

Creating American International Relationships (CAIR) Program Welcome Packet Partner



International Student and Scholars Office
328 O'Dowd Hall
Oakland University
Contact: Kyla Kellermann
kakeller@oakland.edu
(248) 370-3358

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CAIR Program

(Creating American International Relationships)

The CAIR Program aims to foster partnerships between Americans and international students at Oakland University. We match students with partners based on interests and preferences. Our international students appreciate the support and friendship of an American partner as it helps them integrate into this culture and feel welcome. This program is also valuable and rewarding for you as you are able to experience diversity and learn about another culture first-hand without a passport. Both students and partners gain the enriching experience of cultural exchange and new perspectives from around the world. The ISSO (International Students and Scholars Office) hosts several events throughout the academic year which partners and their students are encouraged to attend. We also notify you of multicultural events on campus. Often, the whole immediate family can attend if interested. Although, these events are not mandatory they provide a valuable opportunity to bond with your student and meet other program members.

How To Join

- Submit the preference form and waiver via email to kakeller@oakland.edu or by dropping it off at the ISSO located in 328 O'Dowd Hall.
- You will receive an email with your student's contact information
- Your student will be sent your contact information
- After you have been matched, it is up to you to start communicating and arrange to meet; We encourage you to make the initial contact since often students are very shy
- Based on how your partnerships evolves we often see students and their hosts inviting each other over for meals, hanging out on weekends, and celebrating holidays together.

There is a lot of freedom for you and your student to decide what works for you. We just ask that you and your international student meet at least once a month.

Tips for Hosting a Student

Our international students come from countries all around the world. This diversity is wonderful, but it also makes it hard for us to help prepare you for what to expect from this experience. Here are some general useful tips for understanding what your student may be experiencing and would like from you.

Common needs of International Students

- Adjusting to different food, clothing and recreational activities
- Understanding slang language and common cultural jokes
- Having a family atmosphere with friends, they can often withdraw if they do not have a support systems through difficult times
- Building new friendships and developing trust with people
- Feeling secure in the country and the surrounding area
- Help setting up bank account, living situation, phone number and getting oriented with the general area
- Learning where stores with ethnic food are located and learning what stores are most economical (ex. Wal-Mart or Target vs Whole Foods or Macy's)
- Tipping at restaurants
- Knowing what is appropriate clothing for various occasions and seasons
- Learning about public transportation in this area
- Want to feel at home and spend holidays and special events with people

Before you meet your student

- Conduct some research on your student's country
- Learn about your students dietary restrictions (It is not rude to ask)

Tips for Communicating with your Student

- Be specific about time and location
- Follow through with what you say you will do, this helps them develop trust in you
- Find out the best way for you to communicate: phone, email, Facebook, or other messaging applications

Transportation

Your student most likely will not have his or her own transportation. Therefore, when you arrange to meet off campus you may need to provide your student with some transportation. We ask our students to be respectful of your time and to not depend on you for transportation. However, we also ask that you understand that some of these students are stuck on campus most of the time. Therefore, an offer to take them grocery shopping or to run an errand when time allows is greatly appreciated by our students.

Activity Ideas

- Invite your student over for family meals, birthdays, holidays, and special outings
- Teach your student your favorite dish and have them make you theirs
- Visit the student's apartment or dorm and meet some of their friends/spouse/child(ren)
- Go to the park for a picnic or to play a recreational activity
- Take them to Eastern Market, Belle Isle, Corktown, or Campus Martius in Detroit
- Go on a riverboat or bike tour of Detroit
- Enjoy an on-campus or off-campus sports game together (Tigers, Red Wings, Lions, Pistons)
- Go to a movie, bowling, ice skating or shopping together
- Attend community festivals and concerts
- Visit museums or historical sites
- Spend some time by a lake or go biking, walking, or hiking together
- Visit the zoo, a cider mill, the science center or water park
- Show them some of your favorite restaurants
- Grab coffee or lunch together on campus

Frequently Asked Questions:

What should I do if my student graduates or if they transfer out of the area?

You are welcome to keep in touch with your student if they move or graduate. However, we ask that you notify us so we can remove them from our email list. At that time, you can also let us know if you would like to be matched with a new student or removed from the list as well.

What should I do if I cannot contact my student, lose touch with them, or if they are not responsive to my attempts to meet with them?

We do our best to ensure that the students who enroll in the program will actively participate. However, sometimes students have good intentions but when things start to get busy their participation declines. If this becomes an issue please feel free to reach out to Kyla. We will contact the student to either encourage their participation or match you with a new student.

When does the program start?

Typically the program begins in September and continues throughout the academic year before starting up again the following fall. This is because most of our newly arrived international students start their programs in the fall. However, we are always actively recruiting hosts and are more than happy for you to join our program at any time.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY CAIR PROGRAM
RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

For: _____ (“Participant”)

Program: Oakland University CAIR Program (“Program”)

The program may involve travel by way of bus, van, car, cab, walking or other forms of transportation including without limitation, public transportation. The program may also involve off-campus activities, including without limitation activities at the homes of host families and/or individuals.

