Welcome to training, we’re glad to have you and excited to introduce you to the program!
Emory is a continually growing international campus. Between all our schools, right now we’re at about 18%! One thing that many students have expressed to many and others is the challenge to become friends with “Americans”, and always wanting to improve language skills. Conversely, many American students express the desire to work or study internationally, so this program was created to help address these needs.

We are here to support you all, and hope that this program will help you have an even better Emory experience!
This is a brief overview of the program.

- Pairs international and domestic participants to assist with English conversation skill development and to build cross-cultural relationships
- Builds bridges through conversation, culture sharing, and friendship.
The programs highlighted in green are especially good events for you to attend with your partner this semester! See our website for more information.
Past Program Participants

Let’s hear from people who had a great experience with the program!
These are some of the reasons that past partners joined the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
<td>To learn about a different culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>To improve language skills</td>
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<td>To make a friend</td>
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<td>To share your culture</td>
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<td>Expand your worldview</td>
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<td>Provide possibilities for cross college relationship development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others?</td>
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We hope that you will continue to meet with your partner after this semester, but the expectation is to meet regularly throughout this semester. This says 1 hr/week, but really the most important part is communication with your partner about when you are available.

- In order to build trust and build a relationship, meeting as close to this often as possible is preferred.

- Will need to sign release for program, releasing Emory of any liability (included in email you will receive with partner info)

- We will be sending several check-ins and assessments through the semester to find out how often you are meeting, what you are talking about, suggestions for the program, etc. Important to fill these out because it can improve the program in the future!
### Matching Process

- Great opportunity to get to know someone outside your normal realm of friends and contacts
- Matched based on preferences as best possible
- Should receive your partner’s contact information by Tuesday, February 2\textsuperscript{nd}

- Please be patient and flexible with this process. OISL is only able to match preferences according to the numbers and types of applicants to the CPP program.
During your first time meeting, at the social or otherwise, here are some things you can and should talk about:

In the first session find a public place on campus to meet such as the DUC. Remember to reduce that anxiety so establish rapport in a friendly manner. You will know their name already but maybe not how to pronounce it correctly. Many have a nick name or an Americanized name they like. Find out about their country, family, hobbies, plans for the future, major and most importantly their goals for the partners program. Establishing these goals early on will help you to have a more successful partnership.
We will be hosting the kick-off social on Thurs, Feb. 4 from 5-7 PM in Winship Ballroom. This will be the first opportunity to meet your partner! If you are unable to attend the social please let your partner know so that you can schedule a time to meet.
Here are some examples of topics that are good starters. People around the world have a wide variety of holidays, foods, and other things that are unique to their culture. It’s great to talk about these things! International participants are seeking to learn more about the U.S. customs and culture, and have equally as much to share about their own.

However, it’s better to have a specific idea in mind:

Don’t just turn up thinking OK today we’ll talk about food. Although this MAY work with some students you need to have something prepared at least at the beginning! Maybe some questions to fall back on, or go to Cox and have a tour, walk around the Emory Farmer’s Market together, or make sure you have a laptop and can google image some foods you find hard to describe.

Reference the manual/pamphlet if you need more ideas for topics or for suggestions of related visuals or places to go. The manual can be found on our website and you can stop by our office in DUC E228 if you are interested in picking up a pamphlet.
Surface topics are good for first conversations, and as you become more comfortable with one another you can try venturing into deeper topics.
We will have one event per month that is open for partners to attend. These are great opportunities to meet your own partner, mingle and meet other partners, and build friendships. Last semester we did most of our events off campus. Look for advertising/announcements on the FB page and/or in our bi-weekly newsletter!
1. Unlikely, they are excited, but continue to reach out to them to set up a first meeting. If the non-response continues, please let our office know.

2. That’s great! Many students will want to teach you. However, the focus of this program should be on them. If you want to learn Chinese, meet more frequently. Your 2 hours or so a month should be focused mostly on speaking in English.

3. That is definitely encouraged, but make sure to focus on each person individually, as they may learn better one on one. Play it by ear and be attentive to their desires and body language during the group meet-up.
One of the reasons that many (not all!) participants join this program is to better their English conversation skills. Some of the goals we have for these participants is to better their confidence, fluency, accuracy, and knowledge of formality with which they speak.

Language Goals of Program

- Confidence
- Fluency
- Accuracy (grammar, pronunciation)
- Knowledge of formality (academic language, colloquialism)
Three main considerations: Language, Academic History, and culture.

Language: what is your partner’s current level? Assess through initial conversations.

Academic History: did your partner go to high school in the States or come here directly? Do they use the same alphabet or their language similar? This will speak to their current level of understanding of language and customs.

Culture: How do they view gender in their culture, what is the role of a teacher and how are they viewed, what is considered an appropriate distance when communicating, what are their beliefs (be sensitive, let your partner tell you what they want rather than you asking too many questions that could be insensitive). It is important to understand these things to know more about where your partner is coming from. After this initial acclimation period, you can get to know each other better using some of the other topics we mentioned (food, sports, holidays, etc.)
Tips

- Watch the language you use
- Use visuals (e.g. google image)
- Ask questions
- Always have something to write with
- Make it a conversation
- Be patient and flexible

Watch the language you use – formal and slang language can be different. In general avoid slang and idioms. Also be wary of how you’re correcting.

Use visuals – google image or physical objects are always great!

Ask questions – don’t be afraid to ask questions. It’s also important to work towards using open-ended questions (questions that cannot be answered through a yes or no response alone)

Make it a conversation – both you and your partner should be speaking!

As always, be patient and flexible. If you put the time in to get to know each other then you will build a more successful partnership.
Important things to remember

- Partners are not allowed to edit papers, help with homework etc.
- Expected to meet each week and focus on speaking English
- Use the topics guide in the manual or pamphlet for reference
- Don’t expect yourself to know everything!

Partners are not allowed to edit papers, help with homework etc.
Expected to meet each week and focus on speaking English - it’s okay to practice other languages, but again make sure that you and your partner are both comfortable with it. Use the topics guide in the manual for reference – available online
Don’t expect yourself to know everything! – cultures vary widely depending on even which part of the country you’re in. You may not be able to answer every question that someone asks you, and that’s okay!
We also have bi-weekly emails, which you’ll start getting after you receive your partner’s info.
Before you Leave...

- Fill out the Evaluation sheet

THANK YOU!!!!

Please disregard for online training.
Reach out to us with any questions!

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“To understand the experience of others, you must first walk a day in their sandals.”

Ancient Egyptian Proverb