“It was a great learning experience with her. We met at a bookstore every week and discussed a lot of things. We even had a family potluck at my home. She introduced us the delicious Japanese food and I made Indian food for them.” - Kalpana Gundrathi (paired with Ayaka Tatsumi for English-Japanese exchange)
Welcome to the Duke Language Partners 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.

Tips for a successful partnership

1. **Arrange a regular time to meet.** 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 and convenient locations** for both of you. 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 ling.jin@duke.edu. She will follow-up with your partner and/or make a new match if necessary.

To apply for the program, please visit International House website and click “IHouse Programs” > “Duke Language Partners Program”. ([link](https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse/ihouse-programs))

Questions? Contact Ling Jin at ling.jin@duke.edu