Talking Points for IUHPFL Alumni

Thank you for your willingness to help promote IUHPFL to future participants! Your insights and stories will mean a great deal to your peers who are deciding whether IUHPFL is right for them.

We have provided for you some general advice and questions to consider before you present. We hope that reading this document will help you to brainstorm what you would like to share with program applicants. You won’t be expected to talk about all of these topics – just focus on the points that are most important to you.

(Note: Please do NOT discuss eligibility requirements, the application process, or other policy-related topics that only teachers or IUHPFL office staff should answer. Thank you!)

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF THE IUHPFL EXPERIENCE
When talking about aspects of the program that were difficult for you, the key is to consider the following:

- Remember that your speaking time is limited
- Focus on positive outcomes: how you resolved the situation, what you learned, etc.
- Share information that is relevant to most of the students
- Be honest but also constructive and as objective as possible
- Don’t mention names of individuals out of respect for their privacy
- Always show respect for the Honor Code, your instructors, and IUHPFL in general

Questions to Consider:

- What aspects of the program were particularly challenging for you?
- How did you cope with not being able to speak English?
- What was it like to go without your smart devices and Internet access?
- How did you resolve challenges and conflicts?
- How were you able to manage stress and homesickness?
- Were there “insurmountable” challenges that actually turned out to be great opportunities?
- How did the challenges you faced ultimately help you to learn and grow on a personal level?

Pre-Departure – Getting ready for your IUHPFL experience

- What were your expectations of the program before departure? Were they realistic?
- How did you fundraise for the program?

Your IUHPFL Teammates and Instructors

- How did your instructors and teammates help and support you through the experience?
• What advice can you give to students who are worried about their target language skills?

Your Host Family Experience
• What were a few challenges of living with a host family? Some rewards?
• What advice would you give to students about living successfully with a host family?

The Academic Focus of IUHPFL
Courses
• What was a typical class day like?
• How did the homework help you connect with your host family and community?

Afternoon Activities
• What Afternoon Activities did you participate in, did they get you out of your comfort zone?
• How did they help to bring your team closer together?
• What is the Farewell Show and what was it like?

Excursions
• Which excursion destination did you enjoy most and why?

The Language Commitment and Honor Code
Language Commitment
• How important was the Language Commitment to your language development and experience?
• What were the first few days/weeks of the Language Commitment like?
• When were you able to interact easily in the target language? How did that feel?

The Honor Code
• Why is the Honor Code important to one’s IUHPFL experience?

How IUHPFL Has Benefited You and Changed You
Benefits to Consider:
• Significant gain in language proficiency
• Cultural knowledge
• Clearer educational and career goals
• Greater sense of self
• Increase in self-confidence and independence
• Friendships with teammates and host family members
• Community Engagement experience (if applicable)

Questions to Consider:
• What have you gained from your IUHPFL experience?
• In what ways are you different now?
• How has this experience influenced what you want to do and accomplish in the future?