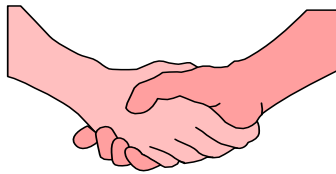


# Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection

## CCCC



### *Welcome to the CCCC Party!*

#### **About the CCCC Program**

The Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection Program has been organized by the ESL Program since 1995. The purpose of the program is to develop cultural understanding in today's global community by connecting people from different cultures through conversation.

At BGSU there are almost 600 international students from over 70 different countries. 65-75% of them are enrolled in graduate programs. The largest groups of international students come from China, India, Canada, Russia, Kenya and Japan.

#### **Benefits of participating in the CCCC Program**

##### **For American Participants:**

- Learning more about other countries and cultures
- Seeing America through someone else's eyes
- Making friends from other countries
- Helping international students practice English and learn about American culture
- Receiving credit in your Interpersonal Communication class
- Learning more about yourself

##### **For international Participants:**

- Practicing English weekly with an American
- Learning more about American culture
- Making American friends
- Sharing your culture
- Receiving credit in your English as a Second Language class
- Learning more about yourself

#### **Time requirement**

By participating in the CCCC Program, you make a commitment to yourself and to your partner to meet for one hour a week, at a time and place you choose together.

If your partner is enrolled in the CCCC Program as part of a class assignment, please meet with your partner each week so that he/she can fulfill the course requirement.

#### **Things to do with your partner**

- Go shopping, go to a play, a concert, or watch a movie
- Go to a sports event or to the Recreation Center
- Read books, magazines or newspapers, watch TV
- Eat out or cook
- Celebrate traditional holidays, carve pumpkins, make a snowman etc.
- Go to events the World Student Association (WSA), and other student organizations organize, such as the International Fair, the International Dinner, the International Week, cups of culture, pizza parties
- Go to events organized by Global Connections or by other community organizations

## **Tips for a successful cross-cultural conversation connection**

- Ask your partner to repeat, slow down or speak louder if you don't understand
- Adjust the speed and volume of your voice, and your vocabulary to your partner
- For American participants: use words that your partner understands. Decide with your partner whether to correct his/her English or not
- Ask your partner about life in his/her country and how it compares to life in your country
- Introduce your partner to things that are typical for your culture: food, traditions, holidays
- Be aware of culturally sensitive issues like religion, politics or salary
- If you are participating in this program as part of a course requirement, don't give your partner the impression this is the only reason you're meeting
- Make the best of each meeting by choosing topics and activities you both enjoy
- Try to reserve an hour of your busy schedule each week to meet your partner
- Let your partner know in advance if you are not able to meet her/him
- Reply to your partner's emails or phone calls
- Contact us if you have problems
- Fill out the evaluation form we will send you at the end of the semester to give us feedback on the CCCC program

## **Conversation topics for the CCCC party**

- What is your name, country of origin, home town, family, friends, and hobbies?
- What is your native language? What other languages do you speak? How long have you been studying English or another language?
- Have you been enjoying yourself at Bowling Green State University? What are you studying or doing here?
- Have you traveled abroad? Which foreign countries were or would be the most enjoyable places to go? Why?
- Have you traveled to other parts of the United States? If yes, where? What did you enjoy most? What was interesting about your trip(s)?
- Why do you participate in the Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection? For a course, for learning English, for learning about another culture, for making more friends, or for fun?
- What do you expect to learn from participating in CCCC?
- What are your expectations of your partner? Do you expect him or her to be a committed partner, to meet weekly with you, sharing with you his or her interests and culture, and extending his or her friendship?
- What should your partner expect from you?

These are just some ideas to help you have a smooth start of your conversation. You don't have to answer all the questions and you can come up with your own topics.

We hope you'll enjoy meeting with your partner and we encourage you to apply again in the next fall and spring semesters.

***Thank you for participating in the CCCC Program,***

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[www.bgsu.edu/departments/esl/page24177.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/esl/page24177.html)