Thank you for participating in the Host Family Program. Inside this guide you will find general information about the program, answers to frequently asked questions, and tips on how to make your Host Family Program experience successful.

**What is the Host Family Program?**

The **International Student Host Family Program** is an optional program jointly coordinated by the Wellesley College Alumnae Clubs and the Slater International Center. It is designed to match Wellesley alumnae, faculty, and staff with incoming international students and Language Assistants for cultural exchange, support, and community building. The Host Family Program is not a “live-in” program, although it does offer incoming international students and scholars the opportunity to arrive early and stay with a hostess for one or two nights before the international student Orientation Program. Host Families and international students often develop close relationships and remain connected throughout a student’s time at Wellesley and beyond.
How Does the Host Family Program Work?

Over the Summer
The host families matching process begins in the summer.

- Contact your host family as soon as possible to introduce yourself and to confirm your arrival information if possible. Please make sure to notify your host family of any changes in your arrival plan in advance.

- Update the Slater International Center staff and your host family with any changes of your arrival and travel details.

- Tell your host family a little bit about yourself and your family – for example, your home country, hobbies or interests, how many brothers and/or sisters you have, and your intended major. Communication over the summer will help you start to form a relationship with your host family even before your arrival!

- If possible, send your host family a photo of yourself. This will help them recognize you when they come to pick you up.

Arrival
Your host family will be eager and excited to meet you.

- They will plan to pick you up at the airport, or station you arrive in. However, if your host family lives a considerable distance from the airport, they may make other arrangements to get you to their home.

- Be sure to discuss the pick-up plans in detail with your host family before your arrival.

NOTE: Host families can only accommodate students in their homes. If you are travelling with your family and have been assigned a host family, please remember that your family members will have to find other accommodations.

Maintaining Your Connection Throughout the School Year
In order to maintain and develop your relationship with your host family throughout your time at Wellesley:

- Give them a quick call or email periodically. Your host family understands that you are busy with your transition and classes, but they would love to hear from you!

- Invite them to an event on campus! The Slater Culture Show takes place in October and would be the perfect opportunity to connect with your host family.

- Spend traditional U.S. American holidays with them.

- Offer to cook a traditional meal from your home country or explain the significance of a special holiday.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the role of a Host Family?
A: A host family’s primary role is to welcome you into their home once you arrive in the U.S., but their support does not have to end there! Additional support might include attending Wellesley College events together, going on a day trip or excursion, or celebrating a U.S. holiday at their home. You and your host family are free to form the type of relationship that best suits you both.

Q: How do I create a bond with my Host Family?
A: Your host family will be excited to learn about you and your life in your home country. Consider bringing meaningful cultural items and pictures of your family to share with them.

Q: Should I go shopping for residence hall room furnishings and/or bedding linens with my host family?
A: The choice is at your discretion; however, it is not necessary to go shopping for these items with your host family. A shopping trip is planned during Orientation. In addition, there will be a sustainability sale during Orientation where you can purchase gently used items inexpensively. Also, the Student Aid Society will provide four year degree students who have been awarded financial aid, Exchange Students, and Language Assistants with bed linens, blankets, towels, and a laundry basket.

Q: What else should I pack other than what is suggested from the website: http://www.wellesley.edu/reslife/first_year_students/what_should_i_bring_for_my_room?
A: You might want to consider bringing a few other items that are especially useful for international students, such as an electrical adaptor, recipes from home, contact lenses or an extra pair of glasses, and an extra supply of any special medication that you may use.

Q: How do I know which residence hall to go to when I arrive on campus?
A: You were notified of your housing assignment on your MyWellesley Entering Student portal. If, in the excitement of arriving, you have forgotten the name of your residence hall, please go to your MyWellesley Portal at my.wellesley.edu. You can also access the campus map at web.wellesley.edu/map/. For any technical difficulties regarding the portal, please call the Help Desk at 781-283-7777.

Q: Who do I contact for help with computer technicalities, class registration, or move-in day information?
A: Please use the “Other On-Campus Resources” list or contact the Slater International Center at 781-283-2082 if you have any questions or concerns.
Tips & Best Practices

- Notify your host family in advance of any food restrictions or allergies you have. They can use this information to make sure that the meals they provide will suit you.

- Be sure to keep your sleeping space in your host family’s home neat and tidy. You will most likely arrive with quite a bit of luggage, and it would be polite to try to keep it in a contained space so that it does not clutter your host family’s home.

- Offer to remove the sheets from your bed as you prepare to leave your host family’s home in order to facilitate the cleaning of your room after your departure.

- Ask your host family questions about Wellesley! Share your hopes, fears, and expectations about your upcoming years with them. They will be excited to share their memories about time honored Wellesley traditions and their experience at the college!

- Leave a thank you note for your host family for welcoming you into their home and express an interest in keeping in touch! Host families participate in this program on a volunteer basis and your appreciation helps to encourage them to continue hosting future students.

- Keep in touch with your host family throughout the year by inviting them to campus for events and cultural celebrations.
Other On-Campus Resources

Book Store
(781) 283-2136

Bursar’s Office
(781) 283-2456

Computing Help Desk
(781) 283-7777

Financial Aid and Student Employment
(781) 283-2360

Margaret Clapp Library
(781) 283-2166

Office of the Dean of First Year Students
(781) 283-2327

Registrar’s Office
(781) 283-2307

Residential Life
(781) 283-2679

Stone Center (Counseling Services)
(781) 283-2839

Student Health Services
(781) 283-2810