

Dear future Host Family,

First of all I would like to thank you for your time to read my letter. I think it's great that you are willing to host an exchange student in your home, I admire you for your cultural interest and for making this opportunity available.

My name is Rita, I'm 15 years old and I'm from Portugal. I was born in Azores, the Portuguese islands in the Atlantic Ocean, and I have been living in mainland Portugal for 9 years now.

I live in a duplex apartment in Costa de Caparica, a town by the beach and not far from Lisbon, the capital of Portugal.

I have a sister called Ana, who is 17 years old. We get along very well even though sometimes we have little discussions, like all siblings, but we love each other.

I live with my mom, my sister and a cousin in mainland Portugal and my dad lives in Azores. I have a great relationship with my family, we all get along perfectly, every member is unique, but overall we are an upbeat and close family. I enjoy spending time with my family and during vacations I love to travel with my parents and sister.

I'm a happy and funny girl, charismatic and open minded. I'm persistent and don't give up easily. I love to visit new places, travel and live new experiences and that's exactly why I'm getting into this wonderful challenge!

I'm in 10th grade and my favorite subjects are English and German. I like school and I am good student. In the future I want to study Marketing/Publicity because it's connected with creativity and I'm a creative person. I plan to travel in my job and have my own company!

I love sports but right now I'm not practicing anything else but physical education at school. I was in gymnastics recently, but had to quit because of my school schedule. When I was a kid I practiced ballet and swimming.

I also have a special interest in photography and music.

I love animals, I have a dog called Brownie and she lives in Azores with my dad.

I like food of all kinds and a year ago I decided to save room for the things I like the best such as fish, eggs, dairy, pasta, rice, vegetables and potatoes and found that the thing that I was least interested in was meat, so I've been eating everything while skipping meat. I'm not on a limited diet, just a slightly different one, I love to taste new dishes and I am looking forward to learn how to cook new things.

I spend a great deal of my spare time with my friends, visiting places, such as downtown Lisbon, going to the movies, to the beach, in the Summer, or just hanging out. We are very lively and chatty! My friends are all very kind and special, I'm very close to them and we would do anything for each other.

I've always had the dream of spending a year in the United States, to experience its lifestyle and to attend high school there because of the academic spirit. I want to broaden my horizons and deepen my knowledge about new cultures. The other reasons why I'm going in this exchange year are that I want to make new friends, to improve my English and to increase my self confidence and maturity.

Once again, thank you for your time, this is going to be the best experience I'll ever have and I hope I provide you a good experience too, with my company and by sharing with you all about Portugal. I hope to hear from you soon and I am sure we will get along very well!

Yours sincerely,

*Rita*