In consideration of being permitted to participate in and/or observe all or any part of the program, including without limitation the use of facilities, equipment, grounds and/or personnel and any travel associated with the program, Participant understands, acknowledges, agrees, represents, and warrants that:

(1) Voluntary Participation. Participation in and/or observation of all or any portion of the program is voluntary and Participant may refuse to observe or participate at any time.

(2) Assumption of Risk. Participation in and/or observation of the program or any portion of the program may involve risks of temporary and/or permanent bodily injury, property damage, death, and other dangers. Participant voluntarily and freely assumes all such risks.

(3) Health and Safety. There are no health-related reasons or problems that preclude or restrict Participant from participating in the program. If Participant is injured during the program, Participant will report the injury to a program representative and a representative of Oakland University, and any medical care needed as a result of such injury will be at Participant’s expense.

Oakland University and its trustees, officers, employees, students, volunteers, agents, representatives and designees (collectively, the “University”) are not obligated to attend to any of Participant’s medical or medication needs during the program, and Participant assumes all risk and responsibility therefore. The University may (but is not obligated to) take any actions it considers to be warranted under the circumstances regarding Participant’s health, safety and security.

(4) Personal Responsibility. Participant is personally responsible for any loss, injury or damage caused or suffered by Participant during the program. The University does not guarantee Participant’s safety or security during the program. Participant agrees to abide by all rules, regulations, and policies of any organization, entity, person, or facility providing services to Participant during participation in the program and Participant shall be solely responsible for any damages resulting from their failure to do so.

Participant is responsible for his or her own medical and other insurance, equipment, supplies, personal property, and effects during the program. Participant will be responsible for asking questions to ensure safety and security during the program, and will observe all rules, practices, procedures and requests which may be imposed to minimize the risk of injury while participating in the program.

Participant will reduce the risk of injury by limiting participation to reflect his/her personal fitness or comfort level, and not ingesting or using any substance during the activity which could pose a hazard to participant or others.

Participant also understands and acknowledges that he or she is required to comply with the University's Student Code of Conduct, Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and all other University codes, policies, rules, and regulations during the program.

Any Participant who fails to comply with such codes, policies, rules and regulations may be removed from the program, sent home at his or her own expense and subject to discipline by the University.

(5) Waiver and Release. Participant, individually and on behalf of Participant's family, heirs, estate, successors, assigns and personal and legal representative(s), fully, finally, irrevocably, unconditionally and forever **WAIVES, RELEASES, and DISCHARGES** the University, its trustees, officers, employees, agents and servants individually and in their official and personal capacities, (collectively, the "Released Parties"), of and from any and all **CLAIMS, DEMANDS, CAUSES OF ACTION, SUITS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, COSTS, CHARGES, JUDGEMENTS, LIABILITIES AND RIGHTS OF EVERY KIND, NATURE AND DESCRIPTION INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, CLAIMS THAT COULD BE MADE OR ALLEGED FOR ANY HARM, INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, COSTS, FEES AND EXPENSES OF ANY NATURE ACTUALLY OR ALLEGEDLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING IN ANY WAY TO THE PARTICIPANT'S TRAVEL TO, FROM OR DURING THE PROGRAM, OR PARTICIPATION IN AND/OR OBSERVATION OF THE PROGRAM, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF THE RELEASED PARTIES OR ANY OTHER CAUSE.**

(6) Indemnity. Participant will **INDEMNIFY, DEFEND and HOLD HARMLESS** the University from any and all **CLAIMS, JUDGEEMENTS, LIABILITIES AND RIGHTS OF EVERY KIND, NATURE AND DESCRIPTION INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, CLAIMS THAT COULD BE MADE OR ALLEGED FOR ANY HARM, INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, COSTS, FEES AND EXPENSES OF ANY NATURE ACTUALLY OR ALLEGEDLY ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING IN ANY WAY TO PARTICIPANT'S ACTIVITIES, ACTS, AND/OR OMISSIONS DURING THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION PERIODS OF TRAVEL.**

(7) Signature. Participant has carefully read and understands completely the above provisions and voluntarily signs this Release and Assumption of Risk agreement. No representation, statements, or inducements, oral or written, apart from the foregoing written statement, have been made to obtain Participant's signature. This Release and Assumption of Risk agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan which will be the venue for any lawsuits filed under or incident to this agreement to the program. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid, such portion will be considered severed from the agreement and the remainder of the agreement will continue in full force and effect.

Participant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I hereby warrant and represent that I am the parent or legal guardian of the Participant who is under the age of 18, and I am hereby providing permission for him/her to participate in the program, and agree to be responsible for his/her behavior during the program. I have full authority to execute this Release and Assumption of Risk agreement which I have read, approved, and agree to in its entirety on behalf of myself and for the Participant.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____