



Global Partners

Student Handbook



Dear Global Partner,

I am so glad you have decided to join Global Partners, a network of internationally-minded friends *bringing Jayhawks from all over the world together*. This program is designed specifically for you to create friendships, spread knowledge, and engage in service-related opportunities with your peers from around the world.

Global Partners was developed to bring together the domestic and international members of the University of Kansas community. I encourage you to embrace the opportunities for engagement by attending as many events as possible and meeting your global partner outside the planned activities of the program. The benefits and memories will exponentially increase the more you decide to invest in your global partner and the program.

I invite you to stop by my office in Room 17 of Strong Hall. Feel free to ask questions, or offer suggestions about Global Partners. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you in the next several months.

Sincerely,

Steven Sweat
Programming and First Year Experience Coordinator
International Student Services
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Global Partners FAQs

What is Global Partners?

An exciting and unique way to build friendships, expand your global knowledge, and partake in service opportunities to make KU and the entire world better.

How does it work?

- Global Partners pairs American and International members of the KU community, based upon their cultural and social interests.
- Global Partners runs on the semester schedule. You can sign up for one semester at a time.
- Each global partnership is expected to spend time together engaging in fun activities, like dining, sporting, watching movies, etc.
- In addition, Global Partners sponsors events that each global partnership is encouraged to attend. These include attending a sports game, enjoying coffee and tea, and volunteering in the Lawrence community.

How do I get GAP (Global Awareness Program) credit?

Meet with your partner individually for a minimum of three hours each month.

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Attend at least two Global Partners events a semester.

What are the benefits of Global Partners?

- 1 Build long-lasting friendships.
- 2 Share your culture and learn firsthand about the culture of your global partner.
- 3 Earn 30 credit points towards your Global Awareness Program Certification.
- 4 Practice your language skills.

As a global partner, you are responsible for maintaining the rules and guidelines that govern university sanctioned events. If you have any questions about those guidelines and whether an event meets those guidelines, please contact the program coordinator.



Building Relationships With People From Other Cultures

1. **“Make a conscious decision to establish friendships with people from other cultures.”**
 - a. As a member of Global Partners, you have already made the first move forward. In order to complete this step, you will need to try your best to get to know your global partner and their culture.
2. **“Put yourself in situations where you will meet people of other cultures.”**
 - a. Show up to as many Global Partners events as possible, and meet with your global partner on multiple occasions.
3. **“Examine your biases about people from other cultures.”**
 - a. Everyone has their biases, but if we really want to get to know our global partner and their culture, we must first be aware of our biases. In this way, you can replace your old views with what you have experienced through your global partner.
4. **“Ask people questions about their cultures, customs, and views.”**
 - a. Do not be afraid to ask a question that might help you better understand your global partner, and be open to answering questions that your partner might ask you.
 - b. If you do not ask, you will never know, and you will be forced to be content with assumptions based off of your preconceived biases.
5. **“Read about other people’s cultures and histories.”**
 - a. If you feel uncomfortable asking your global partner questions or would like more information, do not hesitate to pick up a publication about the culture you are interested in. There are many great articles and books out there that will give you a plethora of information.
6. **“It is not always about you.”**
 - a. The best way to learn is to listen.
 - b. Remember that while you are trying to learn from your global partner, they are trying to learn from you.
7. **“Don’t forget to care and to show caring.”**
 - a. Listening is one thing, but really caring about what your global partner says and believes is another.
8. **“Risk making mistakes.”**
 - a. We all learn through our mistakes, but to learn we must first make mistakes.

The above information can be found at The Community Tool Box, <http://ctb.ku.edu>.

Ideas for Activities With Your Global Partner

The Classics

- A Movie
- Jaybowl
- Lied Center Performances
- Frisbee
- Roller or Ice Skating
- Miniature Golf
- Kansas City Zoo
- Worlds of Fun
- Oceans of Fun
- Concerts

Educational Ideas

- Study Groups
- Museums
- Take a recreational class together
- Public parks and gardens

Charitable Choices

- Habitat for Humanity
- Charity walks/runs/bike rides
- Check out the Center for Community Outreach for local volunteer opportunities (cco.ku.edu)

Other

- Day Trips: Pick a place an hour or two away and make a day of it. Kansas City would be a fun visit.
- Shopping: Massachusetts Street is a great place to start!
- Religion: If you are both religious, take your partner to your place of worship and then switch to your partner's place the next week.
- KU Clubs: If one of you is in a KU club, the other can tag along to see what it is like.
- Special Events: Check out visitlawrence.com.
- Holidays: Celebrate cultural holidays together and explain your customs.
- KU Events: SUA and many other organizations post events.
- Cook: Share your favorite dishes.

Athletic Course

- Bike riding
- Hiking and nature trails
- Rollerblading
- Tennis
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Billiards/Pool
- Join an intramural team

Topics for Discussion

Education:

Public or private, studying, teacher and student relations, educational system, literacy, "cheating," classroom conduct, school norms such as food and clothing.

Driving:

Types of driver's licenses, age, gender, traffic laws, attitudes, laws, safety, pedestrians and bikers, use of public transit

Social Relations:

Friendships, neighbors, co-workers, entertaining, guests, courtesy, compliments, communication

Greetings and Goodbyes:

Gestures and form of saying hello and goodbye, introductions, circumstances for sending letters and greeting cards, differences due to status or age

Celebrations and Holidays:

Birthdays, gifts, religious holidays, national holidays, how are these celebrated?

Time:

Importance of punctuality, pace of daily life, allocations of time based on priorities

Behavior in Public Places:

Showing affection, voice volume, smoking, same gender touching, lines, is it first come-first served?

Nonverbal Communication:

Gestures, dress, eye contact, silence, meaning in colors, greetings, smiling, touching, distance between people.

Arts and Cultural Heroes:

What cultural ideas are valued and studied, what are most famous?

Food and Table Customs:

National specialties, time of meals, manners, where are meals eaten and with whom, alcohol consumption and rituals, who cooks and cleans after the meal?

Pastimes:

What sports and hobbies do they enjoy?