

Deauville, France

2022 Lexington Sister Cities Student Exchange Application

Name: _____

School: _____

Age by July 1, 2021 _____



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

Lexington – Deauville Student Exchange Program

Thank you for your interest in the 2022 Summer Student Exchange Program to Deauville, France. The purpose of this exchange program is to provide genuine cultural and family experiences in another country for students of Lexington, Kentucky and those of Deauville, France.

Student and parents/guardians must be willing and able to receive a French student in their home for the same length of time that an American student is in France. This is an exact exchange, meaning that once students are matched with their international counterpart, they will be together for both parts of the exchange program in France and in Lexington.

To be selected for a Lexington Sister Cities student exchange program, applicants should exhibit maturity, flexibility, an interest in French culture and language, and qualities that would make them a good ambassador for Lexington, Kentucky and the United States of America.

To participate in this program, students must be taking French II or above. Please note that students over the age of 18 before August 1, 2022 will not be considered for this program.

Applications are due to Lexington Sister Cities

Friday, November 5, 2021

Please email a completed application and your letters of recommendation to lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com. You will receive a confirmation email once we have received your materials. You can also send in application materials to:

Lexington Sister Cities
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Applications should include the following items:

- Completed Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange Application**
- \$50 Application Fee** (Can be mailed to the Lexington Sister Cities office, or paid online via Credit Card or PayPal by visiting our website lexingtonsistercities.org)
- Current Photo** (Headshot. Can be attached with the application or emailed to lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com)
- Signed copy of parent consent page of application**
- Two recommendation letters:**
 - One letter should be from a teacher or counselor.
 - The second letter can be from a teacher, counselor or personal reference.
 - Recommendation letters may be turned in separate from the application and should be emailed to lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com or mailed to the Sister Cities office. Letters should be received by the application due date on Friday, November 5, 2021.
- Letter to your possible counterpart written in French**

At the end of this application you can find a list of “Frequently Asked Questions”, this list explains the relative dates and costs of the program. Please review the list before completing your application. After the application deadline, an interview date will be set up for candidates and parents. Our main form of communication is through email, so please ensure that all student emails are accurate. Upon acceptance into the program, orientations will be held to prepare students for the exchange. **Orientations are mandatory for participation.**

Parents or guardians should sign Page 7, giving their student permission to submit this application.

Lexington – Deauville Student Exchange Program

LEXINGTON-DEAUVILLE STUDENT EXCHANGE SISTER CITIES APPLICATION 2022

Please email completed application to lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com or mail to the Sister Cities Office

Full Name:

Gender:

School:

Grade:

Date of Birth:

Age on June 1, 2022:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Family Information

Parent/Guardian 1 FULL NAME:

Address (If different than yours):

Email:

Phone:

Employer & Position:

Parent/Guardian 2 FULL NAME:

Address (If different than yours):

Email:

Phone:

Employer & Position:

Siblings

Name and age:

Name and age:

Name and age:

Name and age:

With which siblings do you live?

Pets

Medical information

Allergies or Medical Conditions:

Daily medication:

Lexington – Deauville Student Exchange Program

List any other information you wish for us to consider.

- Do you have a driver's license? YES NO
- Do you have access to a vehicle? YES NO
- Do you have any travel experience? YES NO
- Have you ever traveled without your family? YES NO
 - How long and where? _____
- Do you have friends or family in France? YES NO
 - Where? _____
- Do you speak more than one language? If so, which one? _____

HOSTING

Are you able to host a student of the opposite gender? YES NO

- Rooming situation for your French guest: ___
 - _Private bedroom
 - _Share a room with counterpart
 - _____ Share a room with a sibling of same gender

IF parents are living separately, will the students stay in one home or switch houses? SAME SWITCH

IF switching, please describe.

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PARENTS

Do you give permission for your child to be photographed, either individually or with a group, upon consent?

YES

NO

Please explain your family rules:

Describe your family meals:

What do you think your responsibilities will be toward this student.

During the stay of the French student, will both spouses work? YES NO

If yes, what are your plans for the students during the day?

Do you smoke? YES NO

Are you allergic to second-hand smoke? YES NO

Do you or does someone else smoke in your home? YES NO

How do you feel about drinking?

Lexington – Deauville Student Exchange Program

PERMISSION:

The Lexington-Deauville Committee reserves the right to make selections for the 2022 Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange based upon the principles, rules and expectations of the program. Part of the program is hosting a French student, the Lexington-Deauville Committee may not accept students if they are unable to host a student in their home. Further, the Lexington-Deauville Committee may request a home visit pending acceptance to the program.

The Lexington-Deauville Committee reserves the right to revoke acceptance from a student should new information be received about the student's hosting capabilities or other factors that would involve them being unfit as an ambassador for our program. Students may also see their acceptance revoked should they not attend orientations.

We, _____, parent/guardian to _____, have read and understand the information in this application, the enclosed rules sheet, and Parent/Guardian Permission Form.

Signature _____ Date _____

We hereby give permission for my/our child to submit the enclosed application for the 2022 Lexington- Deauville Student Exchange Program.

Signature _____ Date _____

Lexington – Deauville Student Exchange Program

Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation

Student Name

To the Recommender: This student is applying for the Lexington-Deauville Student Exchange for summer of 2022. If chosen, the student will travel to Deauville, France for three weeks to experience French culture, as well as everyday life in France. In addition, the student will host their French counterpart in Lexington for three weeks. 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.

Recommender's Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Subject Taught: _____

Years you have known this student: _____

Letters of Recommendation are due by Friday, **November 5, 2021**. Send or email to:

lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com

Lexington Sister Cities
200 E. 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 Deauville and Lexington students.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the dates for the exchange?

A: While we do not have the exact dates for the exchange, we know an approximate time table. Lexington students usually leave for Deauville around mid-June. They stay in France for three weeks, returning around July 4. The Deauville students return with the Lexington students to Lexington and stay for three weeks, departing near the end of July. The exchange is six weeks total, so you can count on half the month of June and generally the entire month of July.

2. Is there a chaperone for the students?

A: There is not a chaperone due to the length of the exchange. 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 generally be between \$1,800 and \$2,000, depending on current airline prices. Upon acceptance, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due to Lexington 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. There could also be a transportation surcharge for local tours. Scholarships are available on a financial need basis – the scholarship application can be found on our 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. 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.

6. 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.

7. When are the interviews for the exchange?

A: Interviews will be scheduled either mid-November or early December. Interviews will last about 45 minutes per family. If possible, both parents/guardians should attend the interview.

8. What should I expect at the interview?

A: A panel of committee members will interview potential students and parents separately, starting with the student. We ask questions about your motivation for the program, if you have any previous travel experience, what type of student you would like to be matched with, etc. We look for maturity, flexibility, resilience, and general character traits that will ensure you are a successful candidate. We will also ask a few questions in French to get a better understanding of your conversational French. When interviewing parents, we want to be assured that the parents understand the commitment they and their student are undertaking.

9. 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 48 hours to accept their spot in the program. 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. Orientations will start in January. **ORIENTATIONS ARE MANDATORY** for participation in the program.

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10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Are there group activities planned by Sister Cities?

A: Yes – both in France and in Lexington the committees will plan 4-5 group activities.

13. 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.

14. Can my child drive while in France?

A: No.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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 personalities, 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.

18. 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.

19. 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 the similarities to their counterpart.

20. 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, even if they are not a perfect match with their counterpart.