



Information packet for  
student partners  
2017-2018

# Welcome!

At the University of Dayton, we educate in the "family spirit." Since 2013, the Center for International Programs has coordinated an intercultural mentorship program, **International Friendship Families**. The goal is to make our University of Dayton community stronger by connecting current international students with UD faculty, staff, alumni, and local Dayton community members.

**Why join?** Research shows that friendships within the local community are key for international students who want to develop stronger language skills, greater academic achievement, lower levels of stress and become overall more comfortable with U.S. culture. However, it's often difficult to "break the ice" across cultures. As a member of Friendship Families, you'll get the chance to feel "at home" in Dayton with a local family or individual. On top of this, it is a great chance to teach your Friendship Family your own culture and traditions.

**How does it work?** At our Kick-off Party, you will be matched with a UD faculty member, staff person, or local community member for a semester-long partnership. After this first meeting, you and your Friendship Family are simply expected to get together at least once a month for activities that you both enjoy - from sharing conversations around the dinner table and celebrating holidays, to participating in campus and community events. To get you started, we provide a menu of suggested activities (see below) as well as a few scheduled meetups to help keep everyone in touch.

At the end of each semester, we will invite all IFF participants to a Closing Celebration where we share photos and stories from our experiences, and recognize everyone's commitment through a short ceremony. After this, you and your family are free to continue meeting if both sides are interested in a longer relationship, but that is not considered part of the IFF program.

**Thank you** for being a part of this important mission! We appreciate that you are willing to begin this new adventure and share your culture with the Dayton community!



# Expectations & Guidelines

**Student Partners:** To finalize your application, please review and accept the program expectations and requirements below, then submit pages 2-3 to the ISSS office.

## YOUR CONTACT INFO

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street name and number                      City                      Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

UD ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family:

If other members of your family will interact with your Friendship Family, please list below:

Family Member 1	Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Child
Family Member 2	Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Child
Family Member 3	Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Child

## PROGRAM BASICS

Please ✓ to confirm that you understand and agree:

- IFF is a **voluntary** program. It is organized by the University of Dayton's International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) Office. The program's primary purpose is to promote cultural exchange between international students and local community members.
- IFF is **not** a host family program. Families are not expected to host students. This program is designed to provide the student and the family with flexibility and space in their relationship.
- IFF is not without risks. It is natural that in a cross-cultural interaction, some personality conflicts or cultural differences may happen. We expect you to communicate openly and respectfully with your Friendship Family in order to resolve these conflicts. If needed, the ISSS Office can help mediate conflicts.
- ISSS matches students with families based on each party's preferences. Depending on the number of participants each semester, we may not be able to meet all requests. We will do our best to support all students and Friendship Families to make meaningful connections.

## PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

Please ✓ to confirm that you understand and agree:

You **are** expected to...

- You must attend 3 required events:
  - Attend an Orientation Session (today!)
  - Attend the Kick-Off Party.
  - Attend the Closing Celebration.
  
- Communicate** regularly with your Friendship Family and **respond in a timely manner**. You can also choose to invite your Friendship Family to participate in activities that interest you. We recommend you use the “Activities Menu” in this packet.
  
- You must **pay for yourself** for activities that you participate in with your Friendship Family. (If you and your family join us at our IFF meetup on Saturday October 14, the ISSS office will pay.)
  
- Your Friendship Family **cannot** provide housing.
  
- Your Friendship Family is **not** expected to help you with financial, academic, transportation, or medical problems. Please visit the ISSS office or other university offices for assistance.
  
- As a student at the University of Dayton, you are expected to follow the university’s Code of Conduct and the principles of our Commitment to Community (see [go.udayton.edu/c2c](http://go.udayton.edu/c2c)). The ISSS office reserves the right to remove a student from a program if found to be in violation of the UD Code of Conduct.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & WAIVER

By my participation in IFF, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I waive any and all claims that I have or may have in the future against the University of Dayton and its employees as a result of, arising from, or in any manner connected to International Friendship Families;
- I hold harmless and indemnify the University of Dayton from any and all liability for
  - any damage to the property of, or personal injury to, any third party;
  - any claims advanced against the University of Dayton;
  - any losses or damages sustained by the University of Dayton resulting from my participation in the International Friendship Families.
- I have reviewed and accepted the program requirements and expectations listed above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Activities Menu

**What should we do together?** Your program coordinators have collected many ideas for how you and your Friendship Family can spend time together. Please keep in mind that your meetings do not have to be formal or involve spending a lot of money! *Use this menu to start a discussion with your Friendship Family about the type of activities you'd like to do together!*

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FAMILIES PROGRAM SPECIAL EVENTS

- International Friendship Families Kick-off Party**  
 Friday, September 15, 4:00-5:30 p.m., 108 Rike Center  
**REQUIRED!** Join us for snacks, games, and icebreakers as you meet your Friendship Family.
  
