



International Student & Scholar Services

# Cultural Connections

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) coordinates a variety of involvement opportunities in order for you to make the most of your experience at KU and within the Lawrence community. These programs and activities allow you to share your culture, while also offering a glimpse of the American lifestyle outside of an academic setting. Participation will encourage you to practice your communication skills as well as provide a chance to build lifelong friendships. Please take a moment to review the program descriptions located on the back of this page, and then complete the form below if you would like to participate. If you decide to get involved, your name will be stored on a contact list made available to persons in charge of programs so that they are able to contact you with additional information. Remember that you are under no obligation to follow through with these opportunities. Simply contact [issiprograms@ku.edu](mailto:issiprograms@ku.edu) if you wish to be removed from the list.

**Directions: Place a check mark (✓) next to program(s) of interest to you. Programs with (\*) require filling out additional forms.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homecoming Flag Parade  | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker Service              | <input type="checkbox"/> Small World*               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Service           | <input type="checkbox"/> International Awareness Week | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Partners*           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Translation Service     | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Contact              | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving Home Stay*    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Talent Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Orientation Volunteer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Family Program* |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Awareness Program*  |

## Contact Information

Name (Family, Given): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

KU ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (circle one): Male Female Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Classification (circle one):    AEC    Freshman    Sophomore    Junior    Senior    Master's    Ph.D    Research Scholar

Language(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Skills (Ex. Singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Homecoming Flag Parade

Each fall semester international students have the chance to take part in an original KU tradition by walking down Jayhawk Boulevard with their represented country's flag during the football season's Homecoming parade. This is a perfect way to start the semester because it is rewarding for you as a student, and it is a colorful event that spreads cultural diversity throughout campus and the community. This is a highly anticipated and memorable festivity full of school spirit and national pride.

## International Awareness Week

Each spring semester, the International Student Association (ISA) organizes an "International Awareness Week" that includes an exposition of all represented countries on campus, contests, as well as a talent and fashion show. International students are asked to set up demonstration tables for their respective countries by presenting information, materials, flags, customs, and traditional apparel to an audience ranging from the KU campus community to area grade schools and Lawrence locals. This is one of the largest events of the year that receives great recognition.

## Country Contact

This program will place you as contact person for visiting scholars, students, and professors from your region of the world. You will be asked to translate and guide this person(s) when necessary.

**\*\*The following programs require filling out a separate application\*\***

## Small World

This is nonprofit, all-volunteer community-based organization provided for non-student female spouses of KU international students, faculty, and scholars who wish to improve their English and learn about American customs. Tuition is \$25 a year or \$15 a semester, and classes are held twice a week at the First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence (Small World is not affiliated in any way with a particular religion).

## Global Partners

Global Partners matches international students with domestic students once a semester in order to promote friendship and cultural exchange. Participants may contact their partner throughout the semester for individual activities as well as take part in events organized by the Office of International Programs.

## Thanksgiving Home Stay Program

Thanksgiving is an annual one-day holiday celebrated to express gratitude and unity. It takes place on the fourth Thursday of November, and marks the beginning of the "holiday season" for Americans. The Betty Grimwood Thanksgiving Home Stay Program was created to invite international students to stay with area host families for either the Thanksgiving holiday dinner or for the entire holiday weekend. Upon signing up, students and families are asked to fill out data sheets that are used to match interests for appropriate home stay placements. This is one of our most popular programs that truly offers a unique cultural experience outside of the classroom.

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## Speaker/ Media/ Translation/ Cultural Talent Services

Area schools, civic clubs, community organizations, KU classes, newspapers, television and radio reporters, and other groups often request to have international students speak about their home countries. Presentations can take the format of an informal question and answer session, a formal demonstration (with photographs and materials), informative interviews about specific regional topics in the news, or artistic/ talent performances such as: dancing, singing, painting, and playing a musical instrument.

## Orientation Volunteer

At least twice a year volunteers will have the opportunity to use their social and adaptive skills to help orient incoming international students. This is a wonderful way to meet new people and share your abilities as well as serve as a campus and community guide. Not only is this a rewarding experience, but it helps you build your communication, organization, and translation skills with an appreciative audience. In addition, all volunteers are invited to Orientation parties.

*"Volunteering during Orientation week was really a rewarding experience for me. I was able to make new friends and learn about different cultures while introducing new students to the KU campus."  
-Victor Gonzalez, Colombia*

## Friendship Family Program

This community based program matches participating students with local families and individuals. This is not a live-in program, but rather an opportunity for developing friendships and promoting cross-cultural understanding through occasional meals and organized social activities. Special events such as picnics, game nights, "pot luck" dinners, ice cream socials, and an annual square dance are all a part of the calendar. Matches are made at the beginning of each fall and spring semester.

## Global Awareness Program (GAP)

This is a program provided through The Office of International Programs that recognizes and awards transcript certification to undergraduates who have obtained international experiences through outlets such as: study abroad, taking classes with an international focus, foreign language study, or participating in international co-curricular activities.

