

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES & PROGRAMS
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GUIDE



*The Link Between The World
and Your Home!*

California State University, Fresno

***INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP
GUIDE***

**Office of International Student
Services & Programs**

This publication was originally produced by the International Hospitality Program section of the International Student and Scholar Services Office at the University of Houston. Contributing writers were D'Ann Burke, Margie Escalera, and Jackie Behrens.

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PREFACE

This guide to friendship is, as the title suggests, only a guide. There are many different approaches and ways to build friendships. You are the best judge of the situation because you are in an excellent position to observe and participate in the dynamics of the relationship; however, from past experiences certain cultural differences and perceptions have prompted this publication for the enhancement of student/family/singles relationships. The CSUF International Friendship Program is really flexible, but what is required IS NOT IDENTICAL VIEWPOINTS, BUT A GENUINE ACCEPTANCE OF EACH OTHER'S RIGHT TO HOLD DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND ENTERTAIN DIFFERENT IDEAS. This exchange of opinions and ideas is the best way to foster understanding. UNDERSTANDING one another is the bridge to FRIENDSHIP and FRIENDSHIP is the PASSPORT to world PEACE.



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INTRODUCTION

The International Friendship Program at California State University Fresno provides a means whereby international students and families or singles in the Fresno Area are brought together in meaningful cross-cultural relationships. The program is educationally rewarding and emotionally satisfying. International students bring the world to your doorstep; similarly, friendship families/singles provide the familial comforts of home and an opportunity to enrich the international student's educational experience in the United States.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - A PROFILE

The international students are young, sophisticated adults, citizens of a foreign country



with a unique culture very different from our own. Because of their abilities and hard work, their intelligence and perhaps their station in life in their own country, they are one of a small number who has the opportunity to travel abroad to study in the United States.

Next to academia, most students desire to know more about the American family structure and home life. Much of what they know has come from reading and from the movies - they may not have an accurate picture of the "average American family."

The international student will know some English but will not have full command of the language. As foreign nationals living and studying in the United States, they will want to improve their English language capabilities.

Their lack of knowledge about our culture and our American way of life is in no way an indication of their level of intelligence. Most Americans actually will know less about a student's country than the student will know about the United States.

Our way of life, our customs and traditions, and our social structure and freedoms may seem very strange to an international student coming from a different cultural, religious, and linguistical background. An openness and willingness on your part to view our culture from your student's perspective will create an atmosphere in which friendship and understanding can flourish.

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS (ISSP) OFFICE

Without exception, all matters pertaining to the status of the University's foreign students are handled by and through the International



Student Services & Programs Office (ISSP) at CSU Fresno. This office works closely with various governmental agencies, both local and federal, including the U.S. Office of Immigration and Naturalization Services, to ensure that all students comply with regulations and laws governing their presence in the United States.

The ISSP Office also works closely with the international student concerning his academic career at the University, as well as certain personal matters involving his fiancée or spouse and children who want to come to our country, financial difficulties, serious health and

emotional problems, serious adjustment and legal difficulties, and home problems (death or serious illness in the student's family).

Because the International Friendship Program is supported, both materially and ideologically by CSU Fresno, the ISSP Office personally works with the International Friendship Program to help ensure the success of each friendship family/single and international student relationship.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AND BE

The friendship family/single, can reap a wealth of enjoyment and satisfaction from a relationship with an international student.



Once you and your international student have been paired, you can begin to become an important part of the international student's life.

By suspending cultural judgement, you benefit educationally in creating an atmosphere of tolerance and curiosity necessary to learn about another's culture and ways of life.

Also, by becoming a special friend, you express interest in the international student as a unique individual, one who is cared about in a special way. The friendship extended can have the dramatic effect of securing international students in their new surroundings, making their academic career much more successful.

WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR

Because the ISSP Office is equipped to handle many of the special problems international students face, you should never have to become involved in their:

- Serious health and emotional problems
- Immigration and other governmental obligations
- Difficulties in bringing his spouse or children to the United States
- Home problems (death or serious illness in the student's family)
- Legal matters
- Any financial assistance



Should any of these matters come to your attention, they should be communicated to the ISSP Office or Coordinator of the International Friendship Program. In such times of crises, however, your sympathy and encouragement can be helpful. You should encourage the international students to discuss their problems with an international student counselor who is specially trained to handle these matters.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES

Most of the students applying for the International Friendship Program have just arrived in the U.S. and need help with cultural adjustment. There are others who have already spent time at CSU Fresno or have transferred from other American colleges or universities. These students, however, may still be adjusting to American living or may not have had the opportunity for close contact with Americans.

