

# Forte

## International Exchange Association

On the list of



*Open your home and expand your world!*



# **Forte International Exchange Association**

Dear Prospective Host Family:

Thank you for your interest in learning more about hosting an exchange student with Forte International Exchange Association (FIEA)! Hosting a young student can be a wonderful opportunity for your family. We know that making the decision to open your home to an exchange student can be a difficult one. After reading this guide we believe that you will find the information that you need to get your family excited about the possibility of hosting an exchange student.

Host families offer our students extraordinary opportunities to learn more about American culture. By actually living in the United States with American host families and attending American high schools, exchange students acquire a more profound significance of the unique threads woven together to create our culture. In exchange, these young ambassadors interact first-hand with their host families, communities, schools, and peers to share the culture of their home country and change the way people view their world.

We commend your family's desire to learn more about the world by hosting a student through FIEA. Hosting a student can change your life in many wonderful ways. We know that you'll be glad that you decided to expand your family by hosting an international son or daughter. It is truly a remarkable, memorable, and educational experience for your entire family!

Sincerely,

MB Chen  
Co-President

# Open Your Home and Expand Your World!

Most families host our students simply because they enjoy being exposed to new things and new ideas. Some families host because they want to expand their family. Some families host to expose their children to other cultures. Others families host to fill the void that they feel when their own children go away to college or move

away from home . By opening their homes to a young student from another country, families have the opportunity to share themselves and their love while gaining broader views of the world and friendships that last a lifetime.

Imagine the excitement of sharing your life with someone who has never experienced your family's favorite things. You family can teach your exchange student about your favorite American pastimes. You could take your new exchange son or daughter to see a ballgame, to a museum, or to your own family picnic!

In return, you will look at your family's everyday activities in a new light, through a new pair of eyes. Your exchange son or daughter will make your family activities special, exciting, and more memorable! By hosting an exchange student, you will broaden your entire family's perspective of the world. Hosting is a great educational opportunity for your family and lots of fun too!



## Just Imagine!

- ◆ Sharing Thanksgiving, Independence Day, and other traditional holidays with your new son or daughter.
- ◆ Teaching a young person from abroad about your family's values and traditions.
- ◆ Sharing American values from voting to volunteering

## Who Qualifies to Be An FIEA Student?

FIEA students must be between 15-18 years old and must not have completed high school or participated previously in a semester or academic year exchange program in the United States. FIEA students must be proficient in English, successful academically, and in good health. FIEA students must also demonstrate mature personalities and leadership potential

FIEA students come from many countries around the globe.

Most FIEA students arrive in August (students participating in the academic year program). Some students join our program for just one semester and may either arrive in August or January.



Each FIEA student has gone through strict selection and careful screening process to make certain that they are qualified to join our program. All FIEA students receive orientation in their home countries to prepare them for the challenges and excitement that they will face while getting accustomed to studying and living in the United States. In addition, all FIEA students undergo orientation upon arrival in the United States before traveling to their respective host families. Orientation in the United

States introduces students to the differences between cultures and customs of their respective countries and the United States. FIEA introduces them to possible challenges that they may face as exchange students and how to deal with them. The FIEA office and FIEA local representatives offer the students full and continuing support throughout the duration of the program.

**“Fujun is a wonderful representative of her country and her exchange program. She is bright, articulate, assertive, gracious, and likable.”**

*Guidance Counselor of  
FIEA Student*

# The Student Application Process Simplified

**1**  
Students  
Must Meet  
Eligibility  
Criteria

**2**  
Student  
Interview  
(in English)



**3**  
Complete  
Student  
Application

**4**  
Apply for  
Visa

**5**  
Student/  
Host Family  
Matching

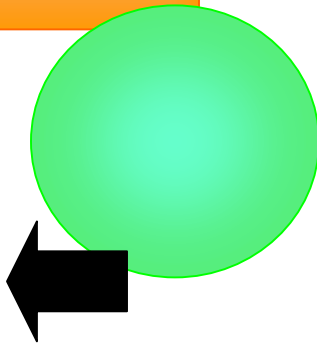
**6**  
New Student  
Orientation

**7**  
Prepare for  
the Trip to  
the USA

**8**  
Fly to the US  
with Student  
Group



**10**  
Travel to Host Family and  
Become a Member of New Family,  
Community, and School!



## Eligibility Criteria:

- ◆ Students must be **at least** 15 but **not older than** 18 for the expected school start date in the U.S.
- ◆ Students must **not** have previously participated in an academic year or semester exchange program in the U.S.
- ◆ Students must have **at least** a 3.0 average on course work for the current and previous school year.
- ◆ Students must score **at least** 70% on the English Proficiency Test (SLEP)
- ◆ Students must demonstrate maturity.
- ◆ Students must plan to return to their home country upon program completion.

## Additional Documentation Required by IEA

1. Birth certificate
2. Certification that the student doesn't have a criminal record
3. Certificate of Family Income and Assets (for the student's parents)
4. Most current two years transcripts with a school stamp/seal
5. Student's certificate of English proficiency for written English, spoken English, and English reading comprehension
6. 10 Passport size photographs
7. Guaranteed return Agreement form

# Academic Year and Semester Programs

Forte International Exchange Association works closely with the high schools and educational organizations in other countries to recruit the best students with excellent academic records, mature personality, great potential for leadership, and high proficiency in English. Each exchange student participating in our program will have the opportunity to attend high school in the United States for one academic year or one academic semester and will live with American host families carefully chosen, interviewed, and prepared by Forte International Exchange Association.

Through the students' school activities and home stays, they obtain first-hand knowledge about American culture, people, and the American way of life. At the same time, the students are able to share their home country values and ideas with their host family, classmates, schools, and American counterparts.



