

**In-
formation for
virtual host families**

Supplement to the general
fact sheet



Language: Our interns speak English, most have no knowledge of German.

Background: Most of our interns come from modest families with very limited financial resources. Access to academic studies is therefore a great privilege for them.

Duration: The internship lasts 3-4 months.

Objectives: Our new, virtual internships aim to promote knowledge exchange between Switzerland and Southern Africa – independent of crises and travel restrictions.

As a virtual host family you are part of the cultural exchange. Through this personal contact, interns are to gain insight into Swiss culture and lifestyle. In return, the interns will give their host families insight into their culture.

The resulting cultural exchange is rewarding and enriching for both sides.

Supporting program: B360 provides a supporting program to virtual host families. This includes information and suggestions on topics like tradition and customs, food, music, tourism etc.

The program is available in writing and includes interesting links to sources of music, pictures and movies.

Implementation: The program takes place exclusively in the virtual space by using online communication tools.

The host family thereby invites their guest/intern «into their home» and enables him/her to take part in their everyday lives. It is planned that the interns will also give the Swiss host families insight into the lifestyle in their own country (due to network challenges in some areas this might not always work well).

Time and effort involved:

Online channels such as WhatsApp, MS Teams and Zoom will enable an active exchange between host family and intern:

- Prior to the start of the internship, host families will produce short videos to be made available to the interns on a website. The videos can be produced using a smartphone or a standard camera. A duration between one and three minutes is fine. No editing or cutting is necessary. Examples: Tour of the living quarters of the family, impressions of a weekend, birthday party, weekly shopping, Swiss landscapes.
- Active chat exchange over WhatsApp between host family and intern (at least twice weekly).
- Live video transmissions via Zoom, MS Teams or, ideally, via WhatsApp.

B360 Support:

The B360 team in Zug supports the interns throughout the internship. B360 is also always available to assist the host families.

For further information:

Sabina Balmer, phone +41 79 253 00 14, sabina.balmer@b360.ch
www.b360-education-partnerships.org