

Dear Host Family,

Words can't express how excited I am to be studying abroad! One of the things that will be more exciting about this experience will be meeting you.

First off, my name is Vasco and I am a 15 years old boy. I have lived for my whole life in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. The city of Lisbon is very rich in historical boulevards and monuments, as much as in parks and museums. Portugal has a predominantly warm Mediterranean climate. Yet, I am ready for the one your town has to offer.

My parents are really happy for me because I am participating in this program. My mother's name is Graça, and she is a medical doctor, just like my father, António. I have one brother, Ricardo, who is 6, and 2 sisters, Vitória and Isabela, who are, respectively, 2 and 3 years old.

Currently, I live with my mother, my brother, and my stepfather, João. I also live my cat, Rebeca, that lives with me. Besides that, I have a dog named Fotão, that I see less often, since he lives in my father's house.

Those who are closest to me would say I am a friendly, outgoing, talkative and funny person. My teachers would say that I am committed, curious, open-minded, ambitious and creative, not just as a student, but also as a person.

At home, I try my hardest to be helpful to my parents and I am ready to take on the responsibilities that you think that are adequate for you to give me in our future home.

I currently study in Colégio Valsassina, I am in the 10th grade, and I am an above average student. School is fun for me because is there where I see all of my friends, and I really do enjoy learning. In school I am involved in some projects, the project in which I am more involved is the "Eco-Escolas"

program, which objective is to reduce the school's ecological footprint and, right now, our school it's on its way to become a "Low Carbon School". I am also involved in some other projects relative to the social community nearby.

My favorite subjects in school are chemistry and physics. These are subjects about which I like to know more than what I learn in school, so I enjoy reading books and watching documentaries about them. Maybe one day I will be working in this area, but I haven't decided yet what I would like to study in college.

I also like to be well informed because I like to have an opinion, and because I love a stimulating debate on important global topics.

Regarding the issue of religion, I am currently agnostic, yet, I am tolerant and prepared to accept a religious culture different than my own, and I actually think that it will be an interesting experience to get to know your religion.

Some of my favorite things to do are reading, writing, filming, taking pictures, playing videogames and watching movies or series. Most of the things I like to do involve creativity, because I like to stimulate mine to its maximum. Even in videogames I only play strategy games and this one game that is all about creating named Minecraft. I like all types of movies, since any movie may be that one that keeps you thinking about it for days, and those are the movies that I really love. I am really excited to hear about what kinds of things you like to do, and I'm sure I will enjoy learning more about them. One thing I always say is "never say no, unless you try it first" (or if you know it's dangerous, obviously).

Traveling is my all-time favorite activity, because I love to visit new places and learn about other cultures. I've visited many countries and cities in Europe. That's one of the main reasons why I want to be an exchange student! I hope that, by living with your family, I can learn more about your culture and also show you some of my own.

I feel that I have much more to tell you about myself, but I guess that is what my year abroad is for.

This is truly a great learning experience that I am ready to take and I would love to spend it with you. Hopefully, this letter gave you a little insight into who I am, and how excited and thankful I am for this opportunity! I already know that our journey together will be memorable and joyful all the way through. Thank you very much for considering my application. I can't wait to meet you all!

Sincerely,

Vasco