



The Waldorf School of Garden City

Student Exchange Program

Steps for WSGC families to Request an Exchange

Exchange Coordinator:

Libia Gallo - gallol@waldorfgarden.org

STEP 1

Complete the "Request for Exchange" application and submit it to the Exchange Coordinator or return to the Admission Office.

STEP 2

Upon your application's approval from the High School Faculty:

- a) The Exchange Coordinator will post and/or provide you with interested exchange partners.
- b) Create a profile that can be sent to students abroad written in the language you study. The profile should include a brief snapshot about who you are as a person, your interest and where you live. You should also include a photograph of yourself, your family, and your home. Please email a completed profile saved as a PDF file to your Exchange Coordinator.

STEP 3

Once a potential exchange match is made, your exchange partner must complete an application (if not already done) and be approved by WSGC. Upon approval the Exchange Coordinator will:

- a) Complete and send an I-20 document to your exchange partner which is necessary for them to gain a US visa.
- b) Ask parents of both students to complete a guardianship form.
- c) Require your exchange partner to send proof of medical insurance (valid in the US) to her.

STEP 4

Prior to your exchange partner beginning classes at WSGC, your family must make sure they have:

- a) Seen a New York State physician and completed the all WSGC's required medical forms.

Other considerations

Transportation: You must contact your school district to see if transportation to WSGC is possible. If not, you must be able to have a parent drive the exchange partner to and from WSGC.

Academic Expectations and Cultural Mores: WSGC refers students to interested exchange partners. However, we have no specific knowledge about the day-to-day reality of that student's life. While all Waldorf schools follow similar indications for curriculum, expectations for both academic and personal comportment vary from school to school, country to country and family to family. WSGC students who have traveled abroad have reported a greater degree of autonomy than might be typical for an American teenager. Additionally, legal drinking ages will be lower than that in the United States. Parents should discuss standards/expectations with both their own children and family living abroad to make sure that all parties are comfortable.



The Waldorf School of Garden City

Student Exchange Program Information

The Waldorf School of Garden city offers the possibility of a foreign language exchange to another Waldorf School in the Tenth Grade year. The program allows mature and motivated students to learn and live in another country for approximately three months. Exchange students foster competence and fluency in a language other than then English and immersion in a different cultural environment.

Each year, the Exchange Coordinator, the High School Faculty, and the Foreign Language Department determine how many exchanges will be available for the following year.

Applying

The formal application process includes written statements and agreements for both students and parents. Students and families must start the application process at the end of the first semester of the 9th grade year for first consideration or October 31 for second round.

Interested students should speak to the Exchange Coordinator to start the application process.

Student Qualifications:

- 10th grade students typically go on exchange. Interested students from other grades should meet with the Exchange Coordinator.
- High motivation to learn a foreign language and learn about another culture
- Good standing in all aspects of school life.
- Ability to be away from home for an extended period of time
- Good ambassador for the School

Parent Expectations:

- Host a visiting student in the home: bedrooms/beds; social and emotional support (Please note if an exchange with a student of the opposite sex is possible.)
- Accept the role and responsibility of parenting the exchange student for the duration of the visit
- Provide a clean bedroom (exchange student must be notified if the room will be shared)
- Provide breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Include exchange student in family outings, trips and vacations and trips to NYC
- The exchange experience can be initially exhausting and stressful. Be prepared to offer support and understanding. Notify the Foreign Exchange Coordinator of any concerns you may have.
- Know the exchange student's whereabouts at all times.

- Problems or concerns that arise in the relationship between the exchange student and any member of the host family must be reported to the Foreign Exchange Coordinator.
- Medical emergencies concerning the exchange student must be reported to the Foreign Exchange Coordinator and the student's family.

Orientation

Families are encouraged to meet with The Exchange Coordinator and/or attend an orientation at the School to help them understand what can be expected and anticipated to achieve successful foreign exchange experience.

Credit for Courses

The Waldorf School of Garden City maintains a credit rich program for graduation. Students who participate in the full four years graduate with a credit surplus. However, when going on an exchange, students and families must understand the following:

- We do not award credit for courses taken at the exchange school.
- Students need to coordinate with each of their teachers what work should be completed independently while abroad.

Financial Responsibilities

Tuition:

- No extra tuition fees needed. The tuition is exchanged with the host school.

Expenses:

- Airfare and all travel expenses.
- Adequate spending money for student's personal expenses and to enable student to participate in social life.
- Contact the exchange student's family to help determine amount needed.

Travel Documents and Insurance

- Students must have a valid passport
- Purchase international travel insurance that would cover various kinds of expenses in case of illness and other emergencies (mandatory)

School Support

The School will provide documentation as needed to the host country or the host school through the High School office, The Exchange Coordinator and language teachers.



The Waldorf School of Garden City

DATE: _____

Student Exchange Program Application Form

This application is for **provisional acceptance only**. The student's behavior, attitude and scholastic level of achievement will be considered to determine final suitability for the exchange program. The student is required to write a paragraph addressing his/her reasons for wishing to study abroad. Return to the Exchange Coordinator.

WSGC STUDENT INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Current Grade: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Parent 1: Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Parent 2: Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

PROPOSED EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Proposed Country(s) you are considering:

Proposed Dates (3 months average). *Can be an estimate.*

Departure Date: _____

Return Date: _____

Student Exchange Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature*: _____

Date: _____

*This consent implies that you will assume primary responsibility for contacting the family with whom your child will live whenever communications are necessary.



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Exchange Program Agreement for Students and Families

Student:

I understand that being approved for a Foreign Language Exchange is a privilege granted by the High School Faculty and I have a responsibility to live up to the expectations set in the guidelines. I understand that the approval for a foreign language exchange is condition upon my continued success as a student in all areas of school life.

While away on exchange, I will work to the best of my ability at the host school, be respectful of the host family and be a good ambassador for the Waldorf School of Garden City.

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parents:

I understand that my child's foreign exchange approval is conditional upon continued successful performance in all areas of School life.

I/we agree to provide all of the necessary documents and support for my child while he or she is on exchange. I have provided the School with the following documents (please check and enclose copies):

- Evidence of a valid passport
- Copies of family insurance plan
- Copy of International Travel Insurance Plan
- Visa (if needed)

Parent signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent signature: _____ **Date:** _____



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Student Exchange Program Host Family Acknowledgement Form

Please complete, sign and return

(by mail or e-mail) to: [The Exchange Coordinator, gallol@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:gallol@waldorfgarden.org)
The Waldorf School of Garden City
225 Cambridge Ave., Garden City, NY 11530

HOST FAMILY: _____

Grade	
Academic Year	
Exchange Period	
Visiting Student Name	
Visiting Student Family Name(s)	
Address	
City & Country	
Telephone #	
Cell phone #	
Host Family Name(s)	
Address	
City & Country	
Telephone #	
Cell phone #	

I/We understand and accept our role and expectations of the Host Family as outlines in the Exchange Program guidelines. Specifically, I/we accept the responsibility of parenting the student for the entire duration of the visit. Furthermore, I/we understand that the guidelines outline minimum obligations and it is the responsibility of the Student, the Student's Family and the Host Family to make additional arrangements as necessary.

Host family signature: _____ Date: _____

Host family signature: _____ Date: _____