

# County Kildare

# Ireland

## 2022 Lexington Sister Cities Student Exchange Application

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

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

Age by July 1, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Must be 15 by July 1, 2022)*



Lexington Sister Cities  
Deauville, County Kildare, Shinhidaka, Newmarket

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

# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

Thank you for your interest in the 2022 Summer Student Exchange Program to County Kildare, Ireland. 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 County Kildare, Ireland.

Student and parents/guardians must be willing and able to receive an Irish student in their home for the same length of time that an American student is in Ireland. 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 Ireland and in Lexington.

To be selected for a Lexington Sister Cities student exchange program, applicants 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 of America.

Students must turn 15 by July 1, 2022 to participate in the program. **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 5th, 2021.**

Please email a completed application and your letters of recommendation to [lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto: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 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

### **Applications should include the following items:**

- **Completed Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange Application**
- **\$25 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](http://lexingtonsistercities.org))
- **Current Photo** (Headshot. Can be attached with the application or emailed to [lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com))
- **Two Letter of Recommendation**
  - 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 if necessary, and can be emailed to [lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com). Letters should be received by the application deadline on Friday, November 5th, 2021.

At the end of this application, you can find “Frequently Asked Questions” that explain the timeline and cost of the program. Please review this before submitting 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 and parent 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 5, giving their student permission to submit this application.**

# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

## 2022 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 [lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com)

### **Student Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(List your FULL NAME as it does or will appear on your passport.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

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

### **Parent and Household Information:**

**Mother/Father/Parent #1 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother/Father/Parent #2 Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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.

\_\_\_\_\_

# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

## **About you:**

What are your 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, please 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 Student Exchange Program

Are you applying for Governor’s Scholar Program or Governor’s School for the Arts this year?  Yes  No  
(PLEASE NOTE: GSP and GSA directly coincide with this program, and 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 2022 Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange Program.

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

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

# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

## Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

### To the Recommender:

This student is applying for the Lexington-County Kildare Student Exchange for summer of 2022. 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 evaluation 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, 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 5, 2021.**

Please email letter to:

[lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonsistercities@gmail.com)

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.

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

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# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q. How long is the exchange?**
  - a. County Kildare students will visit Lexington for 10-12 days; Lexington students travel to County Kildare for 10-12 days as well.
2. **Q. What are the dates for the exchange?**
  - a. While we do not have exact dates for the 2022 exchange, we can give some approximate times. 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. **Q. 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. **Q. 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. **Q. 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. **Q. 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. **Q. How much does the exchange cost?**
  - a. Other than the \$25 application fee, the cost will be around \$1,500 - \$1,800, depending on current airline prices. Upon acceptance, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due to Lexington 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 to cover the airfare costs are available for financial need – the scholarship application can be found on the Lexington Sister Cities website.
8. **Q. 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. **Q. 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. Both parents (if applicable) must make every effort to attend the interview.
10. **Q. 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 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 as well.



# Lexington – County Kildare Student Exchange Program

**11. Q. 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. Q. 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.

**13. Q. Are there group activities planned by Sister Cities?**

- a. Yes – both in Ireland and in Lexington the committees plan groups activities and dinners.

**14. Q. What if my student gets sick while in Ireland?**

- 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.

**15. Q. Can my child drive while in Ireland?**

- a. No.

**16. Q. Can my child drive their County Kildare student while in Lexington?**

- a. Yes, if they have a valid driver's license that permits them to drive others in his/her car.

**17. Q. Can I call/email/text my child while they are in Ireland?**

- a. 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 constantly on their phones.

**18. Q. How does the committee decide how to match the students?**

- a. 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. Q. My child is hoping their counterpart will end up being their best friend. Is this the case?**

- a. 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.