

STANDARDS of EXCELLENCE for STUDENTS

Governments, schools and host families expect high standards of character, attitude, academic achievement, and language skills in foreign exchange students because, unlike independent students or tourists, they are seen as ambassadors of their countries.

P.E.A.C.E. is a cultural and educational exchange program serving the foreign policy goals of the U.S. and its Pan American neighbors - to help peoples throughout the Americas acquire the bilingual skills, the bicultural understandings, and the feeling of brotherhood necessary for us to work together for our mutual benefit and satisfaction.

This mean that students wanting to participate must have goals more than just to learn another language. They must be willing to give as much as they get. They must be able to demonstrate proven excellence in meeting their past responsibilities in order to earn future opportunities.

*For these reasons we have set the below required standards to be evaluated upon each applicant we receive. Each student should meet * most of the listed qualifications to be accepted into the program. * A few students who are borderline in one area may have compensating qualities in another area.*

The student's English skills (or other, if an U.S. student) should be above average in their class and requiring minimal adjustment abroad, as determined by their foreign language teacher. Students should take a written or oral language proficiency test such as SLEP or Pre-TOEFL and score high-intermediate or more to pass. Students with borderline skill may be required to take intensive English classes before being accepted.

Students must provide three or more personal references completed by teachers, counselors, and other adults in their community (not related to the student) who can evaluate the student's:

- * general knowledge of his country and the world outside of it (politically, economically, etc.).
- * emotional stability, maturity, flexibility, tolerance, and sense of humor.
- * courage, self-esteem, self-reliance, and independence.
- * effectiveness with people and ability to express himself.
- * morals, manners, and compassion for others.

Students must be in good physical and mental health to endure the rigors of multiple life-style changes and must take a complete medical history and exam, and all immunizations required in the host country.

Students must demonstrate that their goals and priorities are appropriate for an ambassador by writing a personal statement in their host's language, describing their family relations, their daily routine, their goals, and what they expect to gain from and to contribute to this experience.

Students must show seriousness towards responsibility by having achieved an 80% or better academic grade point average during the past two years and prove it with transcripts from their home school.

Students must subscribe to the Judeo/Christian ethic unless raised in an atheistic country, hold themselves accountable to their Creator, and should be active in church or be willing to attend with their host family.

Conduct, speech, and manners should reflect faith and obedience to God or behave in the secular equivalent.

Students must not use tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or recreational narcotic drugs.

Students must not be sexually active nor be known to engage in any other immoral or illegal activities.

A few students who are borderline in one area may have compensating qualities in another area. For example, students who lack quality foreign language instruction but have demonstrated excellence in their own language, can be expected to learn a new language quickly, given the right opportunity.

However, students with mediocre grades in general subjects would be expected to repeat their lazy habits abroad and are, therefore, not invited to apply.

Students with infrequent church attendance, due to lack of spiritual guidance in the home, may be still considered if they have demonstrated Christian charity by virtue of community service.

PEACE will carefully look at the whole person. We can allow for small deviancies from the above standards, but a year abroad is mentally and emotionally demanding. It should never be used as a place for parents to send timid or immature children to gain courage or to grow up.

Exchange student are a mirror of their country. They must, therefore, reflect only brilliance.