



Conversation Partner Program

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

WELCOME

- ▶ The program is for
 - ▶ friendly conversations
 - ▶ language practice
 - ▶ cultural exchange
- ▶ **Share your stories and pictures** with internationalaffairs@chatham.edu
- ▶ You will receive a **certificate** after you complete a survey at the end of the semester



EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ Meet with your partner(s) for **at least one hour each week**
- ▶ Meet at a **convenient time and location**
- ▶ To cancel or reschedule your meeting, you must **contact your partner.**
- ▶ Follow the University's **Student Code of Conduct.**



EXPECTATIONS

**If there is a problem with your partnership,
contact us right away at
internationalaffairs@chatham.edu**

What do I do at the first meeting?



For the first meeting:

- Meet on-campus so that both you and your partner can feel comfortable
- Learn to pronounce one another's names
- Discuss the best way to contact one another (email, phone, text, etc.)
- Schedule the next meeting



SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Go to one of the Museums, (Carnegie Science Museum)
2. Go to the Aviary, or Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh
3. Walk through one of the Public Parks (Frick, or Highland, etc.)
4. Go hiking, biking, or kayaking
5. Go to a discounted movie
6. Use public transportation to check out the city
7. Attend a public festival (Arts Fest, Italy Days, etc.)
8. Have coffee at a café
9. Go shopping
10. Have dinner at each other's homes
11. Go dancing
12. Exercise together at the AFC
13. Use the gym (AFC) for activities such as: Rock Climbing, Pool Table, Swimming, Racket Ball, and much more!
14. Winter time: Sled, make a snowman, ice skate in Downtown Pittsburgh.
15. Go to a place of worship together to learn about each other's religion

SUGGESTED TOPICS OF CONVERSATION



1. Food

- Daily meals and special menus for celebrations
- Discuss what food is served during a typical breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Special foods for holidays, birthdays, weddings etc.
- Discuss eating rituals, etiquette/manners, proper tipping, eating

2. Family & Home

- Bring photos of friends, family, pets, hometowns
- Talk about your parent's professions, your home, your family vacations, your upbringing, etc.
- Discuss types of pets, and customs associated with them, where they sleep, celebrations for pets like birthdays etc.

3. Sports & Recreation

- Talk about each other's hobbies
- Play a favorite board game
- Attend a Chatham sporting event together (soccer, swimming, etc.)
- Watch a major sport together on TV.
- Discuss your favorite sport, or favorite team.

SUGGESTED TOPICS OF CONVERSATION



4. Art & Entertainment

- Discuss favorite movies or actors
- Discuss stereotypes portrayed in the movies and TV, storylines and characters, cultural values / themes etc.
- Listen to music from each other's country
- Compare and contrast music and dance styles in America and in your partner's country. Ask about popular entertainers

5. Education

- Discuss what each other is studying / doing at Chatham University
- How each other typically learns about the world and what is going on in other countries
- How accessible learning another language is, the options, and ages and institutions where that can be done (i.e. public school, Sunday school, etc.)
- Share success tips on studying

6. Legends & Lore

- Discuss folklore, such as Bigfoot, Jersey Devil, Ghosts, UFO's, etc.
- Every culture has their own unique "monsters" and legends
- American Folklore, Paul Bunyan, John Henry, Johnny Appleseed etc

SUGGESTED TOPICS OF CONVERSATION



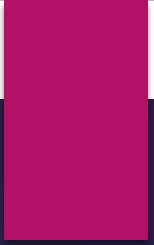
8. Holidays

- Learn about special days throughout the year and how they are celebrated by law, custom, or religion
- Discuss or do activities such as pumpkin carving, haunted house, decorate a Christmas tree, etc.
- Compare and contrast common holidays (New Year, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc.)

Note: Take advantage of your student ID. Your conversation partner(s) should have one as well (if they do not, contact us or have them go to student accounts)

Hints for successful conversational partnerships:

- ▶ If you are unsure if something is culturally appropriate to discuss, ask! You can begin by saying, “***I hope it’s okay if I ask you...***”
- ▶ **Speak at a natural pace.** If you are a fast-talker, slow down a bit. If you are asked to repeat something, *repeat or rephrase* it.
- ▶ **Allow pause time.** Be patient and give your partner a lot of time to think and respond.
- ▶ **Limit your use of slang** until you are confident that your partner(s) understands what you are saying.
- ▶ **Avoid correcting any homework** your partner(s) may have. This will take away from time developing conversation skills.



**We wish you a rewarding
experience as a
conversation partner!**

Contact information:

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Website: www.chatham.edu/elp

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChathamOIA/>

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Contact the Office of International Affairs if any problems develop during your meetings