KEEPING THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S PRIORITIES IN MIND

Both you and your students need to be aware of the other's time limitations. Because international students normally spend twice as much time in the library as in the classroom, they would appreciate knowing when they are expected to arrive for visits and how long the visit will last.

Then, too, it would be helpful if your students understand how you must spend your time on a day-to-day basis. Employment obligations and household chores require your time also. Let the students know when you are busy, but try to be available for get-togethers at least once a month at mutually convenient times.

When time constraints prevent you and the students from visiting, interim telephone calls or emails are suggested. Using these means to relay bits of news, future invitations, or just to chat, can be important in solidifying the relationship. The students will know they have not been forgotten and will not be isolated in their loneliness when they are unable to visit because of academic demands or when you are unavailable because of your obligations.



BEFORE THE FIRST VISIT...



May We Offer A Few Suggestions?

1

LOCATION OF FIRST MEETING:

One consideration for the first meeting is an informal visit on neutral ground; that is, neither the student's apartment nor your home. Some students commented that this relieves them of the double pressure of meeting strangers and of unfamiliar customs in visiting an American home for the first time. This may not always be possible or practical, however, according to your circumstances. In such case, an informal visit with you would be better than an elaborate dinner.

2

LOCATION OF HIS/HER COUNTRY:

Being able to locate your students' country on the map, reading about the educational and political systems, the people, and the current situation in their country will help you feel more at ease in conversation.



3

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Writing down your name, home address, phone number and email address, as well as the names of your family members will help tremendously. If you have a pet, include its name, too. Let your students know that should they move, you will want their new address and phone number so that you do not lose touch with him.



4

PRONUNCIATION OF FOREIGN NAMES:

International names may seem impossible to pronounce (as American names are to internationals), but if you will practice your students' full name with them until you are satisfied that you have it correctly, it will please them greatly. In many countries it is a matter of courtesy and respect to address a person by his surname. It is best to ask the student how he prefers to be addressed. (Don't be surprised if your student still prefers to call you Mr. and Mrs., especially if your student is female. In many cultures, it is impolite to address an older person by their given name and impolite for a female to address a male by his given name.)

5

COMMUNICATION WITH UNDERSTANDING:

Do not be afraid of difficulty in communication, either over the telephone or in person. Sincerity, friendliness, and patience, combined with genuine interest and understanding, will serve you well in transcending language and other cultural barriers.

6

COMMUNICATION WITH A WRITTEN NOTE:

Following-up any verbal invitation with a written note will be greatly appreciated by your student. It will clarify again the exact date, time and place which may have been misunderstood, and will also serve as a reminder.

7

REPETITION OF SENTENCES:

Asking “do you understand?” too often may begin to undermine your students’ self confidence. Speaking slowly and distinctly will aid their understanding. If you feel they did not understand, you might repeat the sentence again.

8

MISUNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN HUMOR:

American jokes and humor are often misunderstood by the newly-arrived international and may need to be avoided in the beginning of the relationship. Explain anything you feel might have been misinterpreted. Let your remarks be governed by sensitivity and good judgment.



Do you think they would understand this?
“How many Spartans does it take to change a lightbulb? Two. One to hold the bulb and the other to turn the chair!”

9

REFRESHMENTS UPON ARRIVAL:

Providing the students some refreshments when they arrive at your home will make him feel more at home. This is a custom in many countries. Sometimes offers of refreshments (or more servings at dinner) must be made several times to the international students. In their country it may be considered impolite to accept the first or second time the offer is made.

10 EXPRESSIONS IN STUDENT'S LANGUAGE:
Learning greetings in your student's language can be exciting for the whole family. They will be pleased to teach you "hello," "goodbye," "welcome," and special greetings for significant days of celebration in their country. In turn, you may want to tell about our "Merry Christmas," "Happy Easter," and "Happy New Year," and other American greetings.

11 "TOUR" OF YOUR HOME:
Your students may enjoy a "tour" of your home. They may have many questions about unfamiliar items to their culture. Some unusual items to them may be things quite common to you. Be sensitive to the fact that often Americans are viewed as materialists. Many students come from well to do families. Ask about their homes and how they differ?

