INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Reed College Host Family Program

“The relationship that we share has been an essential part of my transition to Reed College, and it is also one of the most valuable experiences that I have had throughout my time at Reed.”

—Javed Parkes, Jamaica
The Host Family Program

Reed College's host family program, coordinated by International Student Services (ISS), is a nonresidential friendship program. ISS pairs international students and scholars with local families who befriend them, help them get acquainted with Portland, support their experience at Reed, and enjoy the opportunity for cultural exchange.

As a host family, you provide a feeling of “home away from home” for international students and scholars in their first year at Reed whose families are often very far away. You will often play an important part in helping your student or scholar adjust to Reed and the US.

Getting to Know Your Student or Scholar

Your relationship begins when you and your student or scholar communicate over the summer to coordinate airport pickup, transportation to campus, and help settling in to the residence halls. During the school year, you and your student or scholar establish and define a relationship that works for both of you.

“Hosting has been a wonderful experience. [Our student] is basically a member of our family now.”

—Willie Koo, host
“Participating in the host family program has been a wonderful experience. My host family has truly been a home away from home.”

—Yuka Esashi, Japan

**Support Throughout the Year**

ISS organizes three structured on-campus events to bring international visitors and their host families together as a group. Outside of these activities, we request that you connect in person with your student or scholar monthly.

Typical host family activities include

- inviting your student or scholar over for dinner;
- sharing holiday celebrations;
- introducing your student or scholar to many of the wonderful activities that are available in the Portland area.

Many families stay connected with their student or scholar throughout the visitor’s time at Reed. However, the program is structured as a one-year commitment.

**How to Become a Host Family**

ISS believes that finding a good fit between a family and an international student or scholar is important. The process of becoming a host family is as follows:

**February:** applications for the upcoming year made available online

**May 1:** priority deadline for the upcoming academic year. Families who apply after this deadline may be placed on our waiting list

**June and July:** new host family orientation sessions

**Mid-to-late August:** students and scholars arrive

**Late August:** first organized event, during International Student Orientation
“We just had our first Reed international student come back for his 10th reunion. He and his wife stayed at our house. Another one of our Reedies, from India, graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School last year. She has all of her holiday meals (and more) at our house. Another German student of ours sends me an email every year on my birthday. It goes on and on. Hosting was a great experience for us.”

—Mike Parr, host

More Information

Please visit our website to read FAQs or complete the online application (reed.edu/iss/host-family-program/). Contact International Student Services with any questions.

503-517-5538
iss@reed.edu
reed.edu/iss

Where do Reed’s international students and language scholars come from?

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Brazil
Canada
China
Ethiopia
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
India
Indonesia
Kuwait
Mexico
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Singapore
South Korea
Spain
Thailand
Turkey
United Kingdom
Vietnam
Zimbabwe