

Professional Guardianship BSA & AEGIS Gold Standard





**Congratulations on your
child's place at a UK
boarding school from all
of us at Academic Families**



**Now your big decision has
been made, you need to
decide how best to care for
your child away from home**

Keeping your child safe in the UK

During their schooling, your child will need your support but they will also need someone on the ground locally to help out. Most schools require international students to have a UK-based guardian to provide local support 24/7.

But what if your own network doesn't extend to nearby your chosen school? Or if the responsibility might be too much for your friends or relatives?

By choosing us as your partner, you can relax knowing that we will be there in an instant. Our network of highly experienced staff, hosts and drivers will ensure your child's safety at all times.

We've been supporting children and families like yours for many years. Our strong family values mean we support every child as if they are our own. We're highly respected by families, schools and hosts and have the highest accreditations from AEGIS and the Boarding Schools' Association.

Proven quality you can trust

Think of us as the link between you, your child's boarding school, the boarding houseparents, and the host family they stay with during school breaks and holidays.

We take care of all the essential details and help your child to make the most of this wonderful opportunity to study in the UK. Every step of the way, you can rely on us to look after your child on your behalf. Like you, we want to ensure everything goes smoothly while they're living and studying in the UK.

For more information please visit
www.academicfamilies.com/guardianship

Connect to our highly experienced network of staff, host families and drivers



Gold standard guardianship



“ Academic Families provide a guardianship service of the highest calibre for students and their families. Their knowledgeable and experienced staff provide exemplary pastoral and academic support to help ensure that students are extremely well looked after, and achieve to the best of their ability.

Jacqueline Scotney, AEGIS Lead Inspector



The Association for the
Education & Guardianship
of International Students



Our guardianship service

Safeguarding is at the very heart of everything we do to ensure your child is safe, happy and successful. We are a recognised Safer Recruiter and everyone who works for, and with, Academic Families has been screened and police checked to the highest level.

We subscribe to continuous ongoing screening and require the highest standards from everyone involved with your child.

Our extensive team of staff, hosts and drivers are dedicated to supporting our students from around the world. We help children settle into boarding school life.

We help them enjoy their home away from home ensuring they have the best educational and cultural experience.

We offer continuous support throughout your child's schooling, evolving as they grow in confidence and independence, but always making sure they are safe. Our team is here for them, round the clock, with a smile and the support they need.

Since we started our business in 2012, we have never found a problem we couldn't resolve!



Our guardianship service

from school acceptance until graduation



What sets us apart?

Our extensive experience and personalised service has made Academic Families the preferred guardianship provider for hundreds of international students at UK boarding schools.

We've personally lived overseas and most of us are mothers, so we understand how important it is to find the very best education for every child no matter where in the world that might be. We've supported our own children far from home, so know how to support you and your child too.

We have personal and professional experience of boarding schools as many of us attended, sent our children to or have worked in them.

Our guardianship service has been Gold accredited by AEGIS since 2016 and by the BSA since their accreditation started in 2020. So you know, with Academic Families, you're guaranteed to have the best local support anywhere in the UK.



We maintain the highest standards of care, safety and supervision in respect of the pastoral, social, cultural and educational welfare and wellbeing of international students studying in the UK.

Moreover, our team are trained Mental Health First Aiders so we are qualified to support our students with any wellbeing and mental health concerns.

You can rely on us to support your child in the UK when you can't be here. There's no more important time than now to ensure their safety far from home.



Spotlight on some support you may need

Our guardianship support system is built on empathy, peace of mind, and more than 10 years of experience looking after students from over 40 countries.

We help your child to:



Feel safe & secure



Get advice & guidance



Receive emotional
support



Develop social skills



Practise English with
native speakers



Navigate
cultural differences



Staying with a British family

Our handpicked and vetted hosts across the UK welcome international students with open arms and provide our supportive home away from home. They are all outstanding citizens with the highest credentials and police clearance and must pass the final stage of our rigorous host recruitment - 'would we be happy for our children to stay with them?' - the highest bar to jump!

Our network of host families extends across the UK and includes families living in cities, towns and rural areas. Some of our hosts are grandparents, many are parents and others are couples who don't have any children of their own.

What do our hosts have in common?

Each one understands the needs of international students and will ensure your child balances their time between studies, enjoying quality relaxing breaks and getting out to explore the UK while they are here.