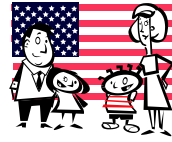
12 INTEREST IN THEIR FAMILIES:
Encourage them to talk about themselves, their family and their country. You will be providing an outlet for their loneliness while learning about the culture of a foreign land. As in our country, however, questions concerning financial status, either of the students or their families may be interpreted as prying.



13 POLITICS OF STUDENTS' COUNTRY:
Although you may disagree with the politics of their country (and they with yours), be very slow to criticize. It may be impossible to completely understand their culture, or they yours, but it is possible for each of you to learn to accept the other as an individual. Bear in mind that you, individually, are no more responsible for the state of your nation or its policies than they are for the state of their nation or its policies.

14 **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION:**

Being patriotic but also being willing to admit weaknesses in the American system will

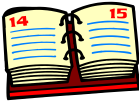


exemplify the very essence of our Democratic principles.

15 **ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECOND VISIT:**

While your students are in your home for their first visit, make definite arrangements for their second visit. This is an important act in many cultures and will assure the students of your acceptance of them. Try to be aware of their “free” time (school breaks, holidays, summer) and times when they will be very busy with school and unable to visit (class days, exam time, etc.). Ask them about their schedules.

16 **SPECIFICATION OF DATE AND TIME:**



In making arrangements, be specific on date and time. If you cannot, then indicate you will call them within a given time to make plans. Students are not always able to make dates much in advance unless it is for a very special occasion. Follow this up with a note or an email.

17 **INVITATION TO STUDENT'S FRIEND:**

When it is convenient, give your students the opportunity to bring a friend to your home. This is especially advantageous if the friend provides transportation. If the friend is another international student, do not be offended if the two of them speak in their native language. Americans who have visited or lived abroad know how comforting it can be to hear their own language spoken.

18 EFFECTS OF “CULTURE SHOCK”:

Do not deluge your students with activities immediately upon their arrival in the United States. Because of jet lag, changes in time zones, “culture shock,” and difficulties in adjusting to our food and water, it may be several days - perhaps a week or two, before they once again begin to feel normal.

19 TERMINATION OF VISIT:

Because customs vary among nations, you should be the one to initiate the termination of a particular visit. In most instances, you can let the students know in advance about how long the visit will last. When it is time to say “good-night,” let them know that you have enjoyed the visit and make arrangements for the next time you will be getting together.

20 EXPRESSIONS VIA “THANK YOU” NOTES:

In many countries it is not customary to send thank-you notes. However, this does not mean the student did not enjoy the visit. In many countries feelings are not expressed even though they do exist.

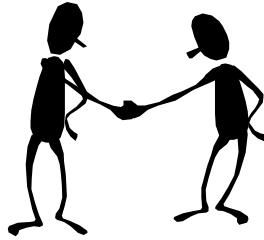
If you contemplate subtle cultural differences such as these, you can more readily assess the difficulties of international students in understanding our spoken language and in adjusting to their new environment.



IF, FOR ANY REASON, CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENT YOU FROM CONTINUING TO BE A FRIENDSHIP FAMILY OR SINGLE FRIEND, IMMEDIATELY ADVISE THE IFP COORDINATOR OR THE ISSP OFFICE.

FOR MEN ONLY

Men, you can be a valuable asset in entertaining your students while your wife is getting last minute things together or putting dinner on the table.



Encourage your students to express themselves about their families and homelands.

Ask questions like...

“Tell me about your family. How many sisters and brothers do you have?”

“How do people greet one another in your country? What are your meal-time customs?”

Invite them to bring pictures of their countries. On the first visit do not ask: “What do you not like about our country?” Keep the conversation positive.

Another suggestion: “We’ve heard so much about (a person from that country in the news or current events). Can you tell us more?”

The information exchanged while your wife is getting dinner on the table can serve as a “pick-up” when you get to the table.

At the table, you can talk about food: “How is your food cooked?”

Other suggestions for conversation topics: “What would you like to know about our country and culture?”

You may want to ask them if they would like to prepare a typical meal from their country for you. They will probably need to use your kitchen and cooking utensils and may also need help in buying the necessary items. This can be a wonderful experience and will allow your student the opportunity to do something for you.



