International Peer Mentors
International Student Advisory Council
Focus Group

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Program Goals

• Match incoming international students with American and international peers

• Help international students adjust to life in the United States

• Expose new international students to available campus resources

• Foster relationships among peers from different cultures

• Increase international student retention
Icebreaker

Hello in Different Languages

Breaking down stereotypes
Program Structure

1 Mentor : 3-5 Mentees

Students to be matched based on

• Enrollment Status
• Gender
• Hobbies/Special Interests
• Languages Spoken
• Religious Preference
Time Commitment

• 1-year (2 long semesters)

• 10 hours/month or 2.5 hours/week

• Pre-arrival contact via Canvas/Email/Social
Additional Requirements

• Access Mentor Training
• 2 Mentor Mixers/semester
• Welcome Party at start of Fall and Spring semesters
• Thanksgiving Dinner with Student Affairs
• 2 UNT International cultural programs/month
• Log volunteer hours
Program Benefits

- Enhance leadership and mentoring skills
- Build confidence, language skills
- Develop interpersonal and intercultural skills
- Explore cultural differences and similarities
Things to Consider

- Understand unique challenges that international students face
  - Culture shock
  - Acculturative stress
  - Family expectations & pressure
- Take time to read about mentee’s country of origin and basic cultural norms

Mental Health Awareness for International Students
Cultural Sensitivity

• Being aware of cultural differences and similarities (and not assigning these differences and similarities value)

• Being aware that cultural differences and similarities exist and affect our values, learning, and behavior

• Possessing skills that allow you to learn about and understand people who come from different cultural backgrounds than your own
Your Impact

• How you can help international students
• Aid in transition to campus
• Help with language skills
• Learn local and national cultural traditions and norms
International Student Advisory Council

Mentors are invited to sit on the International Student Advisory Council.

Goals

• Guide program planning and events for the campus community
• Provide opportunities for leadership and professional development
Council Requirements

Mentor requirements plus:

• One Council meeting/semester
• Serve on a subcommittee
  • Student Org Program Funding
  • Program Presenter Selection
  • Campus Outreach
  • Meetings TBD
THANK YOU!

Questions and Suggestions