

Guidelines for International Students

This document serves as a guide for all International students attending Quad Cities Christian School (QCCS). Please review this information prior to departing for America, as it can answer many questions you might have about our program! It may seem that we have many rules and restrictions; however these policies have been put in place to ensure that you will have a safe, enriching, and fun school year with us!

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact the Directors of International Studies at Quad Cities Christian School:

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Parents and Student visits

Both you and your parents are expected to read and be familiar with the QCCS student handbook. Your admission to the school is based on agreement with the standards and rules detailed in the handbook.

Visits by the student's family or friends while in the program require prior approval by the Program Director. While visits are encouraged, host families will not be expected to house student's guests at any time.

Behavior

Prior to leaving your home country you should discuss with your parents the importance of good behavior during your stay with us. It is very important that you understand the significance of acting in a manner that will reflect well on your family and country. Please remember that while you are here you are an Ambassador for your country!

You must make a concerted effort to improve your ability in the English language. QCCS is an English-only campus, so only English can be spoken in the building or on school grounds. You must also make an effort to get involved in our community by attending and participating in school, church, or community events. You should not spend all your time with other international students. Seek guidance from host parents and school personnel when choosing friends.

QCCS reserves the right to terminate a student's participation in the program if his or her conduct is considered detrimental or incompatible with the interests of the school. The following behaviors are treated seriously by the school and may, upon vote by the QCCS School administration, result in a student's immediate expulsion from school and the program:

- Illegal drug or alcohol usage
- Sexual harassment or immorality
- Gambling
- Thievery
- Possession of Weapons
- Violent Behavior

In the case of expulsion, all fees paid will be nonrefundable and the student's 120 will be cancelled.

You must obey the laws of the United States and the states in which you live and travel. A student found guilty of violating the law will be returned home at his family's expense as soon as the student is released by authorities. Your parents must give QCCS the right to use your photograph for reproduction in any medium for the purposes of publication, advertising, display, or editorial use. No personal information will be publicized.

You will abstain from all sexual activity. Serious romantic involvement is strongly discouraged. You may not take any action that may change the nature of your life (for example, become engaged or married). You are not allowed to get any new tattoos or body piercings while participating in the QCCS program.

Family life

International students will each live with a QCCS host family. The host family assignment is for one academic year. Some students will be the only international student in a host home while others may have a roommate, It is very common in America for students of the same gender to share a bedroom. Students are never to share a bed.

Try to become an integral part of your host family. Several duties and responsibilities are normal for a student of your age in the host family household. This may include cooking, doing dishes, helping with laundry, and cleaning the home. You must obey the host family's rules and be willing to participate in family activities such as attending religious services and family gatherings. QCCS students are expected to seek to learn about the Christian faith and adhere to the guidelines for Christian living as detailed in the student handbook.

Problems that arise in the host family are to be resolved first through discussion with the host parents, then with the assistance of a Program Director. Students should not discuss problems of a personal nature with other members of the school community. If you are experiencing any sort of relational stress or difficulty or experiences abuse or harassment of any kind, you must immediately disclose the incident to the Program

Internet may be accessed from the host family residence subject to the rules specified by your host family. The host family may limit internet and cell phone usage if they feel it is interfering with academic progress or hindering social connections. You may bring your own computer but use in the home of your host family is also subject to house rules. Generally, student computers will not be permitted in the student's room but rather in a general living area of the house. The computer settings should be in English. The host family will have access to any information on the student's computer at all times and may install internet filtering software to the computer. Inappropriate use of the Internet by the student, including viewing pornography or visiting questionable websites, is not acceptable. Such activity may result in program termination.

You may not operate a motorized vehicle including the host family's vehicle or any friend's vehicle.

You should have sufficient financial support to ensure your well-being during the entire program. Parents should provide a credit ATM VISA card in the student's name with at least a \$1000 credit limit for expenses throughout the year. Room and board expenses are included in the tuition amount. You may wish to purchase items such as clothing, room decorations etc... You may also wish to purchase personal items during the course of your stay so it is important that you have access to funds while you are in America. You are not permitted to borrow money from your host family or from other students or school personnel.

School life

You will attend school regularly, will be enrolled as a full-time student, and will participate in school activities. You must make a concerted effort to make satisfactory academic progress (A or B grades) and must be involved in some co-curricular activities. If a student is achieving a C average or lower, the host family and School Administrator may require additional study hours and limit co-curricular and weekend activities until the grade is improved. International students are not allowed to continue their study with us if they are failing in any subject. The first failing grade will place the student on academic probation. Subsequent failing grades could result in termination from the program. Your acceptance into QCCS does not guarantee athletic eligibility however; international students are usually eligible for sports during their year at QCCS.

Students who are accepted will register for classes upon arrival to campus. International students will be placed at an appropriate grade level and may be slightly older than their peers. The student will obey the disciplinary rules of QCCS as stated in the student handbook and will be respectful of school staff and faculty. Parents must communicate directly with the Program Director for any and all official business regarding their student.

Parents will be asked to contribute financially to the school, above and beyond tuition and boarding costs, as the Lord provides and as they are able. Specifically, parents will be asked to consider becoming QCCS Associates, annual membership that accompanies a \$1000 annual donation to the school. This program is voluntary, and is designed to help us provide educational opportunities to students who might not be financially able to attend QCCS without additional funding.

A completed medical authorization form, health and immunizations form, and wellness consent form must be received by the Program Director as part of the registration process. Proof of insurance is also required at the time of application. QCCS does not provide medical insurance for students! You must communicate with your host family details about any medication you bring from your home country to take on a regular or occasional basis.

If for any reason you are unable to participate in the program, a full refund is not guaranteed. The amount refunded will depend on the timing and the circumstances of the withdrawal.

Travel

You are required to purchase round-trip international air travel before you depart from your home country. This information must be forwarded to the Program Director so airport transportation can be arranged. Parents, not students, are responsible for directly purchasing airfare and making travel arrangements. You should plan to arrive in the Quad Cities (airport code MLI) the weekend before the start of school and depart within ten days of the end date of the school year. Please consult the school calendar on the home page of this website for details!

Returning international students should not make travel plans until after re-enrollment contracts are issued (usually by April 15). You are permitted to travel domestically with your host parents or with QCCS sponsorship. Independent travel, aside from trips directly to and from the home country, is not allowed unless prior approval is granted from the Program Director. The cost of independent travel would be the student and natural family's responsibility. In May of a given school year, your 120 will be extended for another academic year providing you have done well academically and are current on all payments.