Conversation</td>
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<td>Organizational Matters</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.05-13.30</td>
<td><strong>Mon+Wed: Theater or Choir / Tu: Film and Games / Thurs: Sports</strong></td>
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**Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday**

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Instructors

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<tr>
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<td>Bettina Christner, M.A. Associate Instructor for German Indiana University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Catherine Van Halsema, M.A. Associate Instructor for German Indiana University</td>
</tr>
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Our Team Vision

*Bock auf Graz - Gemeinsam hoch hinaus! Die Bergsteiger.*

It just wouldn’t be Austria without the mountains. This summer Arne, Bettina and Catherine (Team ABC) are excited to journey with all of you to the summit of teamwork, learning, and adventure. At base camp in Graz, we will come together as a team of true *Bergsteiger* (Mountaineers) to develop our academic and linguistic skills in German so that we are ready to climb even higher to the next overlook. After a rigorous several weeks in Graz, the next stage of our journey will be in the Gesäuse National Park, where we’ll both engage with the beautiful Austrian landscape, and gather our strength to face Vienna -- Austria’s cultural peak. Your cultural, linguistic, and literary backpack will be full to the brim, ready for you to dive head first into all that Vienna has to offer. Through all of this, we’ll be holding the rope for each other and pulling each other to even greater heights. *Gemeinsam hoch hinaus! - Up the mountain together!*

Catherine, Bettina, Arne
**On-site Coordinator**

Our On-site Coordinator is Professor **Volker Horn**.

Professor Volker Horn is a professor emeritus of modern British culture and civilization. Professor Horn has worked with Indiana University’s Overseas Studies Program in Graz for over a decade, and before that he worked with Southern Methodist University’s program in Graz. Additionally, he worked for 2 years as the director of the American Institute for Foreign Study in Salzburg, Austria. Through his many years of experience, Professor Horn’s knowledge and energy will ensure that our transition to Graz will be smooth and successful.

**Excursions and Afternoon Activities**

In addition to academic studies, the program offers several excursions on Fridays and activities every afternoon. The first excursion is into the city of Graz itself, which will happen during the first week. The second excursion contains a few options of different attractions close to Graz, such as castles and a chocolate factory. The last day-long excursion during our time in Graz is a shadow day, during which the students attend school with their host siblings or possibly attend work with their host family. After leaving Graz we will head to Klagenfurt/Wörthersee for a day trip, and then continue on to the Gesäuse National Park (one of Austria’s most breathtaking natural attractions!). The Gesäuse National Park is home to the FreeLife Outdoor Camp, where we will spend four days hiking, rafting, and enjoying the scenery. The final piece of our time...
in Austria will be a four-day long stay in Vienna, the cultural capital of 
Austria.

Most afternoons after class have one of two shapes. On Mondays and 
Wednesdays, students participate in choir and/or theater in order to 
prepare for the final Farewell Show. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, 
various interest-based activities are offered. These can include 
arts/crafts, visiting a museum, seeing a play/movie, sports, etc.

In addition to the regular Friday excursions and afternoon activities, 
there is a USA-Day on July 2nd, complete with picnic and barbeque, and 
a Farewell Show on the last full day in Graz (July 7). Weekends are free 
for activities with host families.

**Class Material**

IUHPFL will provide a course book for each of the three courses before 
departure. Students are required to bring these course books with them 
to Graz. Additionally, each student needs a spiral notebook for further 
note-taking during class and extra assignments. Writing and drawing 
material will also be required, but can be purchased on-site, if necessary.

**Life in Graz**

**Graz**

Graz is a prosperous and thoroughly modern city of 273,000 (plus 40,000 
students), capital of the southeastern Austrian state of Styria. It is a 
beautiful, comfortable and clean city with attractive green spaces, 
gardens, and parks. The historic downtown area is picturesque and 
charming, with Renaissance palaces, medieval walls, Baroque churches,
and sidewalk cafes. Getting lost along the narrow old lanes that are closed to all but pedestrian traffic is remarkably easy, and often rewarding, since you can find scores of sidewalk cafes, bars, restaurants, little parks, and quiet places in the process. Bicycles and trams are widely used, and public transportation is excellent. Graz has a rich cultural life, with opera, theater, street musicians, and summer music festivals.

**Time**

Local time in most of Indiana (Eastern Daylight Time) will be six hours earlier than Central European Daylight Time in Graz, so at noon in Indianapolis, it will be 6 p.m. in Graz.

Written expressions of time in Europe use the 24-hour clock, but colloquial expressions of time do not. Most Germans and Austrians say *acht Uhr* to indicate 8 p.m. or 20.00 hours. In Austria, you’re likely to hear *Viertel elf* instead of *Viertel nach zehn* for 10:15. Other interesting variations to watch out for are *drei Viertel elf* for 10:45 and *halb elf* for 10:30.

