

This information will be in the Program Enrollment Booklet and also on the L&F website.

Eligibility

Students applying for a Language & Friendship program must:

- ✓ complete 2 or more years of Spanish study by the year of travel
- ✓ maintain good academic standing
- ✓ be in excellent health
- ✓ demonstrate excellent behavior
- ✓ conduct themselves in a mature manner, reflecting highly on themselves, their community, their country
- ✓ be committed to the group for the benefit and safety of all

Teacher/leaders may have additional requirements.

Important: Participation in this program is a privilege, not a right. Just as coaches (sports, debate, speech) select their teams, teacher/leaders for this program select students who meet and maintain expectations.

Eligibility criteria as well as Language & Friendship's Program Expectations must be followed in order to maintain eligibility.

Health

The fast pace and strenuous nature of group travel requires high energy, flexibility and resourcefulness. Success depends on being physically, medically and mentally prepared to participate and adapt in another culture.

It is vital that accurate information be given regarding health and behavior and that no information be omitted or misrepresented. Complete information is absolutely essential for the safety and well-being of the individual student as well as for the group.

Language & Friendship may require a Physician's Report and/or an Educator/Counselor Report to determine eligibility and to make sure leaders and host families have essential information.

Students must be able to self-manage medications and health conditions. It is important that teacher/leaders not be expected to take on the responsibility of caring for students who may need more supervision/care than possible when responsible for a group.

Program Expectations

1. I will respect my leader and the members of my group by being on time and participating in all planned activities, including **all pre-trip preparation meetings**.
2. I will make my best effort to speak the country's language. I will show interest, be engaged and be helpful.
3. As outlined in the L&F Communication Expectations, I agree to consciously limit the use of electronic devices so that I can focus on the program, the country, and the people I am visiting.
4. I will be a **safe traveler**: I will keep my passport and money safe in a neck or waist pouch; never venture out alone; stay in a group of 3 or more; not be distracted by technology.
5. I will treat people I meet with respect and discretion, as I am a guest in their country. I will thoroughly review the Travel Courtesies and the Family Stay sections in this Student Guidebook.
6. I will abide by the curfews set by my leader, and will remain in my assigned room. I will conduct myself in a manner to keep my general health strong.
7. I agree to act, speak, and dress appropriately, in a manner that is respectful of the culture I am visiting and in a manner that will not attract undue attention. I will not use inappropriate language and will not have inappropriate physical contact.
8. I will not engage in romantic/sexual involvement while abroad.
9. I will not harass or bully my peers or others I interact with during the program.
10. I will not participate in any actions that are illegal either in the U.S. or in the country I am visiting, such as consuming alcohol, using tobacco or other controlled substances, stealing, etc.
11. I will not have my body pierced or tattooed while abroad.
12. I will not drive any motorized vehicle, nor will I be a passenger on a two-wheeled motorized vehicle, while abroad. High-risk activities (climbing, hunting, riding in a private plane, etc.) require prior written permission of my parents.
13. I will be responsible for any loss or damage to any personal or public property, and will pay damages. This includes damage to hotels, sites, etc.
14. I will be responsible for having a passport that is valid for my destination/s and any other documentation that is required. I understand that I am responsible for any expenses incurred in obtaining these documents or in replacing them if they are lost.
15. If I have any questions or concerns while abroad, I agree to always first contact my leader, instead of my parents.
16. I agree to abide by all my leader's rules and accept my leader's word as final.

Consequences for not meeting expectations

Prior to departure:

As indicated in L&F's cancellation policy and in the Release signed with the online application, Language & Friendship reserves the right to cancel a student's participation at any time should there be academic, behavioral, or medical issues. Cancellation fees apply.

While abroad:

Consequences, which could be the result of behavior or undisclosed medical conditions revealed while abroad, will depend on the offense/situation and are subject to leader discretion. Action may include any or all of the following:

- Address concern directly with student (may include grounding as a disciplinary measure)
- Collect call home with both student and leader present to explain the issue
- Return home at parent expense
 - *Parents will be required to cover any incurred expenses: student return flight; additional travel/hotel costs for student; any additional in-country travel/hotel costs for leader if travel is required to reach an available airport. Parent(s) must agree for child to fly home alone or to pay for unaccompanied minor service.*

Note: Despite the complication, time, cost, and disappointment involved in sending a student home, it is considered a necessary consequence of broken rules or lack of disclosure in order to maintain the integrity of our program.