



Catlin Gabel

forming bold learners

Tom Welter,
Executive Director,
Oregon Schools Activities Association

29th July 2015

Dear Tom,

I am writing to request athletic eligibility for an incoming exchange student, Hemming Jurgens, at Catlin Gabel School for the 2015/16 school year. Hemming's situation is a complex one but we feel that it would be fair and appropriate to allow him to play high school sports during his year with us - like many adolescents, sports are a central part of Hemming's identity and to prevent him from fully integrating with his peers would significantly impact the quality of his experience in the United States.

Hemming's sister, Louisa Jurgens, came to Catlin Gabel on a yearlong exchange in 2010/11 via ASSE, an exchange agency accredited by OSAA. She had a very difficult process, and the family had significant concerns about the professionalism and behavior of the agent in charge of Louisa once she arrived in the USA. After a challenging initial period and a forced change of agent, she had a successful year and the family was very grateful to Catlin Gabel and the host family for the way that we supported their daughter. Their son, Hemming, wanted a similar exchange experience and the parents were reluctant to use the same agency given their previous interactions. They also trusted Catlin Gabel and the host family with their children. They therefore applied for an exchange position via a different agency, and requested Catlin Gabel School. While this does not confirm to the OSAA direct placement policy, we feel it is an entirely understandable course of action by concerned parents. Once we confirmed that the same host family was willing to take Hemming on for the year, the Jurgens family was keen to pursue this option.

Hemming applied for a place at Catlin Gabel via the DMD/PHP student exchange program. DMD is part of a group that contains the accredited agencies ISE and ESI. As you may be aware, ISE is a J1 visa program and ESI provides F1 visas for students on exchanges with public schools. DMD is the only arm of this business that does not have OSAA accreditation, and they are in the process of applying for this (they specifically work with independent school placements). In the past year, they have successfully been granted eligibility waivers in other states as they await accreditation. Their director, Luke Davis, is happy to provide further details as needed - he can be reached at 631-422-1095 Ext. 108 or by email at luke@phpusa.com. I have attached a letter from Interstudies (the OSAA accredited parent organization) that explains why Hemming's application was transferred from ISE to DMD.

Re: Hemming Jurgens (continued)

Having consulted the OSAA handbook, we feel that Hemming should be granted eligibility based on the above information. We specifically referred to the following sections of the handbook:

2.(c) Foreign students on CSIET approved programs. (Foreign Student Eligibility Checklist)

Rule: A student from a foreign country who is on a CSIET approved program is eligible for one year from the date of enrollment if the following criteria are met:

5. (5) Neither the school the student attends nor any person affiliated with the school has had any input in the selection of the student.

Catlin Gabel received a complete application from DMD after he was accepted to their program as an exchange scholar. We had no interaction with DMD or Interstudies prior to receiving his completed packet from DMD.

3. 1. Q. May a school administrator provide general assistance and information to assist CSIET approved programs in the placement of students in the administrator's school district?

A. This Executive Board Policy is intended to prohibit undue school influence in the placement of foreign student-athletes at the school. Administrative input to CSIET approved program coordinators regarding such issues as available host families, number of placements available at the school and other input would not be a violation of the spirit of this policy so long as the input is unrelated to athletic participation.

As stated above, Catlin Gabel had no contact with the placement agency prior to receiving Hemming's completed file. His parents communicated with the potential host family (they maintained a relationship after hosting the daughter in 2010) to see if they were willing to host Hemming. Catlin Gabel has taken 3 exchange students on several occasions in the past few years from a variety of programs so we have not increased our exchange student program to specifically accommodate this student. I also can assure you that Catlin Gabel has had no contact with any coaches or teachers in Denmark and we have no idea of Hemming's athletic ability – this is not an attempt to circumvent the process and bring in a recruited athlete.

I hope the above details provide evidence that Hemming, while directly placed by an unaccredited agency, has circumstances that are worthy of consideration for eligibility. We have always been absolutely transparent and respectful in all of our work with the OSAA and our only goal is to provide the best experience for a student in our care for the next 10 months. In addition, we have a long-established no-cut policy at Catlin Gabel so Hemming will not take an opportunity to compete in interscholastic athletics from another student. We fully recognize that this is an unusual request but are making it because we believe it to be in the best interest of the student.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Griffiths". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Daniel Griffiths, PhD
Head of Upper School,
Catlin Gabel School,
Portland, Oregon



Hemming Graudal Jürgens
Granolmen 18
DK-2840 Holte

Gadstrup, 29. juli 2015

To whom it may concern

InterStudies certify that Hemming Graudal Jürgens is going to participate in our exchange program for the academic year 2015 / 2016. The primary purpose of our program is educational and cultural exchange. Our high school program is aimed at students who wish to do so by becoming actively engaged in school life in their host country. InterStudies in Denmark work together with several organizations approved by OSAA, ISE is one of the primarily organizations we work with, and we have been working together with ISE since InterStudies in Denmark was established. Hemming was enrolled through ISE, but when it came to ISEs attention that Catlin Gable was a private High School he was moved to DMD by ISE, where they take care of the private high school program.

Hemming will be staying with Kathleen and David McCarron, 2605 SW Buena Place, Portland, OR, 97201 and he will be an exchange student at The Catlin Gabel School. He will return back to Denmark in June 2016.

In case of any need of further information please don't hesitate to contact us.

Med venlig hilsen

InterStudies

Mette Søgaard