DUKE LANGUAGE PARTNERS PROGRAM

WELCOME TO THE DLP PROGRAM!

The purpose of this program is for two native speakers of two different languages to come together to help each other learn their native languages and exchange their cultures.

Through the program, you can practice a foreign language, learn about another culture, gain language tutoring experience, with great potential of developing friendship.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

1. ARRANGE A REGULAR TIME

Whether it is every week, every other week, or once a month, you should have a set, regular time to meet. This will help you stay focused and you can plan your schedule accordingly.

2. MEET AT COMFORTABLE & CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Keep in mind that you, your partner, or both of you may not have transportation. Be flexible and choose a place where you can hear one another. Try a few different places to see what works best.

3. BE PREPARED

You should meet your partner with topics of discussion in mind and/or questions you would like to ask. Sometimes partners become good friends and never need to search for something to talk about. This does not always happen, nor should it. Some learn better with a language partner because they are not friends and do not get distracted as easily.

4. BE FLEXIBLE

Most of the DLP participants are students and scholars – busy people. Sometimes people will need to change times, place, or frequency of the meetings due to work and personal schedules. Try to be understanding and flexible with change. If it becomes a serious problem then talk to your partner about it or contact the International House for assistance.

5. STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

If you find that you and your partner are not meeting with the regularity that you had hoped for, please contact the program coordinator at leila.ghannad@duke.edu. She will follow-up with your partner and/or make a new match if necessary.

FOR QUESTION, EMAIL LEILA GHANNAH AT LEILA.GHANNAH@DUKE.EDU
Topic Suggestions For Your Conversations

**EXPECTATIONS**

It is always a good idea to let each other know what you are hoping to get out of this time together.

**FOOD**

Always a great topic with so much variety! What is/is not popular? What is your favorite type of food or dish? Who does the cooking in your family? Where are places to eat in Durham?

**SHOPPING**

There can be big differences between shopping in one culture and another. What are the differences? What is the same? Where do you like to shop at home? Where is a good place to shop near Duke or in Durham?

**COMMUNICATION STYLES**

Talk about gestures in your home culture that might have different meanings in other cultures. Share some uses of silence, nods, pauses, eye contact, and other body languages in conversations.

**FAMILY**

Every culture has different ideas about family structures. Within one culture there may also be many variations from region to region. What kind of family do you come from? Are you close? How do people in your country think about family structure? Are the roles similar or different?

**THE ARTS**

Music, painting, dance, and sculpture are only a few examples of different kinds of art. What is the art from your country like? What kind of art forms do you enjoy? Who are the famous artists from your country?

**SPORTS**

What sports do you like to play or watch? What is popular in your country? Who are the famous athletes from your country?

**HOBBIES**

What are your hobbies or favorite hobbies? What are some of the popular hobbies in your country?

**HOLIDAYS/FESTIVALS**

Discuss the holidays of each other’s native countries. Which holidays do you enjoy the most and why? What days of the calendar year are officially designated as national festivals? What are the central themes of the occasions, and what is the manner of the celebration?