



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

Founded in 1967, the Society for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) awards scholarships each year to Australian students to travel to Germany for 10 weeks during the Christmas holidays, and to German students to travel to Australia for 12 weeks during their summer holidays from June to September. The exchange program aims to give students an insight into a foreign culture and build friendships between the youth of these two countries. It operates with the approval of and in co-operation with the NSW Department of Education and the ACT Education and Training Directorate.

GASS is the association of scholarship alumni who aim to ensure future scholarship recipients receive the same life changing experience we were able to. We handle the day-to-day running of the exchange, host year-round events and provide further opportunities for German language students.

In June this year, approximately 25 German exchange students will travel to Australia. The students will live with host families and attend school with a host sibling for the duration of their exchange. This is an opportunity for them to embrace the Australian way of life and to experience a cultural immersion.

Students in Years 10-12 attending high school in NSW or ACT are eligible to host a German student, regardless of whether they currently learn German. The hosting experience is extremely rewarding, and provides the opportunity to broaden understanding of culture, current issues and language in both Australia and Germany. Host siblings are able to not only create a meaningful connection with a German student, but can also meet and form a lasting network with other host students.

SAGSE and GASS provide a strong support network to ensure the experience is valuable for host families. A Host Family Coordinator is in regular contact before and during the Germans' stay, and will be available to answer any queries at any time. Host siblings are welcomed to the GASS Wintercamp in the July school holidays, as well as various regional days and other events. These are not compulsory, but GASS warmly encourages host families and exchange students to attend.

Host families are financially responsible for the student during their stay. Exchange students will, however, carry a sum of spending money to meet all social costs. German students have been selected



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through a rigorous and highly competitive process and will readily adapt to the routine and lifestyle of their host family.

Students who have hosted a German student through the SAGSE hosting programme and wish to apply for the SAGSE scholarship will automatically be short-listed for the final interview stage, provided they meet the eligibility criteria and complete an application form. Host students who are younger than Year 11 may carry over their application advantages until they reach the eligible age.

If you would like to apply to host a German student, please complete and return the accompanying Host Family Application Form to the NSW/ACT Host Family Coordinator Jack Maclean (preferably via email) by Friday 4 March 2016. Please note that SAGSE and GASS require any adult who will live with an exchange student for over five days to have a current NSW Working with Children Check (if the exchange student is hosted in NSW) or ACT Working with Vulnerable People Registration (if the student is hosted in ACT) for the duration of the exchange. GASS will guide host families through the Check or Registration application upon receipt of the Host Family Application.

Upon receipt of your application, GASS representatives will contact you to arrange an interview with your family. After this interview, you will be advised whether an exchange student has been matched to your family.

Please do not hesitate to visit gassaustralia.org.au or to contact the NSW/ACT Host Family Coordinator if you would like any further information about hosting with GASS Australia this year. We thank you for your interest.

NSW/ACT Host Family Coordinator: Jack Maclean

Email: hosting.nswact@gassaustralia.org.au

Address: 580 Northbourne Avenue, Downer 2602 ACT

Phone: 0429 143 901



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

Host Family Application Form

This page is to be completed by the hosting student and parents.

Host student's full name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Host student's school: _____ School grade: _____

Host family's address: _____

Host family's telephone number: _____

Host student's and parents' email addresses: _____

Host father's name, date of birth and occupation: _____

Host father's Working with Children Check/Working with Vulnerable People Registration number:

Host mother's name, date of birth and occupation: _____

Host mother's Working with Children Check/Working with Vulnerable People Registration number:

Siblings' names, dates of birth and occupations (please include school grades if siblings are students
and Working with Children Check numbers if students are over 18): _____

Will any member of the family be absent during the exchange student's stay? _____



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

The following page is to be completed by the host student.

What subjects are you currently studying? _____

Which subject is your favourite subject? _____

What extra-curricular activities do you do at school? _____

Do you have any positions of responsibility at school? _____

What would you like to study/work as in the future? _____

What extra-curricular activities do you do outside school? _____

What are your hobbies and interests? _____

Could an exchange student also participate in your hobbies and extra-curricular activities (both at and outside school)? _____

Please describe your typical week, including social activities. _____

Why do you wish to host a German exchange student? _____



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

The following two pages are to be completed by a host parent with the host sibling.

What language does your family speak at home? Does any member of your family speak any language other than English? _____

What is your family's religion? _____

Does your family have any pets? _____

Does anyone in your family have special dietary habits? _____

Has your family hosted an exchange student in the past? _____

Would you prefer to host a boy, a girl, or either? _____

Would a slightly older student (18-19 years) match well with your family? _____

What would be your family's attitude to an exchange student accustomed to drinking or smoking?

What would be your family's attitude to an exchange student who has adopted certain trends regarding clothes, hairstyle etc.?

Would you foresee any major problems with hosting a student who has special religious requirements (e.g. would like to attend church if your family does not normally)? _____

Would you foresee any major problems in hosting a student who has special dietary requirements?

Would the exchange student have his/her own bedroom? _____

Will any other exchange students or guests be with your family during the student's stay? _____



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

What are your family's hobbies? _____

Why would your family like to host an exchange student? _____

What qualities do you think a good host family should possess? _____

What qualities do you think an exchange student should possess? _____

What do you see as being the exchange student's role in your family? _____

Please describe a typical weekend with your family, as well as anything you might do differently if you were to host an exchange student. _____



THE SOCIETY FOR AUSTRALIAN-GERMAN STUDENT EXCHANGE INC. (NSW & ACT)

Host Student's Confirmation and Agreement

I understand that the German exchange students will arrive in early to mid-June and will depart Australia in early September. Exchange students are required to attend a 5-day camp during the winter school holidays, to which host students are also invited. Exchange students are allowed to travel independently with other SAGSE exchange students for 5 days during the winter school holidays. In order to host an exchange student, any adult who will live with the student for over five days must have a current valid Working with Children Check (if my family lives in NSW) or Working with Vulnerable People Registration (if my family lives in ACT). GASS will guide my family through the Check or Registration application process upon receipt of this Host Family Application. I have given the information in this host family application to the best of my knowledge and conscience. I have not withheld anything that is of importance to my family in hosting a German student.

Host student's name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Host Parents' Confirmation and Agreement

We confirm the above and our willingness to host a German student.

Host parents' names: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____



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School's Consent and Agreement

This page is to be completed by the school Principal or his/her nominated representative.

Host Family's Surname: _____

Name of School: _____

Name of Principal: _____ Phone No: _____

School's Address: _____

I confirm that the school is aware that this family has applied to host a German exchange student. The school supports the family's application. The school acknowledges that, if the family's application is successful, the school will host the exchange student for approximately twelve weeks from early June to late August. The exchange student will carry a Schools sector visa (subclass 571), and will not be required to pay tuition fees.

Principal's name: _____

Principal's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please nominate a school representative to whom GASS will forward all future correspondence about the exchange, primarily regarding the exchange student's enrolment.

School's representative: _____

Position within the school: _____

Email address: _____

Daytime phone number: _____