



International Programs and Services

International Community Host Program (I-Host)

Thank you for your interest in becoming an I-Host to an international student or scholar as part of the International Community Host Program!

The International Community Host Program is a program designed to promote friendship and cultural exchange between WCU's faculty and staff and the international student and scholar population.

The goal of the program is to enjoy the exchange of international friendships and learn more about each other's countries, cultures and customs. We hope it will be an enriching experience for everyone.

Please complete the application here: <https://goo.gl/forms/ORmegqSFeebvxEtp1>

Please note that this is a volunteer program. Any activity that you undertake with your international friend will not be considered to be a part of your Western Carolina University job duties.

If you have any questions, please email Kaitlin Ritchie at kkritchie@wcu.edu.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between a student and a scholar?

International students are enrolled in classes at WCU. International exchange students are here for 1-2 semesters and international degree-seeking students will complete their degree here at Western. Most international students are in their early to mid-20s.

International scholars are visiting professors, researchers or graduate students at WCU. Scholars may have families of their own living with them locally.

2. What is the time commitment?

We suggest that you meet with your international friend at least once a month. However, your interactions will depend on your mutual interests, so it is truly up to you and your international friend on how you would like to connect and spend time together.

You can choose to do activities together ranging from having coffee on campus, cooking a meal, going on a hike, attending an on-campus event, to inviting your international friend over for Thanksgiving dinner or family gatherings.

3. What is the cost?

The program is free to join. You have no financial obligation to your international friend. If you wish to offer to pay for activities or meals, that is welcome but not expected.

You can indicate if you would like to be paired with a student or scholar in the application.

4. How long will this partnership last?

You would be paired with the same international friend until they complete their studies/work at WCU. This could range from 1-2 semesters to 2-4 years.

You can indicate what you prefer on the application.