

UBCS International Student Program Information Sheet

At Upper Bucks Christian School, it is our desire to develop students into young men and women of character. Our quality educational program prepares our students for life after high school, whether to succeed in the work force or in a post-secondary educational pursuit. Curriculum that includes honors and dual-credit college classes with an emphasis on technology is essential to help achieve those goals. A well-rounded education also includes sufficient opportunities for student involvement in competitive athletics, enriching fine arts, and other student activities.

Purpose

The purpose of Upper Bucks Christian School's International Student Education Program is to develop God honoring relationships with students from abroad and offer educational programs to students who want to learn more about the American culture and the English language in a private school setting. We teach all material from a Biblical worldview.

Mission Statement

To educate the next generation with a Biblical worldview to lead, serve others, and love God.

In support of this mission, our core values are:

- Preparing students to engage their world and culture for Christ
- Pursuing excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts
- Partnering with families in training their children to be committed followers of Christ
- Striving for growth in spiritual formation and integrity

Goals

To educate students in the areas of English, History, Math, Science, the Arts, and physical health;

To train the next generation of leaders;

To form relationships with students of various cultures;

To prepare students for life beyond high school;

And, to open up opportunities for students to create lasting friendships with students abroad.

Agency Expectations

1. Act as intermediary between school and students.
2. Recruit students to attend Upper Bucks Christian School
3. Ensure students have all of their documentation complete before applying.
4. Contact school for necessary paperwork, gather paperwork, and pass on all paperwork to the school as a part of the enrollment process.
5. Pay Registration and Deposit fee to UBCS. A student's I-20 will not be issued until this is done.
6. Help secure a host family before student attends 1st day of school (Note: UBCS will help as best we can, but the Agency is ultimately responsible for the finding of host families.)
 - a. All hosting fees and interactions are between the agency/student and host family. UBCS is not involved in this arrangement.
 - b. Provide host family contact information to school.
7. Assign and pay for student insurance (UBCS is not responsible to obtain student insurance).
8. Take care of travel arrangements to and from student's home in native country as necessary.
9. Act as the mediator on behalf of the school and biological family.
10. There are numerous agencies that have students at UBCS. We value each of these relationships and recognize it is important for each agency to demonstrate respect for each other.
 - a. Students are not permitted to be recruited from one agency to another
 - b. Students are not permitted to switch from one agency to another without approval by UBCS administration. Consideration of such a request will be based on communication with the student's parents, and both agencies involved.

Student Expectations

1. All students accepted to UBCS are expected to follow all school policies which are found in the Student Handbook.
2. Recognizing there will be a transition time due to language and customs' differences, our staff and faculty are understanding and use discretion in the handling of situations that arise. Our faculty and staff are happy to come along side students to correct what is needed and explain what is unclear.
3. While in school, students are expected to speak English; students may talk in their native language with friends at lunch or during free times, but we encourage all students to speak English as much as they can to aid in their use and understanding of the English language.
4. All students are expected to establish and maintain a respectful and cooperative spirit with teachers and students. They are expected to obey all school rules while maintaining a positive attitude at all times. International students are expected to respond to cultural differences by adapting acceptably to the culture of UBCS.
5. General academic guidelines:
 - a. All students are expected to maintain their grades at an appropriate average (C average or better).
 - b. UBCS understands from some students there will be a transition time and students may not produce passing grades at first. Teachers will accommodate needs, especially during this transition time. If, after an appropriate amount of time, a student is still failing a class, the agency will be contacted to recommend tutoring.
 - c. Upon arrival to UBCS, based on their understanding and ability to use the English language, students may be placed on academic probation. During this time, assignments and inclusion of grades on grade reports or tests will be limited. The probationary period will not exceed the length of one quarter of the school year.
6. Handbook highlights:
 - a. The use of profanity, either in English or in a native tongue is prohibited.
 - b. Students who become involved with alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco use, immoral behavior, or pornographic material will be expelled. This applies to conduct both at and away from school.
 - c. Attendance: all students accepted to UBCS are expected to maintain acceptable attendance. Excessive tardies and unexcused absences will be addressed according to the attendance policy of UBCS. Absences due to illness or unavoidable travel arrangements will be managed on a case-to-case basis with each student.
 - d. Cell Phones and other electronic devices:
 - i. All students are required to have a personal translator device that is not internet/wifi accessible.
 - ii. Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day, unless given permission by their teacher for an approved reason.
 - e. Dress Code: all students are expected to follow the UBCS dress code. We understand the cultural transition involved and flexibility may be granted based on administrative approval. A complete explanation of the dress code is found in the UBCS handbook, but the following are some general guidelines.
 - i. Girls:
 1. Modest tops that cover shoulder tops, cleavage, and stomach; no t-shirts
 2. Modest, loose-fitting pants – no jeans, leggings, or athletic-style pants (sweats or compression pants); pants should be in good repair – no rips, stains, or frays;
 3. Modest skirts – must come to at least the top of the knee when sitting;
 - ii. Guys:
 1. Collared shirts; sweaters can be worn with a t-shirt underneath; sweatshirts can be worn with a collared shirt underneath;
 2. Modest, loose-fitting pants – no jeans, leggings, or athletic-style pants (sweats or compression pants); pants should be in good repair – no rips, stains, or frays;
 3. Boys must be clean shaven each day
 4. Clean hair; length should not extend past top of ear, top of shirt collar or past the top of eyebrows
 5. No jewelry allowed (Exceptions: watches and class rings or family emblem rings or medical bracelets/bands). Body piercings and tattoos are not allowed.