

FAQ – Hosting Exchange Students at MUNOG

What is MUNOG?

MUNOG (Model United Nations of Goldberg) is an international student conference where young people from different countries come together to discuss global political issues in a simulated United Nations conference. Around 200 students and accompanying teachers participate each year. Each year, we welcome guests from approximately 18 schools in 12 European countries to Goldberg-Gymnasium. A central part of the program is the accommodation of international participants in host families.

Why are host families so important?

Host families play a key role and are essential for the success of the conference. MUNOG should not be an elite project but accessible to everyone. Without host families, many international students could not participate because hotel accommodation would be too expensive. Host families make MUNOG possible as an international event.

Who can become a host family?

Any family willing to host a student for the duration of the conference and provide accommodation and food:

- A private or shared room with a bed
- Breakfast and sometimes dinner (lunch is organized at school)
- Transport to school if public transport is not available

My child is not participating in MUNOG. Can we still host a student? Does it make sense?

Yes, you may host a student even if your own child is not participating in MUNOG.

This can be a very enriching experience for the entire family.

You and your child will have the opportunity to get to know a young person from another country, experience cultural exchange, and possibly form a lasting international friendship.

Do we need to meet special requirements?

No special requirements apply. It is important only that your child attends Goldberg-Gymnasium or one of the participating regional schools and that you are willing to welcome a student into your home.

Registration process?

Interested families can register via an online form. After registration, you will receive further information and, if applicable, the allocation of a student. Allocation takes place shortly before the conference.

[Registration form 2026](#)

What age groups are typical?

Most exchange students are between 14 and 18 years old. In rare cases, there may also be slightly younger or older participants.

Do host families need to speak a specific language?

English is the official conference language. All exchange students speak at least basic English.

How is a good match between students and host families ensured?

During registration, host families may indicate preferences (e.g., gender or age). However, we kindly ask for your understanding if these preferences cannot always be fulfilled due to organizational constraints.

In previous years, we have tried to accommodate delegations (students from the same visiting school) in the same area or neighborhood. Experience has shown that this creates positive synergies: students can travel to school together, support one another, and coordinate more easily during the conference days.

Therefore, we try to organize housing in close proximity whenever logistically possible. However, the Housing Team cannot guarantee this in advance.

Period of stay / How long will the student stay?

Students generally arrive one day before the conference begins and stay until one day after it ends.

Conference days: Friday, 16 October – Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Arrival: Thursday, 15 October 2026

Students are picked up directly at Goldberg-Gymnasium. Final pickup times will be communicated in advance via WhatsApp groups organized by student advisors.

Departure: Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Students will go to school with their host children and depart from there as a group.

Exceptions

In some cases, delegations may arrive earlier, depart later, or leave very early in the morning. We are aware that this may represent an additional challenge for host families. However, such deviations sometimes cannot be avoided without causing disproportionate costs for participating students. In extreme cases, it might even endanger a delegation's participation. We therefore sincerely thank you for your flexibility and support.

For additional days, delegations organize their own program. Host families are asked to provide accommodation and breakfast (and possibly dinner).

Do we need to organize leisure activities?

During conference days, students are heavily involved in the official program. Host families are not expected to organize leisure activities.

Are there rules we need to follow?

Exchange students should be treated respectfully, and we expect our guests to behave politely and respectfully as well. The general principle applies: **"Your home – your rules."**

You decide which house rules apply to your guest.

On the day of arrival, please clarify:

- How you will communicate (WhatsApp, SMS, phone call)
- When the student is expected to be home (curfew arrangements; Saturday is an exception due to the official MUNOG party)
- The relevant public transport stops (e.g., showing the VVS app and the stops for your home and Goldberg-Gymnasium)
- Your family's morning routine (when your children get up and leave the house)
- Whether you wish to provide a house key

German Youth Protection Law (Jugendschutzgesetz)

Most exchange students are between 14 and 18 years old.

Important regulations for public spaces:

Curfew regulations

Under 16: Not allowed in restaurants or public venues after 10:00 p.m. without a legal guardian

16–17 years old: Allowed to stay in public venues until midnight

Alcohol consumption

Beer, wine, or sparkling wine permitted from age 16 in moderation and only in public venues

Spirits are strictly prohibited for anyone under 18

Tobacco

Purchase and consumption of tobacco products are prohibited under 18

à Supervision at the official MUNOG party is provided by the teachers of the visiting schools.

What support does the MUNOG team provide in case of problems?

The Housing Team is available throughout the entire conference period and can assist with questions or difficulties. An emergency contact number will also be provided and is available at all times.

Are there cultural aspects host families should be aware of?

Yes. Students come from different countries and cultural backgrounds. Differences in eating habits, daily routines, or religious practices may occur. Openness and communication help prevent misunderstandings.

Do we have to cover any costs?

No additional costs arise apart from food and, if necessary, transport.

Students receive a public transport ticket (VVS ticket) upon arrival from Goldberg-Gymnasium.

Is there compensation or a thank-you gift for host families?

Host families usually receive a small token of appreciation from their guests. However, the most important benefit is the valuable experience of cultural exchange.

What happens if there are problems with the exchange student?

If serious difficulties arise, please contact the MUNOG Housing Team. In emergencies, alternative accommodation can be arranged.

Is there an emergency contact?

Yes, an emergency number under which the organizing team can be reached at any time will be provided to host families and students before arrival.

May we visit the conference during the event?

Yes. Host parents are welcome to visit the MUNOG conference. There will be a Visitor Center where you can obtain information about the conference and observe debates. The visit usually lasts approximately one hour. An invitation will be sent by email shortly before the conference.

Further information

If you have any questions, please contact: munog-housing@goldberg-gymnasium.de

For urgent questions or problems, please call directly.

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