



Become a CultureConnect Mentor for our International Students

The purpose of the USF CultureConnect Mentor program is to provide a student contact for our international students before they arrive to USF and to assist the students upon their arrival. USF students who are interested in becoming mentors after the beginning of the semester may also apply. The international students have varying degrees of English language proficiency, and many of them will be entering the English Language for Academic Purposes (ELAP) program. ELAP is an intensive English language program that students attend for at least 18 hours per week in order to prepare them for undergraduate or graduate academic coursework at USF. Other international students will be entering directly into USF courses upon their arrival. Many of these international students have never been in the United States before, so being greeted by a welcoming face (and in ideal circumstances, someone they have already "met" via email or social media) can be a great way to ease our students' transitions to a new school and a new country.

The USF CultureConnect Mentors will provide the following services for international students:

- Be the initial USF contact person
 - Before they arrive to USF, the USF Buddy will contact his/her assigned student via email
- If possible, meet them at the airport upon arrival (transportation from USF will be provided.)
- Assist with pre-arrival questions
- Show them around the campus upon their arrival, especially during their first few days. Take them to lunch or dinner in the cafeteria on their first day on campus
- Help them get any additional essential items they may need. Many students can only bring what fits into 2 suitcases
- Serve as a speaking partner for ELAP students at least once a week for an hour of informal conversation practice or maintain at least bi-weekly contact with your buddy throughout the year
- Attend at least two passport events with your buddy each semester. Invite them to other events/activities

Once a USF student has committed to be a part of the CultureConnect Mentor program, his/her email will be given to the assigned international student. In addition, the USF student will receive the international student's email contact information.

If you are interested in this program, please drop off your application in the IPO, Motherhouse, 2nd floor or email it to the IPO.

Jimmy Zhang, IPO Graduate Assistant: junlongzhang@stfrancis.edu

Angie Maffeo, Director of the IPO amaffeo@stfrancis.edu

Dr. Jurate Harris, Assistant Director of ELAP jharris@stfrancis.edu

Thanks for helping us make our international students feel welcome!!!



CultureConnect Mentor Application Form

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Program of Study: _____

Class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Graduate student) _____

Estimated Date of Completion: _____

Do you live on or near campus? _____

Y/N Are you willing to contact your assigned student via email before they arrive to USF?

Y/N Are you willing to meet your assigned student at the airport upon their arrival (not required)? USF transportation will be provided.

Y/N Are you willing to help your mentee find his/her way around campus and get checked into housing upon arrival to USF?

Y/N Are you willing to meet with the International Student for at least 1 hour each week for conversation practice (ELAP Students particularly)?

Y/N Do you speak any foreign languages? If so, what are they? _____

Y/N Are you interested in studying abroad in another country? If so, where? _____

Y/N Are you willing to spend some free time with the International Student and invite him/her to some activities?

Why are you interested in being a CultureConnect Mentor?

What campus activities are you involved in?

What do you like to do during your free time?

Please list some specific activities that you would like to do with your buddy.