One of the dangers in the beginning is to allow the TV to do the entertaining. Although your students may seem very shy, you can rest assured that their goal is to learn about the American life-style and to practice English. This can best be done through conversation.

You may also want to invite your international student to your place of business. This will give the student greater exposure to another aspect of American culture. It can also help your co-workers to expand their horizons beyond their own culture. We live in a global village that is constantly shrinking.

Your international guest may help you and others to grow in global understanding!

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Children, many international students request families with children because they miss their own brothers and sisters so much. There are many things you can do to make your new friend from another country feel welcomed in America and also in your home.



- Be able to find the students' country on a map or globe before they come to your home for the first time.
- Read something in your geography books or encyclopedia about the weather, the people, and interesting places in their country.
- Ask the students about the children in their country: how do children act with their parents, brothers and sisters, and other adults?
- Ask them to show you some games the children in their country play.
- Show them your school pictures and ask them if they have any pictures of their family that they can bring next time.
- Teach them some of your favorite games.
- Invite them to your school functions, ball games, track meets, special events, open house, plays, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY

Your student may be married, but the spouse and children did not come. Usually the family of the student will follow about one year later. The student then may be trying to find another apartment, extra sheets, pots and pans, etc. Much time, expense, and pressure are placed on the student with the anticipation of their family's arrival.

By the time the family arrives, the student is fairly well adjusted to our American lifestyle, but not so for the newly-arrived spouse. She must learn how to shop in a supermarket, a shopping mall, and a mail-order store. She finds it difficult to get around because of the lack of transportation, and consequently spends many long, lonely hours in a small, bare apartment. Cooking becomes a problem because she no longer has familiar foodstuffs. She is also at a loss in knowing how to communicate with store clerks, receptionists, telephone service men, and neighbors.



WAYS OF CARING

You can show thoughtfulness to international students by:

- Taking cookies or other home made foods, especially during exams or illness.
- Email news articles about their country.
- Meeting occasionally for a soda, coffee, or tea.
- Taking pictures during visits and giving them a few to mail to their family.
- Phoning or writing them well in advance about family events and invitations to visit. Be sure to indicate the type of dress desirable if it is a special occasion. Also bear in mind that the students may not have a full wardrobe with them in the United States or may not be able to afford to purchase the type of dress required for a particular occasion.
- Encourage them to call you when they are lonely or would like to visit you.
- Get together with friends or other families and students for joint activities. You may want to give an “international party!”
- Celebrate special days together (their birthday, family members’ birthdays, Valentine’s Day, Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.). Remind them to wear green on St. Patrick’s Day.



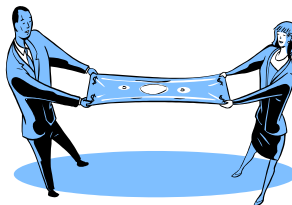
- If your students have grown accustomed to visiting with you on holidays, and you suddenly find that you must go out of town, let them know. They will understand the reasons for your absence better than they would understand not hearing from you at all. Perhaps a family friend could contact your students and invite them to join their family celebration while you are gone.



WAYS OF HELPING

Many international students have limited finances and often find it difficult to make ends meet. While you are under no obligation to lend financial assistance - in fact, we ask that you do not - there are still areas in which you can help the international students stretch their American dollars:

- If they do not have a checking account, you might help them to open one.
- Advice on where to shop for specific items is always helpful. There are any number of discount stores where students can get what they need without paying high prices.
- Transportation can often be a problem. Help the students determine if they can take advantage of public transportation. Taxis are expensive, and friends with cars may be few or not going their way.



- Your students may approach you for information on how to buy a car. They should first be made aware of their obligations under the laws of California (obtaining title, registering title, auto tags, mandatory insurance, etc.) as well as the practical aspects of automobile ownership (is the car in good condition, what is its purchase price, is it a reasonable purchase price, is the seller/dealer trustworthy, how much will it cost to operate and maintain?)
- Ask the students about their birthday. Chances are it will not be celebrated unless you are interested enough to care. If you give a gift, please make it an inexpensive one as it may place a burden on them, if they feel obligated to reciprocate. Customs in many foreign countries require when a gift is received, a gift must be given in return. Let the students know that their friendship is the best gift they can bestow upon you.
- Your presence at the students' graduation will be most meaningful to them. Also any photographs will be valuable to them and their family especially if they are unable to attend.