**Weather**

Early summer weather in Graz is hard to predict. It may be cool and rainy, much like Indiana in mid-April, but you may also encounter the heat and humidity of a Midwestern summer. Be prepared for quite a range of temperatures.

**Housing**

Each program student will live with one of the Austrian families selected by the on-site coordinator, Volker Horn. Most of the families that accept
program students are educated, middle-class professionals. Overseas Study will match students to the families with which we think you will be most compatible. Whenever possible, housing assignments will be based on your preferences as indicated on the housing questionnaire.

You will learn your host family’s name, address, and phone number just a few days before you leave for Graz. During the school week, you will share breakfast and dinner with your family. Living with a family may mean a substantial change in your living habits as well as cultural differences. Go into Austrian family life with an open mind. Do not be judgmental. Be honest, considerate and communicative. Make an effort to get to know the family that has accepted you into their home. Find out whether or not there are family rules you are expected to follow, such as cleaning your room, being on time for meals, etc.

Let your family know your plans for the day so that they don’t have to wait for you in vain with a warm meal. Show your hosts how much you appreciate their help. Some of the most common adjustments regard how much you should eat at meals, how to divide time between academic demands and your family’s appeals to join them for an outing or expedition, sensitivity to the extremely high cost of electricity and water in Europe, and the need to work out such basics as shower schedules. Graz public schools are still in session during the program, and everyone in the family may need to be out of the house early. Austrians are fastidious about never putting their shoes or feet on furniture, train seats, etc. Most families leave their shoes at the door and wear slippers in the house.
Keeping in contact with the United States

Please be aware of the strict IUHPFL program policies that limit your contact time with friends and family back in the United States. This is a full immersion program and you are expected to obey the “No English” rule as soon as you arrive in Vienna/Graz. It is also not allowed to bring any smart devices which give you access to the internet, such as smartphones, tablets, or laptops. During orientation, the instructors and coordinators will further address and explain this rule.

Money

As a member of the European Union (EU), Austria’s monetary unit is the Euro (€). The Euro is divided into 100 cents, and it is denominated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coins</th>
<th>Bills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Euros</td>
<td>500 Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Euro</td>
<td>200 Euros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 cents</td>
<td>100 Euros</td>
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<td>20 cents</td>
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<td>10 cents</td>
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<td>5 cents</td>
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<td>2 cents</td>
<td>5 Euros</td>
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<td>1 cent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Each Euro coin has a design on the “heads” that is uniform for all countries of the EU, while each country has its own design on the “tails”. The coins are different sizes and made of different materials. The bills are different sizes and different colors. All Euro coins and bills can be used in any EU country. Please be aware that currency exchange rates can fluctuate at any time.

While you are welcome to bring some cash with you for your initial journey, we recommend using debit cards during your stay. Be aware,
however, that your home bank (and the ATM institution) may charge a fee. Before you leave, be sure to contact your bank and inform them of your travel plans.

**Eating Out and Tipping**

Austria is famous for its culinary delicacies – from fine sweet treats like Sachertorte or Topfenstrudel to be enjoyed in a nice Kaffeehaus or more simply a quick sausage snack at one of the many traditional Wurstlsbuden or small restaurants (Beisel).

To learn a restaurant’s most economical meal, ask the waiter what the Menü (daily special) is. Be aware that, in general, water is not free! A good word to remember is Leitungswasser (tap water). You may get a few strange looks, but they generally won’t charge you for it. Remember what you eat, because you will be expected to recount it to the server when the time comes to pay your bill. Include any bread or rolls. At most places you call the server over when you are finished, and pay at the table.

In restaurants the tip is up to 10% and it is paid directly to servers when they collect what you owe for your meal. They will not expect a separate tip left at the table and will be insulted if you pay them only the exact price of the meal. Once the server tallies up the food bill and announces what is due, even though a service charge is included in the price, state the amount you are giving him for food and tip together.

The cultural norm is to round up to a number of Euros without additional cents. Thus, a bill of € 7,20 would typically be rounded up to € 8,00; a bill of € 7,90 to € 9,00.
**Getting Around Graz**

**Taxis**

Taxis are available at any hour of the day or night. They don’t cruise (although you may manage to flag one down on its way back from somewhere), but are located at taxi stands throughout the city. You can call for one, or just show up at any of the following places: Geidorfplatz, tel. 62 2 36; Griesplatz, tel. 91 12 33; Hauptbahnhof, tel. 91 122 77; Kaiserfeldgasse/Herrengasse, tel. 72 2 00; Landeskrankenhaus, tel. 32 3 04; Parkhotel, tel. 32 1 01; Sudtirolerplatz, tel. 91 41 14; Schmiedgasse/Hauptplatz, tel. 79 0 43. Inexpensive group taxis should be reserved by phone: tel. 22 1 01, or 31 5 55, or even 36 3 11.

