



NAME: 04.01.03 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM	VERSION No.: 1.0
ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2021	REVIEW: 2025-2026

REVIEW EVERY 4 YEARS

VISION

Christian schools are places where true hospitality can be modelled, where we learn to love our neighbour as ourselves and welcome strangers. Offering enrolment opportunities to International students should be viewed primarily as an opportunity to learn what it means to practice hospitality and to learn from the stranger. When guest and host take the time to reveal to each other their unique gifts and abilities each can be enriched and empowered.

MISSION

Our communities are places where we can break down stereotypes and ethnocentric ways of behaving. Welcoming the stranger can challenge our ways of thinking and gives us a different lens on our culture. As the Bible exhorts us in Leviticus 19:33, 34:

When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

We need to remember that both the newcomer and the host face the same challenges: if together we are willing to open our minds to differing perspectives and commit to mutual learning our communities will be enlarged and enriched by the experience. When there is a genuine attentiveness to learn *from* as well as learn *about* each other we also discover the ways that God has revealed Himself in cultures different than our own and we gain a deeper understanding of how God's redemptive story is revealed to all people. The underpinnings of all aspects of Richmond Christian School's International Program should be the practice of Christian hospitality; its admissions protocols, instructional programs and homestay guidelines should reflect the practice of welcoming the newcomer.

GUIDELINES

1. Enrollment

Enrolment of international students should be limited to no more than 5% of the student body, or a class at any given time, of recently enrolled international students. Students should be fully integrated into the school in terms of language, curriculum and extra-curricular activities before being considered outside the 10% limit.

It would benefit the school if two or three ethnic backgrounds were targeted for enrolment. This gives integration a better chance of success.

2. Guardianship

International students should live with parents or a parent before grade 9, and live in a homestay environment that is consistent with the school's vision and enrolment policies. Christian schools need to ensure that their vision of the home, school and church working together is honored.

3. Commitment to RCS Christian Vision

Commitment to the school's Christian vision needs to be clearly understood by those considering enrolment. This can be difficult as language barriers make communication difficult. As well, unscrupulous recruiting agencies will manipulate the necessary data on the enrolment forms once they know what the school requires.

4. English Language Learning (ELL) Instruction

Richmond Christian School should provide students with English Language Learning (ELL) instruction. There are excellent resources that can be accessed to assist students in acquiring a working knowledge of the English language.

5. International Student Coordinator

An International Student Coordinator is needed to provide support. There are many sociological studies that give sound direction as to how international students make the transition to a new culture. A person designated to look after these students would serve a valuable function. The cost should be borne by the international student program.

Reference Documents:

1. RCS International Student Program Mission and Vision
2. RCS Homestay Program Guide (September 2021)