



Information packet for
Family/individual partners
Fall 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 help an international student feel “at home” in Dayton with a local family or individual. On top of this, you'll enjoy learning from your student about the culture and traditions of another part of the world.

How does it work? At our Kick-off Party, you will be matched with one or more international students for a semester-long partnership. After this first meeting, you and your student 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 student are free to continue meeting if you'd like, but this is completely up to you.

Thank you for being a part of this important mission! We appreciate that you are willing to begin this new adventure, bringing a global experience into your home, and extending a warm welcome to our international students at the University of Dayton.



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

Expectations & Guidelines

Family/Individual 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 Affiliation: ___ Faculty/Staff ___ Alumni ___ Student ___ No affiliation

Other: _____

Other Family: If other members of your family will interact with the student, 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 student in order to resolve these conflicts. If needed, the program coordinator can help mediate conflicts. Families may also choose to withdraw from the program at any time.
- 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 FAMILIES

Please ✓ to confirm that you understand and agree:

You **are** expected to...

- Attend a Family Orientation Session** before matching with your student(s).
- Invite your student** to participate in activities that will help them learn more about American culture. If you need ideas, please use the "Activities Menu" in this packet.
- Make every reasonable effort to **ensure the student's health and safety** when together.
- Share a few photos or stories** from your experience with the program coordinator. (You will receive occasional email newsletters for current IFF participants, where we'll share some of your photos & stories in order to inspire others with ideas for meetups!)

You **are not** expected to provide...

- Housing.** This is not a live-in host family program.
- Financial assistance.** Students are also advised not to request financial assistance.
- Academic support.** Students can find academic support on campus, whether through their academic advisor, the Office of Learning Resources, or the Center for International Programs.
- Transportation.** But you are welcome to if desired, since many international students do not have their own cars.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & WAIVER

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

- I and any family members participating in the program enjoy a positive reputation in the community, and have no prior criminal convictions;
- 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 a few ideas for how you and your student can spend time together. Please keep in mind that your meetings do not have to be formal or involve spending a lot of money! Students want to learn more about what a “typical” American family does for fun, so act as you normally would and invite them to join you. Here are just a few ideas:

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FAMILIES - PROGRAM SPECIAL EVENTS

International Friendship Families Kick-off Party

Friday, September 14, 5:00-6:30 p.m., UD’s Heritage Coffee House

REQUIRED! Join us for snacks, games, and icebreakers as you meet your student.

International Friendship Families Meetup #1

Saturday September 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Location TBA, Free!

Optional field trip and/or lunch with fellow IFF members. Share pictures and stories of your time together so far. A great opportunity for those who haven’t met separately yet.

International Friendship Families Meetup #2

Saturday October 20, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Location TBA, Free!

Optional field trip and/or lunch with fellow IFF members. Talk about plans for Halloween or Thanksgiving!

International Friendship Families Closing Party

Friday, November 30, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Rike Center 108 Lounge

Let’s come together to celebrate! We will serve light refreshments, reflect on what we learned from this experience, and recognize all students and families in honor of your participation.



**SUGGESTED
UNIVERSITY EVENTS**

Culture Fest

Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 4:00-7:00 p.m., KU Field / Central Mall

Join us for a casual and interactive cross-cultural experience! Food, student performances, and games all under the big tent at the center of campus.

International Festival

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 5:30-8:00 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. Entrance is free; food tickets \$5 per person. All proceeds from tickets sales donated to Catholic Relief Services.

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 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 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



SHARING AMERICAN TRADITIONS

- Attend a local festival! Current list at: www.daytonlocal.com/festivals.asp
- Make a snowman or go sledding (weather permitting)
- Attend a birthday party or other typical family event
- Attend a holiday celebration
- More ideas:* _____



SHARING GLOBAL TRADITIONS

- Cooking lesson: teach your Friendship Family how to cook your favorite recipe
- Celebrate holidays that will occur this semester in your home country
- Watch a favorite movie in your first language, with English subtitles
- Listen together to your favorite music/singers in your first language



JUST HANGING OUT

- Schedule a regular time to have dinner with your student (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: _____

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

937-229-3502

Rike Center 204