



Expectations and Guidelines for International Students and Scholars

1. The LIFE program is a social relationship meant to facilitate friendship and cultural exchange. Hosts are NOT expected to provide housing for international students, or assistance with financial, academic, or medical problems. The [Center for Global Engagement](#) can assist you with these issues.
2. Student(s) are matched to a local family for a period of one year. If the relationship is beneficial, we encourage you to continue it as long as you are studying at JMU.
3. Participants are expected to attend the LIFE reception at the beginning of each semester where they will meet their student(s).
4. Your friendship family should invite you to participate in social events and activities that will introduce you to new aspects of American culture. You are encouraged to also invite your friendship family to activities that are important to you as well, such as a presentation you will give, a birthday celebration or a sporting event.
5. Ask your friendship family about their customs, country, values, belief systems, food etc. Take a genuine interest in them, but remember to be patient and open minded as you observe differences in culture.
6. Religious institutions are an important aspect of American culture. If you wish, you should have the opportunity to learn about them. However, if you are invited to a religious activity, ask your friendship family about the nature of the event and then decide if you want to participate or not. Remember that you have the right to choose.
7. You must be willing to pay for yourself for activities that you participate in with the friendship family (movies, shopping, etc.). If the activity is too expensive, politely alert your friendship family.
8. If, for any reason, your friendship family is not compatible with you, it is reasonable to request a change. Do not neglect the situation. To discuss, contact [Emma Lundeen](#), the LIFE coordinator.