



FSA YOUTH EXCHANGE  
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## 2025 Host Family Information Brochure



Does the idea of having **friends in faraway countries** appeal to you? Is your family a **typical**, ordinary **South African family**? Lively, complex, interesting and on the go? Are you **proud** of our beautiful country? Are you interested in **sharing your family life** with a young guest from a strange country for a few weeks?

Think how much **fun** you can have showing a new friend **how we live and love** in this place we call home... What a great **opportunity** for a family to have someone from a different culture share and **live in your home**? Having your children **experience** this... Think of lasting **friendships** that can form.

In effect we are building **bridges between strangers** and between countries that can lead to long lasting friendships.

### 1. When do these visits take place?

**Different** groups of German students visit friendly, hospitable South African families every year getting to know **our country, our people**, the different **cultures, languages** and our **way of living** by being **part of an ordinary family**.

4 – 5 weeks: over **July and August** (4 groups from end of June, beginning July, mid Jul to mid Aug, or beginning of Aug to end of Aug).

6 or 8 weeks: **July – August**. A few students get permission from their German schools to participate for 6 or 8 weeks.

10 week (also referred to as 3 month) school programme: A few students apply for the 1<sup>st</sup> term (Jan – March) or the 2<sup>nd</sup> term (Apr – end June) or the 3<sup>rd</sup> term (July to Sept)

5 weeks: **mid December – mid / end January**

**A few apply to participate for 2 school terms (6 months) or in exceptional circumstances for 12 months.**



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## 2. What about school attendance?

Most of the visits take place **during school terms** except the 4 week December. Some students get permission to visit a bit longer in January in order to go to school for a few days. The students want to **attend** the local **school with your child** to **experience** the difference in education systems. During the short programmes the guest only **observes** what happens at school and is not an active participant.

During the **10 week programme** the guest will **actively take part in the tuition**, doing homework, writing tests etc. All students are required to adhere to school rules. Ten week students buy school uniform (or borrow if possible). FSA Germany pays school fees for long programme participants if schools require this.

## 3. Is hostel living a problem?

If there is hostel attendance and the school allows an exchange student in the hostel, the host family must please approach and discuss the possibility with the school. The host family pay hostel fees if required by the school. Alternatively if hostel attendance is a problem, families can choose to pay the non-hosting fee.



## 4. Who are our young visitors?

Participants are between **14 and 19** years old. They come from **all over Germany** and the programme is not limited to only one school or city. Participants are **screened** and most of them attend a **preparation** workshop before the exchange visit. They can speak English (the younger ones sometimes less fluent).

## 5. Who can host?

All interested families are invited to apply to host a student for the short or for the long programmes regardless of whether they come from a rural or urban environment. Families are screened for suitability.



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## 6. What is expected of host families? (some requirements)

- The ideal host family must be **hospitable, friendly, warm and open minded** and most of all **tolerant** towards guests who come from a different culture. Is your family **open-minded** and **tolerant**? Easy-going?

Even if someone looks **strange or different** to what we are used to, maybe has many ear or nose piercings, boys with longer hair, perhaps even dreadlocks? Different or no religion? Liberal political views? **Does different necessarily mean "wrong"?**

- Are there **teenagers of school-going age** in your family? Obviously, also younger and / or older siblings. Applicants are usually matched with host families whose own children's ages, gender and interests are similar.
- Host families act as informal **"ambassadors" for South Africa**. We have so much to be proud of in our country. Can you identify with this?
- Just think how you can introduce them a typical "braai", pap and sheba, biltong, koeksisters and everything you enjoy eating. The guest has **all his meals with the family**. It is not necessary to cater for different diets or preferences.
- Do you have a **spare guest bed**? **An own room is not a condition**, only an own bed. The guest is willing to share a room with a child of the same gender.
- Being **able to speak German is not essential**. All communication will be in English. It is important to inform us if your home language is German as this impacts on who is placed with your family.



- Do you live in a **politically stable area**? The host family is **not responsible for any losses or injuries** suffered by the guest during private excursions. We are all aware of the situation in South Africa regarding crime. Participants are informed of the situation in South Africa and that they should adhere to your recommendations regarding safety.

- Are you willing to make a young guest **part of your everyday family life**? It is **not expected** of host families to organise **extensive sightseeing** programmes for guests. Can you show her some of the **places of interest in your area**? It would be a pity if a guest had to fly 10 000 km to only get to know the way to school and back.



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### 7. What expenses does it entail?

**Mainly** having a young guest **live in your house, meals**, transport to and from the airport, hostel fees if required and a few outings if possible.

Each participant has a return air ticket, own pocket money and comprehensive Medical, Accident and Third party Insurance. FSA Germany pays school fees for long program participants (if required by the school) and students buy their own school uniform.

Due to the reciprocal nature of the programme, **families are not remunerated** for hosting an exchange student. It is important that the German student visit as part of the FSA programme and NOT as a private guest.

### 8. Where will you meet your guest? Where will you fetch him / her?

Participants land in **Johannesburg**. If you cannot meet your guest at OR Tambo International Airport, please **indicate** the closest convenient **domestic airport** on the application form she / he must fly to, **closest to your home** where you can fetch her. Sometimes return flights are very early in the morning – especially from Cape Town, meaning families have to bring them back to the airport in the early morning hours.

### 9. You will have continuous support from the FSA during the visit.

An **FSA contact person**, Suzanne Baker is available for the duration of the stay should you need to get in touch with us or need any support. After we receive your application form, **information** regarding the visit will be sent to you from the FSA. This will help to make the visit as pleasant as possible for you as well as for your guest.

The same as our German host families, we know you will have as much **fun preparing** for the visit as during the actual visit. Our ex-host families and previous participants are **our best references**. If you would like to talk to any of them, call us for contact particulars.





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**10. Where can host families obtain application forms?**

Available on our website <http://www.fsa-youthexchange.co.za>

We gladly send application forms and brochures to families who request this via email as well. You can also apply online and send your application electronically – see on the website.

**You can apply by completing the online (paperless) application form on our website below. The electronic application is easy and effortless to complete and submit! To save trees we recommend (prefer) the online application.**

If you do not have access to the online application you can return the application in printed format. We are trying to move away from the printed application forms. Please supply all requested information.

**All enquiries :** Our incoming programme from Germany to South Africa  
**FSA Youth Exchange (Gauteng Office)**  
**North-South Programme for SA host families hosting German students**  
**Suzanne Baker**  
**Boksburg**  
**Tel: 0 1 0 / 0 0 6 – 5 4 4 0**

Email: [suzanne@fsa-youthexchange.co.za](mailto:suzanne@fsa-youthexchange.co.za)

Website: <http://www.fsa-youthexchange.co.za>

**11. Where can prospective South African exchange students to Germany obtain application forms?**

From your school or from the following website. You can complete the application electronically (recommended) or download and print the form. You will find it on our website <http://www.fsa-youthexchange.co.za>

FSA Youth Exchange (Limpopo Office)  
South-North Programme for SA students

**Alta Botes**

**Naboomspruit / Mookgopong**

Tel : 0 1 4 / 7 4 3 1 0 8 1

Email: [admin@fsa-youthexchange.co.za](mailto:admin@fsa-youthexchange.co.za)

We invite you to become part of an exceptional group of people who has added immense value to their experiences by participating in this exchange programme.

***The FSA Youth Exchange continues to expand and thousands of South African and German families have broadened their horizons by their involvement.***

**FSA celebrates 29 years' exchange visits in 2025!**