**Walking**

By far one of the most enjoyable things to do in Graz is just wander. It is usually safe even for women alone. The jumble of building facades along the Altstadt is fascinating. Through the archways on these streets you will find everything from blind alleys and trash cans to interesting examples of architecture.

The Stadtpark is a good place to eat a sack lunch, feed the pigeons, study or play Frisbee. With the help of your street map and a reproduction of an old map of the city you can mentally reconstruct the inner and outer defenses of the Schlossberg, remnants of which are still visible to the trained eye. At the Hilmteich one can rent a rowboat for an hour or two.

For the inept rower, there’s a forest full of footpaths behind the pond. In fact, one of these paths leads out to Wallfahrtskirche Mariatrost, a lovely old Baroque church on the outskirts of town. A beautiful running path, marked for up to half of a marathon, is laid out in the same forest. If it
gets late and you’re getting tired, hop on tram number 1 for the journey back downtown.

**Trams**

Most host families live in Graz’s handsome and widely separated suburban areas, not downtown, and you will use Graz’s extensive public transportation system to commute to the city center where classes are held. Your program fee includes tram/bus passes.

The procedure for riding the Straßenbahn is this: At the more populated stops, the door will open automatically; hop on. Otherwise, push the button beside the door and wait until the door opens. Once on, stick the unstamped end or side of your ticket, which you should have bought before, into the convenient Entwerter box. The weekly and monthly passes provided by the program are stamped only once!

Just before your arrival at your destination, push the button on one of the uprights near the door. If you don’t think you’ll be able to recognize the stop the first few times, the conductor will be glad to help. State where you want to get off, and the conductor will show you out at the appropriate stop.

Learn to read tram and bus schedules, posted at most stops (Haltestellen). Be especially careful to note the different schedules for weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The schedule, like all other printed times in Europe, uses the 24-hour clock (i.e. 1 p.m. = 13.00 Uhr). Public transportation does not run as late as student social life sometimes does. Late at night, your best hope is an inexpensive group taxi.
Additional Numbers for Taxis in Graz
Taxi 2801: +43(0)316/2801
Taxi 889:  + 43(0)316/889
Taxi 878: +43(0)316/878

Health and Safety Precautions

Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE)
Please be aware that ticks that are carriers of the TBE virus are common in Austria in May and June. You could be exposed to ticks while biking, hiking or walking in grassy or wooded areas. No TBE vaccines are available in the U.S. Vaccination is available in Austria, but they are given in a series (1-3 shots) and typically do not reach fully efficacy for a number of weeks. You are strongly encouraged to take precautions by wearing long-sleeved shirts, trousers rather than shorts, socks and shoes rather than sandals, and to closely examine yourself for bites and shower after potential exposure. Should you develop symptoms of TBE (several days of fever, fatigue, headache and muscle pain), seek medical assistance.

For further information, including a more detailed explanation and additional recommendations, please see information on the CDC website:
wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/tickborne-encephalitis

Medical Care
If you become ill in Graz, the instructors and the on-site coordinator will help you get medical attention. They will help you with any forms that
your physician must complete in order for you to submit an insurance reimbursement claim under the IU policy. Please be aware that you might need to pay cash up front and that neither the instructors nor your host family can be hold responsible to provide these funds.

**Emergency Numbers**

144 – This is the nationwide emergency number for emergency medical services in Austria. This number, like the following two, can be called toll-free from any phone (fixed-line, mobile or phone booth).
133 – The nearest police station will be called
122 – calls the fire department.
14 844- non-emergency numbers which should be used in non-emergency cases such as Krankentransport, for example. These numbers differ from region to region and provider to provider.

**Packing**

Pack light. This is the consistent advice from former program participants. A small, well-coordinated wardrobe is more practical than a large one. Bring wash and wear garments you will be happy wearing a lot, and plan to dress in layers. Here’s what you should plan on bringing:

- travel documents and itinerary, passport
- raincoat, umbrella, warm jacket
- one nice outfit
- sturdy, comfortable shoes (we will be hiking a lot!)
- two warm sweaters or sweatshirts
- prescription drugs in their original container
to last the entire program; clearly printed copy of your prescription in generic, not brand name, terms

• aspirin, antihistamines, vitamins, cold medication, and other nonprescription drugs you sometimes use

• one towel -- one accommodation does not provide towels

• extra pair of glasses or contact lenses and a typewritten copy of your prescription

• contact lens solution

• large backpack or bag for traveling, small bag for books

• MP3 player (without Internet-connectivity!)

• photos of home and family

• gift for Austrian family (this is very important!)

• photo camera (NOT your cell phone!)

• course books, notebooks, classroom supplies

• electric outlet adapter, voltage converter

What NOT to bring:

• laptop, tablet, smartphones

• hair dryer, curling iron, straightener

• MP3-player with Internet connectivity

• bulky and overly heavy items