Hosts are selected for their -

- motivation to help international students settle into their British education
- international outlook and global curiosity
- skills, hobbies and interests
- knowledge of the British education system

Not everyone can become an Academic Families host but those that make the grade offer personal, life enriching support to our students.

Meet one of our Host Families - Margaret and Brian



Meet Margaret and Brian - watch YouTube video



For more videos, visit our [YouTube channel](#)



Airports & transfers

Once you've arranged your child's international flights we will arrange their UK transfers including Unaccompanied Minor check-in and collection. We can help make your child's travel less stressful by arranging their transfer between the airport and school, either with school transport or one of our approved drivers.

We like our drivers to get to know our students, so we encourage them to chat and make sure your child is happy with their travel plans. Whenever possible, we'll organise the same driver for all your child's journeys. All our drivers are carefully selected and screened as well as being friendly, reliable and very good at sorting any luggage or check-in issues!

We can go further than check-in – we can go airside!

Airports can be confusing for young people, especially after a long flight. Our Airport Assistance service can ease their journey by escorting them airside and landside.

Arrivals - meet your child at the plane door and escort them through the airport (including Passport Control, changing terminals, shops and eateries) and hand them over to their driver or departure gate airline staff if they have an onward flight.

Departures - meet your child at their taxi, check them in and escort them airside; handing them over to airline staff to board the plane. Our Airport Assistance service is also available to family members, especially those who are not confident English speakers.

[Click here](#) for more information on young flyers and our Unaccompanied Minor (UM) service.



Language support

We understand how important it is for you to communicate effectively with us and school. Not all our parents can communicate proficiently in English and you may prefer to communicate in your own language.

We can support you in Mandarin, Spanish, French, Dutch and Italian and will try to find an interpreter in your language if required. There's a fee for this additional service but it proves to be invaluable when required.

Our interpreters also ensure that school staff understand any cultural and language differences and will give their feedback on your child's progress.



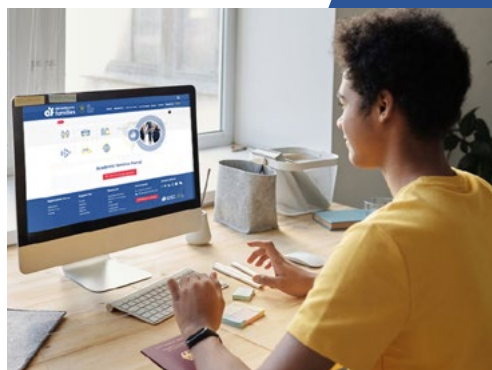
Pastoral & academic support

We will be your school's point of contact for any issues relating to your child's care, safeguarding and education. Our extensive experience supporting families with a wide range of pastoral and academic concerns, ensures that you and your child will have the backup and guidance required until all is well again. And because we understand that you can't always be here in person, we can attend the annual Parents' Meeting on your behalf when teachers give their feedback on your child's progress.



Parent Portal

All your important information and arrangements including live flight and transfer information are shared on our portal which is easily accessible by mobile too.



Short courses

If you'd like to give your child an introduction to boarding life before they start school in September, then our pre-session courses are a great fit. We can also help you choose revision courses for UK exams in a variety of subjects, offered year-round. And if your child can't make it home for summer, they can benefit from one of our summer programmes focusing on a new skill or simply having fun!





Escorted holiday trips

We offer fully escorted holiday trips several times a year during term breaks. These have become extremely popular with our students, who love exploring new cultures, trying new activities and having a lot of fun along the way!





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What
people
say
about us

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Parent Feedback

It may not be difficult to find a professional guardian, but it is not easy to find a guardian who is part of the family like Academic Families. I am very happy with the service provided by Academic Families. Sophie is very professional and capable of handling issues that may arise for international students. She is very responsive and most importantly she is very caring, thoughtful, and loving just like a family. She works very hard to learn what we need and matches our son to lovely hosts. We are very lucky to have strong support from Academic Families so that my son is now safe and happy even though he is not able to stay with his parents. Thank you, Sophie.

Jing, mother of Evan, age 14 – China – Merchiston Castle School

Carlene told me how she loved everything about her time at Marie's. I must say I am truly relieved. Thank you Sophie for the match. I can say, you are the best! It is tough parenting from a distance and you have made it a lot easier. Tell Marie I appreciate it. Lots of Love.