SUGGESTIONS FOR ENTERTAINING, ACTIVITIES AND SIGHTSEEING

Remember that America is a very fortunate nation. It is a land of plenty. Millions of people around the world are astounded by our country's wealth and diversity. Many things which Americans take for granted are considered "marvelous" by internationals:

- Electrical Conveniences
- Parades

- Circus
- Highways
- Stockyards
- Department Stores
- Fast-Food Stands
- Newspapers
- Radio Stations
- Court Sessions
- Clovis Rodeo
- Holiday Activities

If you are a member of any civic organization, invite your international student to attend. Community action in a free society may be unheard of in your student's country.

- League of Women Voters
- Some Church Activities
- Lions Club
- Jury Duty
- Rotary Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Political Rallies
- PTA

American sporting events are often of interest to the international student, either by attending in person or watching on TV:

- football
- ping-pong
- baseball
- hockey
- tennis
- skiing
- auto racing
- boating
- swimming
- bowling
- sailing
- fishing
- water skiing
- golf
- biking
- basketball

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sense and Use of Time: Most people around the world do not live at the same fast pace of Americans. When inviting your international students for a visit always specifically state the hour at which they are expected. Give full details about the visit whenever possible, and in writing in an email or short note. In time a mutual understanding will develop as each of you learn about the other's sense and use of time.

Culture Shock: This is a very real physical and mental disorientation caused by confrontation with the newness of a strange environment. Allow the international students to get accustomed to you and your family before introducing them to neighbors, friends, and relatives outside the family nucleus.

Spontaneity: If you have children, they can be an added asset in entertaining your guests and making them feel at home. Their naturalness can help break communication and other barriers. The children will also learn valuable lessons from their contact with the international students.

Religious Beliefs: American families and singles belonging to an organized religious group (Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, etc.) can best share their faiths by exemplifying in action the essence of the beliefs they hold dear. ALL SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNATIONALS, WHATEVER FAITH THEY FOLLOW, CAN BE EQUALLY DEVOUT AND MAY RESENT OR FEEL THREATENED BY OBVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT THEM TO ANOTHER BELIEF. Look for common ground in beliefs. A respect for life and a shared humanity are elements in every major religion of the world.

When inviting your students to a religious event, we strongly recommend that you explain the event to the students so that they will be more comfortable.

The following are recommendations of a joint National Association for Foreign Student Affairs-International Student Service Committee with Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish representation:

1. Religion and religious institutions constitute an important aspect of the culture of the United States which the foreign student should have an opportunity to learn about and observe if he so wishes.
2. The traditional concern of U.S. religious groups for international understanding, social justice, and the welfare of the stranger, should motivate their work with foreign students rather than any desire to proselyte the students. Respect for the individual requires recognition of the facts:
 - a. that his religious and cultural heritage may be precious to him.
 - b. that we can best serve his religious needs by welcoming him when he desires to share religious experiences with us, or if his religion is different from ours, by providing facilities for him and others of his faith to worship in their own way.
3. Religious groups may perform a service by providing opportunities for foreign students and the U.S. campus and community to join in religious and intellectual inquiry through open discussion and broad questioning and through free exchange of information about principles and practices of various faiths and cultures.
4. Any invitation to a foreign student to attend any event sponsored by a religious group or its members should clearly indicate the nature of the event and its sponsorship.
5. It is important that religious groups coordinate their activities involving foreign students through the foreign student advisor or some other appropriate official of the educational institution. Off campus religious groups should not be in competition for the time and interest of foreign students.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

One of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to entertain is to share a meal with the international student. Here are some suggestions on how to make meal-time entertaining and successful:



- Muslims will not eat pork or ham, and as a rule will not take alcoholic beverages.
- Hindus will not eat beef and in many cases are vegetarians. Strict vegetarians eat no animal fats or shortenings (use olive oil instead). These, as well as eggs, are not used in cooking.
- Jews are governed by “Kosher” rules prohibiting the eating of pork or ham.
- Lamb, fish, and chicken are usually acceptable to any of the Eastern Hemisphere peoples.
- Alcoholic beverages are still little used in many countries.
- Fruit, cheese, or light desserts are preferred by many international visitors.
- When serving alcoholic beverages to visitors of legal age, remember that soft drinks or fruit juices should also be available.

