

## Benefits



A favorite activity of international students and Friendship Partners alike are dinners and other combined social activities where interesting discussions and idea exchanges take place and perspectives on social, religious and cultural issues are shared.

International students aren't the only ones at the receiving end of this relationship. Friendship Partners, by their interaction with these students, receive cultural experiences which enrich their lives. Many become lifelong friends with their students.

Many students have come to follow Christ or grown in their understanding through such friendships.



## Volunteer Training Program:

We will train you how to reach out and befriend international students – how to be a Friendship Partner. For more information on training, please contact us.

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International Student Ministries Canada (ISMC) is a Christian non-profit organization serving international students and scholars in Canada.



# Being a Friend to an International



## Friendship Partner Program

As one Friendship Partner said,

*“When international students arrive, everything is new. They need someone to prepare them for how things are done, how we think, and the easiest ways to adjust to our culture. They need someone who is truly going to be their friend.”*



## Experience the world...

...by building a friendship with an international student. The Friendship Partner program takes learning outside the classroom by connecting Canadians with international students. While offering hospitality and friendship, both the Canadians and students have opportunities to learn about each other's cultures.



## Building a Bridge – Friendship Ambassador

There are more than 6,000 international students from many countries enrolled in London academic institutions. Many are never invited inside a Canadian home before they return. Building a relationship between Canadians and people from other nations also builds bridges of peace and understanding in our world.

The Friendship Partner program of ISMC welcomes your participation as you become a citizen-diplomat and ambassador of God's love to these individuals.



*“I love hearing the stories! And these students are so fresh and thankful – they are so open...”*  
(a new Friendship Partner)



## What to Expect

You, as a Friendship Partner, and your international student will mutually share experiences about family, community, and culture. Once a month you enjoy an activity together. The commitment is for one year.

The activity could include an invitation to your home for a meal, playing sports or games, or showing them a great place to shop, perhaps a sightseeing trip. You could include them in family activities like a birthday party, gardening, or decorating the Christmas tree.

From time to time they may invite you to join them in an activity. A phone call or email in between times is also encouraging.