

Guidelines for church activities with international students

In order to maintain honesty, integrity and cultural sensitivity in all our relationships with international students it is recommended that members of church teams shall:

1. Be committed to making friends with international students respecting them as whole persons with material, social & spiritual needs
2. Respect the dignity of individuals and be culturally sensitive to their needs as international students
3. Respect students' freedom of choice and honour their time and priorities in obtaining their education
4. Refer special problems of international students to the appropriate university officials
5. Provide a clear statement of purpose for each activity organised for international students so that all parties know what is expected of them
6. Seek to obtain suitable training in making friends and communicating in a culturally sensitive way
7. Be completely open and honest about the nature of every activity, providing an accurate description of the purposes of any programme or activity in all publicity materials. Events that are publicised to be just social shall be just that and events with a formal presentation of the Christian message shall be clearly identified as such
8. Take utmost care when they share their faith NOT to place any pressure or coercion on international students to change their religious beliefs
9. Not under any circumstances provide advice on visa or immigration matters unless an appropriate professional qualification is held
10. Take great care before offering financial assistance to students
11. Take great care before offering to act as a "sponsor" or "guarantor" for an international student while they are in UK (except in special circumstances and then, only after seeking professional advice)