Mealtime need not be a problem. Keep foods simple and provide a choice of vegetables and fruit (cooked or raw, but not cooked, generally, in animal fats). Green salads with tomatoes and cucumbers and even yogurt dressing are always reliable.

Find out about the religious dietary restrictions of your international students. Don't be afraid to ask your students what they are not able to eat before you prepare your meal.

Buffet meals are especially good for the first meal; it gives the student the option of taking or leaving food with little embarrassment.

Many students may be interested in preparing foods, perhaps a national dish, in your kitchen. Your assistance in locating the ingredients for the meal may be needed as many internationals will be unfamiliar with supermarkets or the American names of some items needed.

Expressions of pleasure over a meal differ among various cultures. Do not be offended if your guests slurp their soup or give a big burp after dinner. Such gestures indicate they are enjoying themselves.

The following are some international recipes, that you may want to serve to your international guests:

TABOLEH (Arabic Salad)

1/2 cup cracked wheat
1 cup finely chopped medium onion
1 cup finely chopped cucumber
3 cups finely chopped tomato
1/2 cup finely chopped fresh mint
3/4 cup lemon juice
3/4 cup olive oil

Wash the cracked wheat well. Add lemon juice, olive oil, and tomato to the wheat. Let stand one hour. Mix in other ingredients. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve chilled on bed of crisp lettuce. One can eat the salad by scooping it with the lettuce leaves.

TEN-MINUTE CHICKEN DINNER

- 2 whole chicken breasts
- 2 tbsp. salad oil
- 1 green pepper, cut in strips
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 cup diagonally sliced celery
- 1 can (5 ounces) water chestnuts, strained and sliced
- 1 cup chicken stock, divided
- 1 tsp. Accent
- 1 tbsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 can (1 pound) bean sprouts
- 1 package (6 ounces) chicken flavored rice, cooked according to package directions

Cut chicken meat from bone; cut in small shreds. Cook chicken in hot oil in skillet until white (about 3 minutes). Add green pepper, onion, celery, water chestnuts, 1/2 cup chicken stock. Add to skillet with bean sprouts, stirring until thickened, about 2 minutes. Serve with hot cooked chicken flavored rice. Yield: 6 servings.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT NATIONS, PEOPLE & POLITICS

Americans (Democrats, Republicans, and Independents) are aware of political differences in their own country. They know these differences are at work, not only at the federal level, but also within each state, each county, and each city. They know how the national priorities of our country differ from those of nations abroad.

What many Americans fail to perceive, however, are the political differences within a foreign nation. Arabs come from many nations and often have different political views. A Chinese born on the Mainland may have different views than an American-born Chinese, a Taiwanese Chinese, or a Hong Kong Chinese.

Whether the cause of a country's internal differences is owing to its form of government, racial, cultural, or religious differences among its inhabitants or the economic standing of the nation among its neighbors or the rest of the world, it is important for Americans befriending internationals to recognize that all the people of a nation do not necessarily hold the same beliefs.

A multiplicity of political opinion is not unique to the United States. It only seems more apparent in the U.S. because Americans have the freedom of speech to state their views openly. Because in many foreign countries citizens are not allowed to express dissenting opinions freely, it is not uncommon for individuals from such a foreign country to react more intensely about the inequities they feel are present in their own political system, and the contribution they believe that other foreign countries - including the United States - make to perpetuate that system in their native land.

When discussing all matters, political or religious, be slow to criticize; religion is integrated into many political systems of other countries. Our news media may not always cover all the news about the student's country's problems political or otherwise.

Be slow to anger if the United States is criticized. Newspapers, far from always printing the truth, are sometimes (particularly in developing nations without benefit of a democratic system) little more than propaganda sheets. A government-controlled media may be the only source of news that some internationals have at their disposal.

Remember that by practicing tolerance you will be establishing tolerance as an example for intentional students to follow!

CONCLUSION

The friendship family or single/international student friendship is an adventure in cross-cultural communication. It provides a much-needed emotional base for the international student and provides a unique opportunity for the single or friendship family, particularly the children, to experience the diversity of the world at home.

As American "Ambassadors of Goodwill," you are in the enviable position of exporting, by your example of friendliness and hospitality, the news that America is a nation of loving people who open their homes to the world. This message in the heart of your international students goes home with them when they leave our country. It is quite possible that what you do here in America serves the purpose of world peace and promotes understanding among nations.



Friendship is
the Key
to Understanding!

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