

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
STUDENT APPLICATION AND INFORMATION**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **High School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Description:** Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) students and chaperone teachers will spend up to \_\_\_\_\_ weeks beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date) at \_\_\_\_\_ School in \_\_\_\_\_ (place). This stay in \_\_\_\_\_ is part of the Baltimore County Public Schools’ Cultural Exchange Program. During \_\_\_\_\_ (dates), students and teachers from \_\_\_\_\_ school in \_\_\_\_\_ (country), will stay with BCPS’ families.

We are now recruiting high school students from Baltimore County Public Schools. The selected students will be drawn from high schools offering \_\_\_\_\_(curricular content)\_\_\_\_\_. A maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ (number) ambassadors can be selected for the program.

The expectation is that each participant’s family would also be a host home for one of our guests during \_\_\_\_\_ (dates). One of the exchange program’s goals is to build friendships not just between the high schools but between our communities. If you are unable to host a student in your home, we ask you to assist us in locating a suitable host family with whom you will co-host.

During the stay in \_\_\_\_\_, BCPS students live with host families and with students attending \_\_\_\_\_ School. Our American students will attend classes, explore \_\_\_\_\_ and nearby cities, and travel to various historical and cultural sites such as: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Eligibility:** Students will be selected on the basis of the following criteria: demonstrated and continued strong academic performance (no final grade below a “C”); teacher recommendations; interest and aptitude for learning language, history, and culture; ability to serve as an ambassador for Baltimore County Public Schools, Maryland, and the United States; sensitivity to other people and cultures; maturity, support from family; mental, physical and emotional health; and successful completion of the application and interview process. Unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances, each student is expected to host a student from \_\_\_\_\_. This creates a true partnership and enriches the experience for all participants.

**Application Deadline:** Applications are available from your school. Applications must be post marked by \_\_\_\_\_ or given to your school’s Cultural Exchange coordinator. If you are not sure who that is, ask your principal.

**Questions:** There will be an informational meeting for students and their parents on \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. Please come and have all your questions answered before applying.

**Costs:** We estimate that the student/family’s share of the expenses for this program will be approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_. The expenses would be as follows:

- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for round-trip travel to \_\_\_\_\_
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Passport
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for spend money
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for inoculations
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Visa
- Enrollment in a certified language program, if not already enrolled in a BCPS’ course
- Food and lodging will be taken care of by the host family
- Additional expenses for hosting a student will vary based on the number of outings you provide. Additional organized trips will be provided by the Cultural Exchange Program.

**Cultural Exchange Program  
Student Application**

Full Name (as it appears on your passport): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_ Guidance counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Languages:** All students going on the exchange will be expected to study \_\_\_\_\_ intensively for at least six months prior to departure. If not currently enrolled in a BCPS’ language course you must sign up for a certified language course through a community college or similar certified program.

\* You may use additional pages to complete the essays below.

**Questions:**

1. Please describe any experience you have had with the study of languages, in particular an experience you have had with \_\_\_\_\_. (Include year’s studied, names of schools and teachers, experience at home, with travel, etc.) Who is/are your current language teacher(s)?

2. If you have not already been studying \_\_\_\_\_, what is your interest in doing so? Are you planning to continue your study of \_\_\_\_\_ in the future?

**Travel:** Previous travel experience is not a criterion for eligibility. However, because distance, time, and cultural differences are all significant factors in this exchange, we would like any insight into any time spent away from home.

**Questions:**

1. Please describe any travel you have done with your family in and out of the United States (please include location(s) visited and duration of stay.
2. Please describe any travel you have done without your family. (Include names of programs and lengths of time away from home)

**Questions:** The following questions are intended to make you reflect upon the experience for which you are applying. Please read all of the questions before beginning to compose your answers. Please answer on a separate piece of paper.

1. Why do you want to participate in this program?
2. How do you think a stay in \_\_\_\_\_ represents a particularly demanding challenge?
3. Why do you feel that you are well qualified to meet this challenge?
4. If your friend were selected for this program, what advice would you give him/her?
5. If accepted into this program, you will be expected to investigate some aspect of \_\_\_\_\_ life and culture. What would you choose to research and why?

**Hosting:**

1. Can your family host one of our guests from \_\_\_\_\_ during \_\_\_\_\_? Host families will form a tight network among each other to share ideas, responsibilities, and plan occasional gatherings. Each host family will plan its own outings with their guest and establish their own house rules.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you cannot host one of our guests, you will be responsible for helping to find a suitable co-host family. You will partner with this family to ensure that the visiting student has a positive experience in the United States. Please list the name, address, and phone number of any potential host family you know.

**Personal Information:**

Personal Interests or Hobbies

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List teachers' names during school year \_\_\_\_\_ (include subject/course)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Your teachers and guidance counselor will be contacted to give their recommendation for your participation in the Cultural Exchange Program. If you would like us to contact a previous teacher or non-academic reference (e.g. employer, adult who has worked with you) please write his/her name, e-mail, phone number, and relationship to you below:

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Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Travel Document Preparation:**

Full Name as it appears on Passport: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
(County/City, State, Country)

Student's present country of citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently have a valid passport? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If "Yes," when does your passport expire? \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

Do you have an expired passport? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Alternative Emergency Contact in the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_