The International Friendship Program (IFP) is about bringing Rutgers international students together with Rutgers and local community members in a comfortable environment that is conducive to cross-cultural friendship and learning. This program is for people who are interested in learning and sharing about different cultures and gaining a deeper understanding of cross-cultural issues. Rutgers domestic students and local community members participate as the IFP hosts.

**Group Meetings**

The group meetings are a wonderful weekly opportunity for international students to practice their conversational English skills in a cross-cultural group setting. In addition, domestic students (IFP Hosts) can learn more about the international students on-campus. Members are not required to come each week and the schedule is flexible enough to join as and when members are free. The meetings include a combination of academic and social activities. It is a great way to make new friends and learn how to use American expressions and idioms.

**Conversation Partners Program**

IFP hosts and international students can sign up to be assigned to a conversation partner. You may request to be assigned a conversation partners by the IFP program coordinator or you may also meet your own partner at one of the group meetings. Often, IFP hosts help the international students practice English and learn more casual conversation. Some IFP hosts request to participate in a language exchange where they may want to learn/practice a new language from their partner. For example, an American student studying Mandarin might wish to partner with an international student from China. In this case, both students will benefit from language practice by arranging a schedule that allows for each person to speak the other's language.

**Holiday Dinner Program**

The Holiday Dinner Program encourages American friends/hosts to invite one or more international guests to share a special occasion, holiday meal or even just a regular meal in their home. While ongoing friendships may develop naturally as a result of an individual dinner invitation, participants in the Home Dinner Program are not required to make a commitment beyond a single dinner at the host's home. The IFP coordinates a Thanksgiving dinner invitation to introduce international students to the only true traditional American holiday-Thanksgiving. Because there is always a great interest on the part of international students to participate in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, the IFP seeks a greater number of friends/hosts for this program.

Applications for this program will be available in September.
Dear Students,

You are Invited!

IFP WELCOME PARTY
with the Rutgers International Student Association (RISA)

Join us for food, fun and friendship!

**Date:** Thursday, September 4th  
**Time:** 4:30pm until 6:30pm  
**Location:** Livingston Student Center

Please confirm your attendance by emailing Carissa McCarthy, IFP Coordinator at carissam@gaiacenters.rutgers.edu

Sincerely,

Carissa McCarthy  
GAIA- Global Services  
IFP Coordinator

Get Involved!

To participate in the IFP and to learn more about our events, please see our website at globalservices.rutgers.edu

You can find us on

Rutgers  
International Friendship Program-IFP