

# Lexington Sister Cities Student Exchange Program



# County Kildare Ireland

## 2020 Student Exchange Application

Please attach a current photo.  
Make sure it is a close-up, like one  
you would have with a driver's  
license. An informal photo is  
okay.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Age by July 1, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Must be 16 by July 1, 2020)*



Lexington Sister Cities  
Deauville, County Kildare, Shinhidaka, Newmarket

Lexington Sister Cities  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
859-258-3137

# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

## Parent Information Letter

Dear Parents:

We are excited your student is interested in participating in the 2020 Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange. The purpose of this exchange program is to provide a genuine cultural and family experience in another country for high school students of Lexington, Kentucky and those of County Kildare, Ireland.

As parents/guardians, you must be willing and able to receive an Irish student in your home for the same length of time as the American student is in Ireland. The Irish and Lexington students will be together for both parts of the exchange program.

To be selected for our program, students should exhibit maturity, flexibility, an interest in the Irish culture, and qualities that would make them a good ambassador for Lexington, Kentucky, and the United States.

Students must turn 15 by July 1, 2020 to participate in the program. **Please note that students over the age of 18 before August 1, 2020 will not be considered for this program.**

**Applications are due to the Lexington Sister Cities office by Friday, November 1, 2019.**

Applications can be emailed to [abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov), mailed, or dropped off to:

**Lexington Sister Cities  
ATTN: Alexandra Brewsaugh  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507.**

Applications should include the following items:

- Completed Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange Application
- \$25 Application Fee
- Current Photo
- Two recommendation letters:
  - One letter should be from a teacher or counselor.
  - The second letter can be from a teacher, counselor or personal reference.
    - Letters should include the name of the recommender, their relationship to the student, and the length of time that they have known the student.
  - Recommendation letters may be turned in separate from the application if the teacher wishes to send it in separately. Letters should be received by the scheduled interview time for the student.

After the application deadline, an interview date will be set up. Our main means of communication is through email, so please ensure all email addresses are listed on your son or daughter's application.

Upon acceptance into this program, orientations will be held to prepare your student for the trip. These orientations are mandatory for participation.

You will find on the next page a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about our exchange program to County Kildare. Please read through this sheet prior to your scheduled interview.

**Both parents should sign Page 7, giving their son or daughter permission to submit this application.**

Thanks for your interest in our program. We look forward to meeting you and your student at the interview.

# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

## Lexington-County Kildare Committee Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How long is the exchange?
  - a. County Kildare students visit Lexington for 10-12 days; Lexington students travel to County Kildare for 10-12 days as well.
2. What are the dates for the exchange?
  - a. While we don't have exact dates for the 2020 exchange, we can give some approximate time frames. County Kildare students will travel to Lexington first, usually around the first ten days of July. There will be a few days between the County Kildare students departing Lexington before the Lexington students will depart for Ireland, during mid-July.
3. Can my student apply for two Sister Cities programs?
  - a. No – students should only submit one application to Sister Cities. Students will not be considered for multiple programs.
4. Is there a chaperone for the students?
  - a. Yes. The chaperone is usually a teacher or member of Lexington Sister Cities. They will be available at orientations for parents and students to meet and get to know.
5. Who will my student stay with during the exchange?
  - a. Your student will be matched with a student from County Kildare – that will be their host family while they are in Ireland.
6. How are the host families in County Kildare selected?
  - a. The Sister Cities Committee in County Kildare (called the “Twinning Committee”) selects their host families in a similar process to ours. Because County Kildare is a smaller community, the committee members usually know the families really well even before selection.
7. How much does the exchange cost?
  - a. Other than the \$25 application fee, the cost will be around \$1,500, depending on current airline prices. Upon acceptance, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due to Sister Cities. 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.
8. What are some other costs we may incur?
  - a. Other costs include spending money for gifts, souvenirs, et cetera; as well as obtaining a passport if they do not have one already.
9. 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.
10. What happens after my student gets selected?
  - a. The Lexington-County Kildare Committee will inform the student and their parents at the interview when the acceptances will be emailed out to the students. Once the student receives their acceptance email, they will be given a date to accept their spot in the program by – this date is usually 24-48 hours after the acceptance email is sent.
  - b. Once students have accepted their spot in the program, a \$200 non-refundable deposit should be sent to Lexington Sister Cities. This will be applied towards your airfare.
  - c. Orientations will start in February. Orientations are MANDATORY for participation in the program. At least one parent should attend each meeting with their student.
11. What is provided to my student while they are in Ireland?
  - a. While your student is in Ireland, 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.
12. What are we expected to provide for the County Kildare student while they are in Lexington?
  - a. While the County Kildare student is in Lexington, you are expected to provide meals and accommodations. Treat them as an additional child in your family – anything you would pay for your own child, you should pay for the County Kildare student as well.

## Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

13. Are there group activities planned by Sister Cities?
- Yes – both in Ireland and in Lexington the committees plan groups activities and dinners.
14. What if my student gets sick while in Ireland?
- 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.
15. Can my child drive while in Ireland?
- No.
16. Can my child drive their County Kildare student while in Lexington?
- Yes, if they have a valid driver's license that permits them to drive others in his/her car.
17. Can I call/email/text my child while they are in Ireland?
- Yes – BUT we prefer that this is done only occasionally. The students are in Ireland to immerse themselves in culture and family life – this cannot be done if they are on their cell phones too much. This will be discussed during our orientations.
18. How does the committee decide how to match the students?
- We gather information from both applications and the Lexington student's interview to try and 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.
19. My child is hoping their counterpart will end up being their best friend. Is this the case?
- While many great, lasting friendships have been made on our exchange programs, not every match is perfect. Both committees do their best to match the students, 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 experience that they should take advantage of, regardless of their similarities to their counterpart.

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

Alexandra Brewsaugh  
[abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov)  
859-258-3137

Lexington Sister Cities Commission  
200 E. Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Fax – 859-425-2053

Website – [www.lexingtonsistercities.org](http://www.lexingtonsistercities.org)  
Facebook – [www.facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities](https://www.facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities)  
Instagram - [@lexingtonsistercities](https://www.instagram.com/lexingtonsistercities)  
Blog – [lexingtonsistercities.blogspot.com](http://lexingtonsistercities.blogspot.com)



# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

## 2020 Student Exchange Application

### NOTE TO APPLICANTS:

When matching you with an Irish student, your application is the main resource the committee uses. Please be thorough, specific and include as many interests or matching qualities as possible.

Email completed application to [abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov); or fill out in **PEN** and **paperclip** together for mailing.

### Please include the following items with your application:

- A current photo of yourself.
- \$25 application fee.
- Two letters of recommendation.

### **Student Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(List your FULL NAME as it does or will appear on your passport.)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

### **Your Home:**

**Mother/Father/Parent's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

Address *(if different than yours)* \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Job title \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother/Father/Parent's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

Address *(if different than yours)* \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_ Job title \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Siblings:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

With whom do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to host a student of the opposite gender?  Yes  No

What will the student's sleeping arrangements be during their stay in Lexington?

- Share a bedroom with counterpart
- Share a bedroom with sibling of same gender
- Have a private bedroom

Do you have any pets? If so, please list.

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# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

**About you:**

What are your favorite subjects in school?

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What are your least favorite subjects in school?

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What are your interests outside of school?

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Do you play any sports or are you involved in any clubs/organizations? Please list:

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Describe your personality.

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Why do you want to participate in the Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange?

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Why do you think you would be a good candidate for the Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange?

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What are your plans for hosting your student?

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Have you ever hosted an exchange student before?  Yes  No

If yes, describe your experience?

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Have you ever traveled without your family?  Yes  No

If yes, to where and how long?

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# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program

Are you applying for Governor’s Scholar Program or Governor’s School for the Arts this year?  Yes  No  
(NOTE: GSP and GSA directly coincide with this program – you will not be able to do both.)

Are you participating in any summer programs?  Yes  No  
If yes, explain what programs and dates:

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Do you have any allergies or medical conditions?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list:

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## **For Parents:**

What do you think your responsibilities to this student will be?

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Describe your family rules.

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Do you give permission for your child to be photographed, either individually or as a group, during their exchange experience?  Yes  No

## **Parent/Guardian Permission:**

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/guardian to \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission for my/our child to submit the enclosed application for the 2020 Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange Program.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation

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Student Name (First, Middle, Last)

## To the Recommender:

This student is applying for the Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange for summer of 2020. If chosen, the student will travel to County Kildare, Ireland for 10 days to experience Irish culture and everyday life. In addition, the student will host their Irish counterpart in Lexington for 10 days. Your candid appraisal of the student's propensity for a successful experience abroad is an important part of their application. We ask that you be honest and specific about your recommendation for this student.

Students are evaluated based on:

- Their motivation for travel and participation in our program
- Flexibility in handling new or difficult situations
- Hosting and family support
- Ability to be a good ambassador for Lexington, Kentucky, America, and their school.
- Character
- Leadership; Community & School Involvement
- Maturity
- Interest in cultural diversity

*Please attach this form to your letter.*

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Subject Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

Years you have known this student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Letters of Recommendation are due by November 1, 2019.**

Send or email to:

Alexandra Brewsaugh  
[abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov)

Lexington Sister Cities Commission  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Thank you for your insights and support of the program.  
Your assistance helps us create a wonderful experience for the County Kildare and Lexington students.



# Lexington – County Kildare High School Student Exchange Program Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation

\_\_\_\_\_  
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