Harriet, mother of Carlene, age 10 – Mali – Fettes Prep School

We have been very fortunate to choose such a great and responsible guardianship company which enabled my child to go to the UK alone to study. Especially when our English is not good, they help children communicate at school, arrange homestays during the holidays, airport transfers, and answer all our questions about further studies, I am very happy to have your assistance so that we can feel at ease. Sincere blessings and thanks.

Jessica, mother of Jen Pin, age 15 – Taiwan – Loretto School

Thanks again for all the attention and great management that the whole team showed to make Isabel's return home possible. It is the only place where she needs to be right now. I have suffered a lot of anguish during the last few days thinking she might be stuck in Scotland due to the Covid-19 situation. Academic Families have been key at this time. You really elevate your business to the highest level and the most important thing for me is how personal your service is. My best wishes and my admiration

Maribel, mother of Isabel, age 14 - Spain - Loretto School



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School Feedback

I am always so impressed with the professionalism of Academic Families. Every member of staff I have had interactions with is on the same wavelength as I am with regard to the focus being on the safety and wellbeing of the pupils, and they have the knowledge and experience to deliver time after time. They are a very friendly and helpful organisation who I have found to go above and beyond the call of duty in order to help find the right solution. They communicate well with schools, parents and pupils, and they take a genuine interest in the whole person so that they can best support and nurture the young people in their care.

Merchiston Castle School

I can unequivocally recommend Academic Families. Roni and Sophie are meticulous with pupil arrangements and very easy to speak with over the phone. Always available. Always on time with arrangements. Always friendly.

Loretto School

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Host Feedback

We have been hosts for about 3 years now. During this time, we have had the pleasure of meeting many young people from a few different cultural backgrounds. We have learned so much from these experiences and hope the young people feel we have contributed to their experiences in a positive way. They have helped us with new technologies and laughed with us over many things. We just hope that being part of our family has helped them understand a little of normal everyday family life. Academic Families has been there for us whenever we have needed, always understanding when we have needed to talk to them. They also care very much about the health and wellbeing of all the young people as individuals. They have been, and we hope will continue to be, a great organisation to be part of.

Shirley & Alan - hosts since 2017

Our children left home a long time ago. We have an active social life, and enjoy being busy and useful in our community. When the opportunity came to host students, our daughter immediately said, 'Mum, you would enjoy this.' And indeed, she was right! Our only criteria was that our students would like dogs, as our two working cocker spaniels are an integral part of our family. And on many occasions when a teenager would not consider saying to us that they needed a cuddle, the dogs have been an excellent alternative, giving empathy on demand! We have hosted several students over the years, and each has brought a different dynamic into our household. Our experiences with these youngsters have enriched us with details and cultures of countries we have not yet visited. Throughout, Academic Families has organised, supported, and been at the end of a phone for us - we've always known there is back up should we need it.

Margaret & Brian - hosts since 2016

Join our family



We would very much like to look after you and your child during their UK boarding school education. In welcoming you to Academic Families, I believe we can provide all the support and guidance you will need.

We're a friendly team and have lived or travelled extensively outside the UK, so you can rely on our international outlook and experience. Many of our staff are also mothers who have sent their own children to study overseas in the UK. Meanwhile, our younger staff have studied and lived abroad, many have taught overseas and all enjoy a special connection with the children and teenagers we look after.

All of which means we understand you and your child and we know first-hand the support you need. So you can relax and enjoy the fabulous education you've chosen for your child and most importantly be confident that they will be safe, happy and successful.

Join our family and enjoy our support. Welcome!

Lorna Clayton
Managing Director



Safe
Happy
Successful
Students



Explore our website to learn more

Click on the items below for more detailed information



[Supporting your child in the UK](#)



[Explaining guardianship to your child](#)



[Settling in](#)



[Our host families](#)



[Academic support](#)



[Travelling to the UK](#)



[Escorted holiday trips](#)



[AEGIS and BSA accreditation](#)

Let's get to know each other

Now it's your turn to tell us about you and your child!

Step 1: Fill in our Quick Form -

[Fill in our quick form today >](#)

Step 2: When you're happy with the level of service you need then we will ask you to confirm more details about your child.

Step 3: We'll schedule a video chat so we can meet you and your child and start our preparation for their arrival.

Step 4: We'll share our informative Parent and Student handbooks as well as access to our portal.

See you soon!



Safe
Happy
Successful
Students

Gold Standard Accredited

Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students
British Boarding School Association