Host Family Guidelines
Since 1962, U.S. high school students from the state of Indiana have participated in the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL), a unique Total Immersion foreign language program in France, Germany, Mexico and Spain. This Program significantly advances language skills and fosters cross-cultural understanding all while providing students with one of the most valuable and memorable experiences of their lives. The IUHPFL greatly values each host country's culture and strongly relies on the cooperation and collaboration of host families in order to fulfill its mission and maintain the high academic caliber of the Program.

Program Overview
The IUHPFL combines language learning, cultural instruction, host family living and educational excursions into a once-in-a-lifetime experience. On a typical weekday morning students study such topics as grammar, conversation, phonetics, culture and literature in the foreign language while participating in diverse activities, such as sports, music and theatre, in the afternoon.

Participants are highly motivated high school students who have completed at least three years of study in their language. Students undergo an intensive selection process, including a college-level language test, a detailed application and multiple appraisals of academic potential, degree of maturity, self-discipline and willingness to adapt to the host culture.

Over the course of the program, students are evaluated various times, including by their host families. These evaluations provide students with useful feedback and offer the opportunity for greater personal and academic growth.

IUHPFL Highlights: Total Immersion Experience
- Seven weeks in June/July
- Language Commitment
- Intensive language classes, theatre, music and sports
- Excursions to regional attractions, some overnight
- Lifelong cross-cultural understanding
- Living with a host family

IUHPFL Instructors
Students are accompanied by three to four instructors who are graduate students at Indiana University or current high school teachers in the state of Indiana. Instructors have either been studying the host language for many years or are native speakers. They are responsible for teaching, coordinating and managing all aspects of the Program onsite. They collaborate with host families and the onsite coordinator to ensure that students are progressing academically and adapting to life in another culture.

Behavioral Expectations
Much of the student’s progress in learning the language and successful acclimation to the culture is due to the help and support of his/her host family. Upon return to the U.S., students often claim that they now have a second family in the host country.

To ensure success, well-being and safety, students are required to follow specific guidelines. By signing a detailed Honor Code, they agree to abide by and follow certain norms without exception. Honor Code violations are noted by onsite instructors and reported to the student’s guardians, the host family and IUHPFL staff in the U.S. Repeated and egregious offenses may lead to immediate disqualification from the Program. Additionally, students are expected to be courteous and show appreciation, keep their space organized and clean, and communicate regularly.

"They [my host family] were all wonderful. Incredible, really. I will be extremely disappointed if I can't return to see them next summer.”
-Steven F., Student, Spain 2012
Benefits
By inviting a U.S. student into their home, host families gain a valuable and unique perspective about a different culture. The relationship developed between the students and host families relies on open communication, willingness to better understand each other’s culture, and flexibility on both parts. This mutual respect results in the development of close and lifelong friendships.

Host Home Information
The IUHPFL would not exist without the generous support of IUHPFL host families. To ensure that host families and students have the best possible experience, certain hosting conditions need to be met. Host families take over the vital role of the student’s extended family, help with homework assignments and assimilation. Potential host families should take a moment to read the following statements about hosting an IUHPFL student so they fully understand responsibilities and expectations:

♦ Student may share his/her room with one other IUHPFL student or host family sibling. In some cases, students may receive a private room.
♦ Student receives a key to the host family’s home, provided it is secure to do so, or will be assured timely access to the home after returning from school or excursions.
♦ Host families provide laundering services for their student(s) for the duration of the Program.
♦ Host families only host student(s) from the IUHPFL, given the Program’s unique Honor Code.
♦ Host families engage student(s) in activities during the week and on weekends. Student(s) may accompany their host family during outings on weekday evenings, provided the instructor team has been informed, they have enough time to prepare for classes and are home at a reasonable hour.
♦ Students may travel with their host family to other destinations on weekends, provided the instructor team has been informed and the trip does not interfere with class schedules.
♦ Host families will only speak the host language with the student(s) and will treat student(s) as if they were their own child(ren), asking them to not only follow the Honor Code, but house rules as well. Host families are asked to show patience and flexibility towards their student(s), many of whom are leaving the U.S. for the first time and will fully support student(s) in abiding by the Honor Code and will fully support instructors in their enforcement of it.

General Guidelines
Host families receive monetary compensation for the costs incurred for housing the student. Host families are expected to provide daily meals, lunch on the days of excursions, and a small snack for the student to eat during the morning break at school. In Spanish homes it is customary to eat dinner at a late hour. Students should receive some type of snack in the early evening as they are unaccustomed to late evening meals. Host families are not responsible for paying students’ personal expenses, such as medical bills, transportation to/from optional activities, and other related costs.

NOTE
Upon accepting the responsibility to host an IUHPFL student, host families recognize that student(s) from the U.S. come from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

“My host family and I got along very well. I felt like they were always helping me learn the language and provided a welcoming atmosphere during my trip. We cooked often (for me that was important) and I became good friends with my siblings. My host family experience was really outstanding. This was definitely my favorite part of the program.”
-Jack M., Student, Germany 2012