

Kari Quarré: Guidelines for the exchanges

General comment

The *Kari Quarré* student exchange between l'Academie de Grenoble and Rogaland County Council is a very good measure to promote communication and understanding between teenagers in the two regions. The four-week stay in a foreign country proves to be long enough for each student to both note cultural differences and to practice and improve their skills in the foreign languages English and French. Some form lasting friendships, and have definitely acquired competencies both language-wise and on a more personal level.

However, there is always room for improvement in order to make the exchange run more smoothly both for the students and the host families, the schools and the teachers involved.

Selection of the students

The selection of the students is very important. A student who has brilliant academic results is not always suited for an exchange where there are fairly large cultural differences between the countries.

It is of the greatest importance that the students are selected on the basis of their attitudes towards other people and acceptance of other ways of life in general. The students should be open-minded and able to adjust to the new environment they are facing, both at school and in the home.

Preparations before the exchanges

A. Host families

It is essential to conduct an *information meeting* to ensure that the host parents are aware of the responsibilities they take on in being a host family. Since there are students of both genders involved, it is preferable that there is a separate bedroom available for the guest student. It makes the matching of students more difficult when it is ruled out to accept an exchange student of the opposite gender.

The families must be aware of the fact that they will be hosting a teenager from a different country. This will most likely imply other attitudes and ways of behavior than what is common in the host country.

B. Students

The exchange students must be made aware of their position as *guests in a foreign country*, and need to try to adapt to their host family and school. There is a big difference in attitude and relation between teacher and student in the two countries, and each must be respected when abroad. It is of great importance that the Norwegian students are aware of these differences, and are prepared to meet a different regime in their French host school. Some reported to have felt rejected and not included due to *the difference in communication between pupil and adult, also in families*.

Each student should *prepare a presentation* of his or her home school, country and region, to be used in different classroom situations. Both a French and an English version would be suitable, depending on where the presentation is to be held. The French should absolutely have a role in promoting French as a foreign language at their host schools. The Norwegians should maybe more concentrate on presenting Norway, a country rather unknown to most French people.

C. Schools

The schools need to prepare the arrival of the exchange students carefully. The student forms include a passage about their subjects, and this should be taken into consideration when preparing the *individual schedule* of each student. The main reason for the French to come to Norway, is to improve their English, mainly their oral skills. It does not make sense for them to attend classes that are conducted in Norwegian. They should be able to attend a 5-hour English class on Vg1 level in addition to International English on Vg2. The French students should also be allowed to join classes of French. And maybe some of the Science teachers would enjoy conducting classes in English? The main thing is to ensure communication, so that teachers are aware of the exchange student attending school. Teachers should be encouraged to conduct classes in English (CLIL) during the stay of the exchange student.

The partner schools need to **communicate mutually on the teacher level**. They should be able to express certain expectations for their students while abroad. The communication should not be difficult at this day and age, with social media ruling the scene.

Each student needs to have a contact person at the host school. This has to be a person (either teacher or counselor) in which the student can have full confidence.

The French schools need **to give access to the Internet for the Norwegian students**, as they are dependent on following some of their assignments from home via a web-based learning platform. This needs to be cleared with the responsible personnel at each school prior to the arrival of the students.

Students should be given the opportunity of *a common meeting place on the Internet, like Facebook*.

Upon arrival of the students

A. Host families

The host families need to **meet their exchange student at the airport** and take them to their new homes. Practicalities should be communicated at an early stage of the stay, as well as plans for the weekends, etc. The host families are **responsible for transport to the schools, and all meals including lunches**, unless otherwise agreed with the receiving school.

B. Students

The students are obliged **to attend school every day**, apart in case of illness. Note that for both the French and the Norwegians, the stay includes their autumn break. It is obligatory to attend school for a full four weeks abroad. The schedule which is agreed upon is to be followed unless something else is decided in common.

To be in a new and different environment can be exhausting at first, but this is partly what the exchange is all about; to experience something new and slightly unknown.

In order to optimize each individual's stay, it is of high importance that the line of communication with the appointed adult person at the host school is open. This also means that the exchange **student must report any discrepancy** to this person. No changes for the better can be made if a problem is not communicated.

C. Schools

The exchange student should **be welcomed by the person appointed** as his or her specific contact person. The **personal schedule** should then be discussed and agreed on together with the student. Those who have assignments from their home school, need to have some space in their schedule to manage this. The Norwegian students need to have **Internet access**, but only in the library zone. No laptops in class in France!

Do not hesitate to let the exchange students **talk to many classes** about their home country and region, also in order to promote the learning of foreign languages and cultural understanding.

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**Programme de mobilité individuelle avec la
Norvège
Echange avec réciprocité**



**RÉGION ACADÉMIQUE
AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES**

MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE
ET DE LA JEUNESSE
MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR,
DE LA RECHERCHE
ET DE L'INNOVATION



**Kari Quarré Exchange Program
Student information**

This questionnaire is meant to inform the partner school about the candidate chosen for the exchange. Please fill in the form as closely as you can, so that the partner school will be able to choose an appropriate partner family for you. Please be honest in your answer, also regarding your preferences. Please return a completed and signed form electronically to your teacher.

Name of school:

CANDIDATE		Recent photo
Family name	
First name	
Date and place of birth	
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> male	
Nationality	

Address
Home phone number	+33.....
My mobile phone number	+33.....

Your family

Please describe your family and how you live I live with

.....

.....

Do you have any pets? Yes No

Which one(s) ?.....

Please list the pets you are allergic to, if so

.....

Living conditions

Where do you live? in the country in town
 in an appartement in a detached/semi-detached or one-family house

Will your partner student have his/her own room? Yes No

If no, where will he/she sleep?

Do you have any particular needs (allergies, being a vegetarian, other....)?

.....

Does anyone smoke in your family? Yes No

Is smoking allowed in your house? Yes No

Do you accept to stay in a family where smoking is permitted inside?

Yes No

Exchange

Preferred partner student girl boy does not matter

Would you accept a partner student of the opposite sex if this is the only match? Yes No

What qualities would you like for your partner student to have?

.....
.....

Personnality, interests

Do you consider yourself to be ... open or reserved

Please list three other adjectives that describe you as a person:

1..... 2..... 3.....

Interests :

sports

cultural activities

music

Internet-sites, etc

other

Have you ever spent periods of time away from your family? Yes No

Where? For how long?

School situation

What are your main chosen subjects apart from English ?

1.
2.
3.

Student's agreement:

- I will accept the student partner chosen for me, and do my very best to ensure that he/she will have a best possible stay with my family and at school
- I take responsibility to get in touch with my partner student and family by email well in time before the exchange, preferably before the summer holidays
- I promise to respect all rules, written and unwritten, that apply in all aspects of society and in my partner school
- I promise to attend all lessons and participate in all activities that the partner school has planned for me
- I promise to do the work assigned to me by my teachers during the exchange
- I will participate in the activities that are organised locally
- I will be respectful and responsible with regard to my role as host/hostess and being a guest in the host family

Place....., date

Student's signature:

Parent's authorisation

I am familiar with the *Kari Quarré* exchange, and agree to the above regarding my son/daughter's participation in the exchange.

All communication regarding possible problems during the exchanges will be conducted via the contact persons at the schools involved, or directly with the host parents.

Name: (please print).....

Mother Father Guardian Other:

Mobile Phone: +33.....

Email address:

Place....., date

.....

Signature

