

Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What are the dates for the exchange?**
 - a. While we don't have the exact dates for the 2018, we know an approximate time table. Lexington students usually leave for Deauville around mid-June. They stay in France for 3 weeks, returning around the 4th of July. The Deauville students return with the Lexington students to Lexington and stay for 3 weeks, departing near the end of July. The exchange is 6 weeks total, so you can count on half the month of June and pretty much the whole month of July.
- 2. Is there a chaperone for the students?**
 - a. There is not a chaperone since the exchange is so lengthy. However, students travel on a direct flight from Cincinnati to Paris and are picked up at the Charles De-Gaulle Airport in Paris by members of the Deauville Committee.
- 3. How much does the exchange cost?**
 - a. Other than the \$50 application fee, the cost will be between \$1,800 and \$2,000, depending on current airline prices. Upon acceptance, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due to Sister Cities at the first orientation in January. Once the airfare is found and held by the travel agent, payment will be due to Sister Cities. If necessary, payment plans can be arranged. However, the full amount of the airline ticket will be due at least 90 days from departure. Scholarships are available for financial need – the scholarship application can be found on the website.
- 4. What are some other costs we may incur?**
 - a. Other costs include spending money for gifts, souvenirs, et cetera and obtaining a passport.
- 5. When are the interviews for the exchange?**
 - a. Interviews will be scheduled either mid-November or early December. Interviews will last about 30 minutes per family. If possible, both parents/guardians should attend the interview.
- 6. What are the expectations of my family and my child once they are accepted into this program?**
 - a. The Lexington-Deauville Committee will inform the student and their parents at the interview when the acceptances will be emailed out to the students. Upon receiving the acceptance email, students will have 24-48 hours to accept their spot in the program.
 - b. Once students have accepted their spot in the program, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due at the first orientation in January. This will be applied towards your airfare.
 - c. Orientations will start in January. Orientations are MANDATORY for participation in the program.
- 7. What is provided to my child while they are in France?**
 - a. While your student is in France, accommodation and meals will be provided by the host family. Exceptions may include if the students are out together and they get ice cream/coffee/etc. This would be something your student would use spending money for.
- 8. What are we expected to provide for the French student while they are in Lexington?**
 - a. While the French student is in Lexington, you are expected to provide meals and accommodations for them. Treat them as an additional child in your family for 3 weeks – anything you would pay for your own child, you should pay for the French student as well.
- 9. Does Sister Cities provide transportation to the Cincinnati airport for departure to France and arrival back to Lexington?**
 - a. No. Transportation is the responsibility of each family.
- 10. What if my child gets sick while in France?**
 - a. Just as you would care for a sick child in your home, so will your student's host family. We ask that you check with your insurance company before your child departs to make sure you are covered for international expenses.
- 11. Are there group activities planned by Sister Cities?**
 - a. Yes – both in France and in Lexington the committees will plan 4-5 group activities.
- 12. Can we travel out of the state with our French student?**
 - a. Yes – however we ask that you request permission first from the French student's parents, especially if you will be flying.
- 13. Can my child drive while in France?**
 - a. No.
- 14. Can my child drive their French student while in Lexington?**
 - a. Yes, if they have a valid driver's license that permits them to drive others in his/her car.

15. Can I call/email/text my child while they are in France?

- a. Yes – **BUT** we prefer that this is done only occasionally. The students are there to immerse themselves in French language and culture. This cannot be done if they are on their cell phones too much. This will be discussed in detail during our orientations.

16. How does the committee decide how to match the students?

- a. We gather information from their application and their interview and try to match based on: common interests, age & gender (if you have specified you cannot host a student of the opposite gender, you will not be expected to), and other specifications such as pet allergies.

17. Can parents communicate with the parents of their child's counterpart?

- a. Absolutely! We would encourage it. It's a great way to further extend the cultural exchange from family to family.

18. My child is hoping their counterpart will end up being their best friend. Is this the case?

- a. Not every match is perfect, and we cannot guarantee that. Both committees do their best to match up the students on both sides, but sometimes the students do not end up being best friends. However, they are both still provided with a great opportunity to have a cultural and language experience that they should take advantage of, regardless of their similarities to their counterpart.

19. If we don't like our match, can we change it?

- a. No. We will discuss this in the orientations - students will be expected to adapt to situations, especially if they are not becoming friends with their counterpart.

For other questions about our exchange programs, you can contact Lexington Sister Cities at:

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Lexington Sister Cities

Deauville, County Kildare, Shinhidaka, Newmarket