

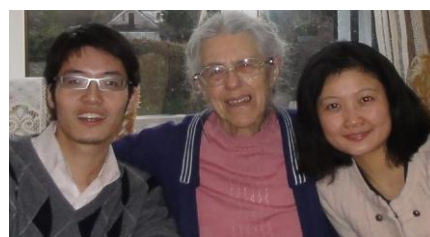
369 students had HOST visits at Christmas, and 74 at New Year. In total there were 24 cancellations by students of festive visits.

In the academic year 2009 – 2010 HOST received 2955 authorised applications. A further 430 applications were not authorised.

*We learned a lot from the visit. Firstly, we learned more about British culture and the daily life of British friends. I think British culture is very open, which means like to listen to different opinion and discuss, then by the help of critical thinking, to make the right way. Secondly, the visit makes us think about our own life. We are encouraged to learn more about other culture, friendly and help others, just like our Host did. Thirdly, we learned more about the amazing places and the stories behind them in UK. A lot of things, I could not mention them all. Host visit have become a very memorable part of our stay in UK, even of our life.*  
Yi, China; Loughborough



*HOST visit is very vital for the students to experience the British culture and also it provides home environment to international students especially who are far away from their own home.* Amrita, India; University College Falmouth



Thank you for all your efforts promoting HOST, encouraging your students, and authorising their applications. Many happy visits are the result!

**Please keep those applications coming!**

It may be several months now since most of your students heard about HOST. Time for a reminder? A message is attached to the email which delivered this newsletter to you, which we hope you will very kindly send as a round robin to all your students.

**Please keep those applications moving!**

HOST cannot proceed with students' applications until we have received the authorisation from you. This is our only way of assuring our hosts that online applicants are genuinely international students. Delays in authorisation can have serious consequences – sometimes application dates have expired while we've been waiting, and this in turn can lead to cancellation of their application by the students... with all the problems that entails. Rapid authorisation by you is really really helpful – thank you so much for your help.

**A feather in your cap**

'This university subscribes to HOST, a unique programme which offers international students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the British culture and way of life, by spending a weekend during their study abroad, staying with British residents in their own homes.'

Offering HOST visits to your students is a real plus point – so do the above words (or something similar) appear on your institution's website? You might like to check this, and add our logo and web address for good measure!

**Application fees**

The increased rate of VAT affects us all. Our application fee remains at £37, but VAT at 20% will be payable on our next invoice.

**Your contact details**

Please let us know if your contact details change, or if a new person in your office takes on responsibility for HOST. Thank you

**Our contact details**

We have a new accountant, Mary Clements, to replace Sue James, who has left after four years. In future, please contact [Mary@hostuk.org](mailto:Mary@hostuk.org)



Helping to pack shoeboxes for Romania

*For a crash course on the British history and to experience the true British culture filled with lovely British people and amazingly delicious home-cook meals plus exploring of gorgeous Britain's countryside, go for a HOST visit. Ashley, Singapore; University of the Arts, London*

Institutions generating the highest number of applications were as follows (previous year's figures in brackets)

1. University of Southampton **261 (261)**
2. University of Manchester **226 (219)**
3. University of Warwick **224 (206)**
4. University of Nottingham **210 (153)**
5. New York University London **137 (127)**

HOST applicants came from **112** different countries, of which the top few were:

1. **China 1504**
2. **USA 318**
3. **Taiwan 230**
4. Malaysia 170
5. India 159
6. Hong Kong 117
7. Korea 104
8. Japan 75

Hosts enjoy variety, so if you can encourage students from less well represented countries to apply, we would probably be able to squeeze more invitations from our hosts.

### Cancellations by HOST

We understand your frustration when you are billed for an application fee after the application has been cancelled by HOST. We also find it very frustrating to have to cancel students' applications – we would much rather they had visits.

We do not cancel applications without trying our best. Our ROs are asked to write three times to every student who fails to respond. The third message should be copied to you. This gives you the chance to chase up your student if you wish to. The third message will give the student a deadline for a reply: this will probably be about 3-4 weeks after the date the RO first wrote to the student, but it could be later if the visit dates are far ahead.

Some students begin by replying to the RO, but when they are sent a suitable invitation, there is no response. Again, they are sent a reminder. But ROs have other students waiting, and cannot risk wasting the invitation, so they will eventually give it to another student if they can.

As you can see, we do not cancel applications until we have done quite a bit of work already – sometimes a lot of work - only to have invitations declined or ignored.

If we consider our work was minimal (this would occur only at the very busiest times), we will not charge you. Otherwise, I'm afraid we have to apply the admin fee, even in cases where the eventual outcome was no visit. The fee is not, and never has been, a payment for a visit. HOST visits are free.

### Hosts hiding on your campus?

Some of your colleagues – academic, admin and support staff - are potential hosts. We also have a good number of retired university staff on our host register. And we have hosts who heard about us through their Alumni Magazine.

Could you please help us by directing the attached email to the appropriate people for distribution via your staff newsletter or intranet; retired staff newsletter; and alumni department.

Thank you so much.



HOST looks forward to working with you in 2011 for the benefit of your international students!

*I applaud HOST UK for the wonderful work that they have done and will continue to do. Thank you for making my weekend so special, and for enriching my life with a bountiful of experience and new friends!*  
Jude, Singapore; University of Hertfordshire