Roles & Responsibilities

Host Families
Hosts should try to get together with their student at least once per month. Hosts should contact the Office of International Programs if there are concerns with their student. Host families are not expected to financially support or board students at their homes.

Students
Students should try to get together with their host family at least once per month. Students are expected to be courteous and considerate of their host family’s time and resources. Students are required to notify the Office of International Programs immediately if they want to withdraw from the program or change their host family.

Office of International Programs
The Office of International Programs will make assignments (and reassign, if requested), host a start-of-the-semester and end-of-the-semester event for hosts and students each semester, hold a Host Family Program meeting for new students during their orientation, and hold a Host Family Gathering for hosts each summer.

Prospective Host Families
If you're interested in becoming a host family, please fill out the Host Application. For more information, please call 910-962-7009 or email fernandezvillaj@uncw.edu.

Prospective International Students
If you're a student coming to UNCW and would like to request a host family, please fill out the International Student Application. For more information, please call 910-962-7009 or email fernandezvillaj@uncw.edu.

We look forward to your participation!

Office of International Programs
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403-5965
Phone: 910-962-3685
Fax: 910-962-4053
Email: studyabroad@uncw.edu
Website: http://www.uncw.edu/international
The Host Family Program provides international students an invaluable opportunity to establish a relationship with a local family and offers the Wilmington community an opportunity to meet and assist students from around the world. Students do not live with host families.

Host families come in all sizes and shapes. They may be individuals, couples, or families, those who work or retirees; they are always people who want to get to know students from other countries and assist them in their adjustment to American customs and lifestyles. Many host families and students become lifelong friends.

Each semester dozens of international students come to UNCW from a wide variety of countries. Some students take courses at the University as exchange or degree-seeking students, while others enroll in the intensive English language program.

Students are assigned to host families prior to their arrival in the US. After receiving their student’s contact information, host families take the initiative to contact their assigned students. Host families may offer to pick their student up from the airport or can meet for the first time at the start-of-the-semester ‘welcome event’, organized by the Office of International Programs.

Following the initial meeting, the student and host family determine how often they will meet and what they will do together. Possible activities might include occasional meals together, assisting with transportation needs, visiting local sights, or simply relaxing and getting to know one another. Many families invite students to their homes for holidays (Labor Day BBQ, Thanksgiving dinner) or cultural traditions (pumpkin carving, Super Bowl Sunday). If a host family relationship is not mutually satisfying, both student and family may request a change.

Host Family Program Testimonials

Student:
This was my first experience going abroad completely on my own, and it did take some adjustment, but it was also the most fulfilling experience of my life. My host family experience was one of the highlights of my time in the US—I learned so much about American culture from them. As I leave UNCW, I know we will keep in touch for years to come.

Host Family:
Being a host family has been one of the most valuable and wonderful experiences we’ve ever had. The only regret I have is not doing it sooner! It’s incredible to get a glimpse into other cultures and to share ours and to hear their view of our culture. It is amazing how quickly a complete stranger can become a part of your family.