



Athens First United Methodist Church  
International Student Ministry (ISM)  
International Friendship Program

***Family/Individual Application*** (Please print)

The world is at our door here at UGA! The University of Georgia's international community includes more than 2,000 international students and scholars from over 125 countries around the world! When a new student arrives at UGA, it can be difficult to get to know Americans in the community. Many international students, away from home and family for the first time, experience culture shock when they first arrive here. The food, customs, and language differ significantly from what they were used to in their home countries. American Christians are needed to befriend international students and to help them with conversational English and cultural adjustments. If you are willing to witness to the love of Christ through the gift of friendship, we would like to link you with one of these students during his or her stay in Athens. Your commitment for the school year will be:

1. Invite your new friend for a meal at your home, to a favorite restaurant, to cultural events, or just to spend time with you doing things you both enjoy at least twice during the first month you meet then at least once a month thereafter. Once your friendship is established, you may also extend an invitation for your new friend to visit your church if they desire.
2. Also, maintain biweekly contact throughout the school year by phone, email, or Facebook.
3. Holidays are usually lonely times for international students; so if possible, invite him or her to spend time with you during the holidays.
4. Pray for him or her regularly as you demonstrate Christ's love in action by responding to practical needs through the gifts of conversation and friendship.
5. Participate with your student at monthly ISM "Snack & Chat" events held at Athens First UMC.
6. Attend ISM seminars offered for volunteers throughout the school year as your schedule permits.

Your Personal Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church you currently attend: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name and Phone (for reference): \_\_\_\_\_

Employer or Field of Study (if you are a college student)? \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Ages and Gender of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Languages Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Countries Visited \_\_\_\_\_ How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you desire to be a friendship partner? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any training or past experience with international student ministry? (Please explain).

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Please share a brief testimony regarding your relationship with Christ (*attach additional sheet if needed*).

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Do you desire to befriend a male or a female student? (Men are usually paired with men, and women with women, unless a couple is befriending a student together.) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer a student from a particular country or region? \_\_\_\_\_

If a student isn't available from there, are you willing to befriend a student from another country? \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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My signature below indicates my agreement to attend Friendship Partner Orientation on August 19 or to review the training kit individually prior to meeting the international student assigned to me. I understand the importance of contacting my student within the first week after receiving his or her name and setting up a time for our initial meeting. Thereafter, I agree to meet with my partner on an individual basis at least twice during the first month we meet, then once each month thereafter, and to maintain biweekly contact via email or phone. I will also attend monthly "Snack & Chat" events sponsored by Athens First UMC's International Student Ministry and encourage my international friend to participate too. If circumstances change or problems develop that keep me from fulfilling my commitment to my assigned international partner this school year, I will contact Lynn Bryant so that she can help find a solution for the problem or obtain another friend for my student. I will not "drop" my student without Lynn's awareness. I realize that I may be the first Christian that this student meets, so I am committed to befriending him or her in such a way that the light of Christ shines clearly through my life. I also commit to pray for my student regularly.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return Completed Application to:

Athens First United Methodist Church  
Attn: Lynn Bryant, Director  
International Student Ministry  
P. O. Box 1109  
Athens, GA 30603  
706-202-9017 (cell phone)  
Email: Athens1stISM@aol.com  
<http://athensfirstumc.org/missions/international-student-ministry>