

ARE YOU READY FOR AN L&F EXPERIENCE?



YES NO *Are you...*

		Internationally oriented and curious about a new culture, its people and its language; eager to discover the world, learn as much as possible, and determined to make the most of each experience every day? A good traveler is interested in learning activities, not just leisure activities.
		Adventurous and interested in meeting new people, trying new foods, seeing new places and doing new things? A good traveler does not expect things in other places to be like it is at home. When presented with a new food, a good guest says, “Cool, I’ve never tried this before,” not “Yuck, where’s the closest McDonald’s?”
		Flexible and able to adjust to the unexpected, such as last minute changes in plans, delays, poor weather, different people, different money, new ideas and customs? A good traveler sees unexpected changes as part of the adventure of traveling!
		Ambitious & motivated to work hard to earn funding for this big adventure?
		Conscientious in studying the preparation materials and study units in order to be well prepared, willing to use foreign language skills, and eager to learn more before, during, and after the trip?
		Independent and able to be away for a few weeks from home, family, and friends without feeling lonely, insecure or depressed? A good traveler does not call home and feel miserable because s/he isn’t there or because there is not immediate access to friends and family.
		Social and interested in making new friends? A moody ‘party pooper’ does not make a good traveler. A SHY person must remember that the language commitment and host family obligations do not allow her/him to remain silent. Participating and going outside your comfort zone is essential to the success of this trip. This is especially important during the family stay experience; being interested in your hosts and being interesting to them will make this an unforgettable experience.
		Even-tempered? A good traveler controls negative emotions and works very hard to get along. S/he works to prevent problems, not cause them.
		Receptive? A good traveler is open to others, tolerant, understanding, and caring. S/he is not judgmental, petty or mean-spirited. S/he includes others in the group and appreciates each person’s unique qualities. A good traveler doesn’t expect everyone else to be just like her/him and respects the ideas and perspectives of everyone in the group. A good guest is receptive to the activities of the host family and is able to see the value of being involved in even everyday routines.
		Group Oriented? A good traveler thinks in terms of ‘we’ instead of ‘me’. Individual behavior (positive or negative) affects the entire group, and all should behave thoughtfully and maturely. A good traveler is not late and respects all of the rules of the group so that the entire group can enjoy the trip.
		Mature enough to make responsible personal decisions? Responsible and careful not to lose track of passports, money or other possessions? Good travelers watch out for each other!
		Appreciative , especially of a host family’s hospitality and generosity to have a guest in their home? A good traveler also appreciates the tremendous efforts others (including teachers, parents, group members, and community members) have made and continue to make on her/his behalf.

How did you do? Are you a ready for an L&F experience? We hope so!

If you answered “NO” to any of these questions, examine your motivations carefully and honestly. Think about why these characteristics are important and what you can do to make the most of your experience abroad.