## *Why do students participate in IEAP Programs?*

- ◆ To learn first-hand about the United States, American citizens and their culture.
- ◆ To improve their English language abilities. Practices makes perfect. They will get plenty of practice here!
- ◆ To learn to be more independent.
- ◆ To form life-long friendships and share their unique cultures with others
- ◆ To broaden their perspective or the world!
- ◆ To participate in an extraordinary learning experience outside of the classroom.

## Who Is Eligible to Host Our Students?

Many different types of families are eligible for hosting. Host families may have small children, teenagers, children who have already left home, or no children at all.

Host families must have a

strong desire to open their home to a young international student. Families should be willing to include the new student into their family life, rather than just treating the student as a guest.

The number one priority is that the

Host Family is one that will provide a safe and caring

home environment for the student and that the family

members want to share their lives with a student from

another country. Hosting is an extraordinary opportunity for both children and adults to learn about a different culture and make friends for life.



## What Do Host Families Provide?

Host families are expected to provide the following:

- ❖ Love
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Moral support
- ❖ Basic needs
- ❖ Room and Board (the student does not need his/her own room but must have his/her own bed)
- ❖ Parental Guidance

In addition, Host families are expected to get the student involved in as many social activities as possible. We understand that most families are busy, therefore, host families are only expected to provide the level of assistance (such as transportation to/from social events) that they feel comfortable with. Each FIEA student comes with their own spending money for personal expenses during their stay here in the United States

# The Process for Becoming a Host Family

**1**  
Complete  
Host Family  
Application

**2**  
Contact our  
staff with any  
questions

**3**  
Student/  
Family  
Match

**4**  
School  
Enrollment

**5**  
Host Family  
Interview

**6**  
Host Family  
Orientation

**7**  
Prepare for  
Arrival of  
Student

**8**  
Pick Student  
up at Airport

**9**  
Welcome  
the Student  
Home

**10**  
Make the Student a  
Part of Your Family!



*Forte  
International  
Exchange  
Association*

Supports each and every host family each step of the way for the duration of the program.

FIEA Local Representatives are well trained and available locally to offer assistance for both the student and the family.

Trained and professional staff are available to support your family 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

FIEA provides a toll free number for host families, schools, students, and local representatives.

FIEA provides each student with medical and accidental insurance.



**Placement Information:**

- 1. Is your family interested in hosting for a  year  semester  3months(temporary)?
- 2. Is your family interested in hosting a student from a particular country?  Yes  No  
If yes, please indicate your family’s country choices: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. List a few of your family’s interests, hobbies, activities and religious affiliations (e.g., Soccer, music, (Church activities)). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Is English the primary language you use at home?  Yes  No  
If not, what is? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Will the student share a room?  Yes  No With which child: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Do you have pets?  Yes  No Type: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information:**

Local HS Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Principal’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

What method of transportation will the student use for school? \_\_\_\_\_  
*(It is not our policy to allow students to drive themselves)*

**\*PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL CONTACT THE LOCAL SCHOOL REGARDING YOUR FAMILY’S APPLICATION**

**Other information:**

How did you hear about **Forte International Exchange Association**? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of major airport nearest to your home address: \_\_\_\_\_

**References: (PLEASE SUBMIT TWO REFERENCES)**


Name	Telephone	City	State
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Name	Telephone	City	State
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**Do you have any friends that might be interest in hosting a student through FIEA? (list below)**

Name	Telephone	City	State
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Name	Telephone	City	State
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*Who we are:*

Forte International Exchange Association is an independent non-profit organization designated by the State Department as an “Exchange Visitor Program”. We bring international high school students from other countries to the United States to participate in an academic and cultural exchange. Our students learn about various aspects of American Culture, society, and customs while living with American host families and attending high school. Through the students’ daily activities and interactions they not only learn about the United States, but also have a chance to share the ideas, customs, and culture from their home country with their American host family, classmates, teachers, and communities.

We recruit volunteer host families who have a genuine desire and interest to host an international student. Our host families are carefully selected and interviewed to ensure that each student and host family will have a pleasant and memorable experience. Host families and students participate in orientations to help them prepare for exposure to a different culture. Our host families provide free room and board to students for the duration of the program. Host families are not paid; they host our students to learn about another culture, to share their life with a student from another country, and to reap the many other benefits of hosting

*Our Mission:*

Our mission is to promote cultural exchanges between the United States and other nations worldwide. With our multilingual capabilities and extensive connections in other countries, we are dedicated to promoting educational cultural exchanges through our student exchange program. The ultimate goal of Forte International Exchange Association is to promote cultural exchange and foster mutual understanding and friendship between the United States and other nations of the world. We hope that our work will contribute to building a peaceful worldwide community, a greater understanding and tolerance of other cultures, and global idea exchange.

*How to Get More Information:*

Visit our website: <http://www.orgsites.com/dc/forte>

Call us at: 202-628-8180

Send us a fax: 202-296-8685

Or email: [info@forteintl.com](mailto:info@forteintl.com)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions!

**Visit us at: [www.orgsites.com/dc/forte](http://www.orgsites.com/dc/forte)**



*A very special Thank You to all of our families and students who contributed their pictures for our brochure and to all of our families that have hosted students. We couldn't run this program without your love and support!*



**Open Your home and expand your world!**

*How to reach us:*

Visit our website: [www.orgsites.com/dc/forte](http://www.orgsites.com/dc/forte)

Phone: 202-628-8226

Toll Free (US): 1-888-893-6783

Fax: 202-296-8685

Email: [info@forteintl.com](mailto:info@forteintl.com)

Mailing Address: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 270

Washington, DC 20045

Please feel free to contact us with any questions!