Frequently asked Questions

What countries do the students represent? Current Thiel College international students are from China, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya and South Korea.

What about the language barrier? Most students have taken several months or more of English coursework. You shouldn’t find language to be an issue.

What is the expected time commitment? Most Thiel College host families get together with students on the weekends. However, your family will want to discuss this expectation with your student at your initial meeting.

What is the financial obligation? International students live on campus where their room and board is paid for. Any monetary commitment is your decision and is usually based on the types of activities in which your family and the student engage.

As a Thiel College Host Family, you and your family will create a lasting friendship and learn about a different culture, its values and traditions, language, food and so much more! And you will offer an international student the unique opportunity to discover America through your eyes.

5 Easy Steps to Becoming a Thiel College Host Family

1. Have a strong interest in learning about other cultures and sharing your own.
2. Fill out the Thiel College host family application.
3. Receive approval from the program director.
4. Be matched with a student.
5. Attend the host family orientation program.

Become a Thiel College Host Family today!

Contact Shannon Reesh,
Director of International Student Services
724-589-2126
sreesh@thiel.edu

Visit us online to print out the application:
www.thiel.edu/internationalstudents
Since it can be expensive for international students to travel home, host families often invite students to celebrate traditional American holidays by sharing a meal, attending a church service or engaging in other holiday activities. The students’ desire is to spend time with you and your family learning about American traditions and culture.

Studying abroad can be challenging in so many ways. When international and exchange students study at Thiel, they want to experience what life is like in a “typical” American family setting. They also benefit greatly from receiving the extra emotional support that you and your family members can provide. The biggest requirement for being a host family is simply the desire to share your culture with another.

To ensure the safety of our students, prospective host families are asked to complete an application process including a thorough background check. You will be notified by the Director of International Student Affairs when you are officially qualified to become a host family.

Successful host family activities include:
- Visiting Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Erie
- Going to museums
- Shopping, shopping, shopping!
- Seeing a baseball or soccer game
- Going to a lake or other outdoor activity
- Snow skiing, tubing or sled riding
- Touring various types of houses
- Dining out (a favorite is Top’s Chinese Buffet in Hermitage, Pa.)
- Attending on-campus events

Do the things you would typically do on a weekend—be creative and have fun!