Winter hosting 2018 – guidelines for students

- Agree a date and time to visit your hosts during the Christmas vacation, and keep to this time. Your hosts are very kindly making the time to see you, so don’t let them down.

- If you can no longer go, let your hosts and International Student Support know by emailing international-support@york.ac.uk. We usually place less than 40% of applicants, so give another student the chance to take your place.

- Once you have been placed, you are not permitted to ask if you can bring your friend. If you wish to go to a host with a friend, you should both apply and make this clear. However, priority is given to students most likely to spend Christmas alone.

- If you agree to meet your hosts at one of the meet and greet sessions, you must come to it. Your hosts have made time especially to meet with you, so please be considerate.

- When asked about other languages on the winter hosting application, please only list those in which you are fluent. If you have a very basic understanding of another language, you can include this but make it clear that your knowledge is limited.

- When visiting your hosts, you may want to take a small gift. This could be a box of chocolates, bubble bath or something from your home country. It does not need to cost a lot of money.

- If you are going to your host’s home, you should ask them what the dress code is as this varies a lot in the UK. Some families like to dress in formal clothes for Christmas, whereas others prefer to keep it casual. If you are going on a trip outside, such as a country walk, it is best to dress comfortably in warm, waterproof clothing.

- Many people in the UK have pets, especially cats and dogs. If you prefer not to spend time with a family with pet animals we will do our best to accommodate this, but please be aware that the majority of our hosts do have them.

- Your visit is likely to last a few hours, either during the day or in the evening.