

Parents

Why do we need a guardian for our son or daughter?

Most independent schools in the UK require their international students to have a UK based guardian who will (when necessary) respond to any emergency arrangement concerning the student. They will also expect them to provide a homestay/transport arrangement for times when the school is closed (exeat and half terms) and be in constant contact with the school.

What is a host family/homestay arrangement?

A 'Host family' - is a UK based family that will host your son or daughter in their home during school closure (exeat or half term). An 'Academic' host family will be thoroughly checked and vetted and will have been visited by a member of staff to check their home before a student stays there.

A 'homestay' - is the home of the host family where your son or daughter will be staying.

Can a family member act as a guardian?

Yes! A family member can act as guardian as long as they are over 25 years old and not living in halls of residence. What is important to consider is if they are always available for exeat and half terms or the odd day at the end of term or in emergency situations. This can be a burden to family members or friends and therefore we would advise you to seek the services of an AEGIS accredited guardianship company (preferably Academic Guardians)

Which guardianship package should I choose?

It would be the Premium or Standard package dependent on the age of your son or daughter. What you may also need to consider is: if it's their first time in the UK, would you like us to attend Parents evening on your behalf. Please refer to our Guardianship Packages page on the website where we have listed all the services and what package they are included in.

Can I change guardianship package?

You can 'upgrade' your package at any time. If you want to 'downgrade' your package we ask that you do this at the end of the academic year.

What is considered an emergency?

An emergency is a situation that poses an immediate risk to health and or life. Or where you need immediate action to be taken to prevent the worsening of a situation.

When is the office open?

08:00am – 20:00pm (Monday to Friday)

08:00am – 12:00pm (Saturday)

Closed (Sunday)

Anytime outside those hours are for emergencies only. Any emails received outside these times will be answered as soon as the office is next open.

What other costs aren't included in the guardianship service fee?

- Homestay fees from £30 per night
- Transport Academic Staff, Host family 0.45 pence per mile
- Airport Transfers (quotes will be given)
- Additional visit to School £50
- Academic Staff Accompaniment day £75 + Mileage
- Extra arrangements (not included in your current package) £50
- Unscheduled homestay/transport arrangements outside School term dates £25

What if my son or daughter doesn't like their host family?

If your son or daughter has tried staying with their family and doesn't like it for any reason we are happy to change to an alternate family before they have their next arrangement. If they need an immediate change – this can also be arranged and we will find a family as close as possible to the current family.

Who is my son or daughters guardian?

Dawn and Andrew Kettle will be your appointed guardians in the UK. A common mistake is that your host families are your appointed guardians (this isn't the case). The host families are only the point of contact when your son or daughter is staying at their house. All other contact should be made directly with a member of the team in the office.

What is a Local Co-ordinator?

They are the regional representatives of Academic Guardians UK. Their role is to provide year-round support to host families and students in their region or local area.

