

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FOR AN ACADEMIC YEAR THROUGH THE FLEX PROGRAM!

Learn a new language, experience a new culture, and make a new friend!

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program has been a program of the U.S. Department of State for nearly 20 years. The program seeks to promote mutual understanding between the United States and the countries of Eurasia by providing secondary school students (ages 15-17) the opportunity to live in the U.S. for an academic year. FLEX countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

What is WorldChicago?

WorldChicago is a non-profit organization that coordinates educational and professional development programs for U.S. Department of State-sponsored international visitors. We will be a local coordinator for the FLEX Program, working with a national coordinator, World Learning. Our staff has significant experience conducting youth programs and supporting students and host families, and we will be available throughout the exchange to resolve any issues.

How are FLEX students selected?

Participants are chosen through a multi-layered, merit-based open recruitment and selection process. The selection is based on English ability, personality, social skills, academic achievement, and leadership potential.

What is the timeframe of the program?

Students arrive in August. Exact dates are flexible, depending on the school start date. Students will return home about two weeks after the last day of school.

How do I get accepted as a host family?

After you agree to host, you will complete a host family application. A WorldChicago staff member will arrange to visit your home, and we will also conduct a background check.

What are my primary responsibilities as a host family?

Host families welcome a student as a member of the family and encourage students to participate in all aspects of family and community life. Families provide a student with his/her own bed (can be a shared room with family member of the same sex), meals, and transportation to and from school.

Will the student come with his/her own spending money?

Students will receive a monthly stipend for incidental expenses. The FLEX scholarship also includes an additional stipend for start-up expenses (books, school supplies, and clothes) and school activity expenses.

Does the student have insurance?

Yes, students have medical and accidental insurance. Students receive an insurance card and a brochure detailing the policy coverage when they arrive in the U.S.

I'm interested! Who should I contact?

Please contact Amy Krzyzek at akrzyzek@worldchicago.org or (312) 254-1800 x102.