- International Friendship Families Meetup**  
 Saturday October 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Persis Indian Grill, Miamisburg, Free!  
 Lunch with ISSS staff and fellow IFF members to share pictures and stories of your time together. Optional.
  
- International Friendship Families Closing Ceremony**  
 Friday, December 1, 4:00-5:30 p.m., 108 Rike Center  
**REQUIRED!** Let's come together to celebrate! We will serve light refreshments and recognize all students and families with certificates of participation.



## SUGGESTED UNIVERSITY EVENTS

- International Festival**  
 Saturday, November 4, 5:30-8 p.m., RecPlex  
  
 Food, performance, culture, and philanthropy come together for one unforgettable evening. Sample the world's cuisines, take a walk through the international bazaar, watch incredible cultural performances, and see the beautiful clothes and flags of different countries at the amazing International Festival finale.

**Christmas on Campus**

Friday, December 8, 5:00-8 p.m. across campus

Christmas on Campus is one of the most signature events at the University of Dayton. Each year, the entire campus sparkles with holiday cheer. See [udayton.orgsync.com/org/coc](http://udayton.orgsync.com/org/coc)

**Attend a UD Music or Theater Performance**

To see the current schedules for all UD music, dance, theater and other performing arts events, visit [udayton.edu/arts/events](http://udayton.edu/arts/events) and click on the month to see an updated events list. Some are free to attend!

**Cheer for the UD Flyers**

To see the current schedules for all UD sports teams, visit [daytonflyers.com](http://daytonflyers.com) and click on "Sports" in the header menu. Some sports are free to attend!

### A FEW PLACES TO VISIT AROUND DAYTON



THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE  
Art Changes Lives **Live it**



**International Student & Scholar Services**

Center for International Programs

Rike Center, Room 204 | University of Dayton | Dayton, OH 45469-1701

P: 937-229-2748 | F: 937-229-2766 | [iss@udayton.edu](mailto:iss@udayton.edu)



### SHARING AMERICAN TRADITIONS

- Attend a local festival! Current list at: [www.daytonlocal.com/festivals.asp](http://www.daytonlocal.com/festivals.asp)
- Make a snowman or go sledding (weather permitting)
- Attend a birthday party or other traditional family event
- Attend a holiday celebration, such as Thanksgiving
- More ideas:* \_\_\_\_\_



### SHARING YOUR CULTURE

- Celebrate holidays that will occur this semester in your home country
- Watch a favorite movie in your first language, with English subtitles
- Cooking lesson: teach your IFF partners how to cook your favorite recipe
- Listen together to your favorite music/singers in your first language
- More ideas:* \_\_\_\_\_



### JUST HANGING OUT

- Schedule a regular time to have dinner with your Friendship Family (Where? How often? Which days/times are best?)
- Plan a regular coffee date (Where? How often? Which days/times are best?)
- Meet at the RecPlex to work out or play sports together (\$8 guest day pass for non-members)
- Go see a movie at the Greene or the Neon (UD students have a discount at the Neon!)
- Participate in community service together (Call us for ideas through UD, or find your own volunteer opportunity)

*More ideas:* \_\_\_\_\_

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## What's Next?

Family participants have already attended their own orientations. Next, everyone is invited to our Kick Off Party, where we'll connect you with your matched IFF family or individual.

Please bring a copy of this packet with you to the Kick Off. We'll use the "Activities Menu" as a conversation starter. Thank you!

## Contact ISSS

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance throughout your participation in International Friendship Families, please don't hesitate to contact your program coordinator:

**Suzanne Richardt**

Assistant Director, Programming and Communications

International Student & Scholar Services, Center for International Programs

[srichardt1@udayton.edu](mailto:srichardt1@udayton.edu)

937-229-3502

Rike Center 204