



*Global Buddies*  
**PROGRAM**



**Student Affairs**  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

| **International Student Life**  
**Student Government Association**

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## Program Overview

The Global Buddies Program is an initiative between UGA's Student Government Association and the Department of International Student Life to promote cross-cultural relationships amongst UGA students. The Global Buddies Program pairs international students with a buddy student from the U.S. to meet periodically and share cultural perspectives and build long-lasting friendships.

## Expectations of the Global Buddies Program

The Global Buddies Program is a voluntary commitment. For the duration of the program, each buddy should:

- Maintain a one semester commitment;
- Meet for a minimum of one hour, twice a month (2 hours per month); however, it is strongly encouraged to meet for one hour a week 😊
- Understand the purpose of the program, and work to create a productive, respectful, and mutually beneficial buddyship;
- Track activities with your buddy through the Activity Tracking form on the ISL website;
- Contact the Department of International Student Life (706-542-5867) if any problems develop during your meetings.

## COVID-19 Considerations

By opting into the Global Buddies Program, all participants agree to abide by both University and local safety guidelines related to COVID-19. It is also encouraged for buddies to have a conversation at the beginning of their time together to discuss their comfort levels and preferences with meeting virtually or in-person.

## Activity Tracking & Check-Ins

As part of the program, you and your buddy will be required to report on what you did together, how often you met, and how much time you spent together. Each time you meet with your buddy, make sure to visit [isl.uga.edu/global-buddies](http://isl.uga.edu/global-buddies) and click the “**Register Activity Here**” button so that we know you have met with your buddy. You will also receive a monthly Global Buddies newsletter email from ISL with program updates, suggested events, and a reminder to complete the activity tracking form.

*\*Checking in is an important part of the Global Buddies program, as it helps ISL and SGA improve the program and create a positive experience for all participants, while also allowing you to share what you did with your buddy that month!*

## Goals of the Global Buddies Program

**Participation goals for all students include:**

- Sharing one’s own culture
- Learning about a different culture
- Making a new friend from a different part of the world
- Expanding one’s worldview
- Experiencing personal and professional growth
- Experiencing UGA traditions and culture

Record other goals for participation below!

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## The First Meeting: Where to Start & What to Do

There are many ways to engage with your buddy! Consider the following during your first meeting to ensure you both feel comfortable and prepared:

- Meet your buddy in a Zoom room or on campus at a mutually agreed upon location so you are both familiar with your surroundings.
- Learn how to properly pronounce each other's names. Teach your buddy how to spell and say your name, and then ask them to help you with their name. Don't be afraid to ask your buddy to repeat their names a few times, as you want to make sure you are saying it correctly.
- Bring other materials! Travel guides, pictures, maps, books, or other belongings may help you explain your country and/or cultural heritage and give you something to share about.
- Discuss the best method(s) of contacting each other (text, phone, social media, etc.) in case you have to cancel or reschedule a meeting.
- Bring a calendar to have your work and school schedules available so you can know what days you are able to meet with your buddy. Set a date to meet and add it to your calendar.
- Remember to stay friendly, flexible, and invest time in order to develop the relationship.

## Tips & Suggestions for Communication between Global Buddies

**Be Culturally Sensitive.** If you do not know if your question is appropriate, you may say, “Is it okay if I ask...?” You may find that your buddy has different expectations for how men and women should interact, for the amount of personal space between the two of you, or for what topics are considered appropriate. This is an opportunity to open up discussion about the differences and similarities in norms and values of your respective cultures.

**Speak Clearly & Slowly, NOT Loudly!** Ask your partner if you are speaking too fast. Enunciate and speak clearly, but there is no need to raise your voice.

**Be Aware of Slang and Idioms.** If you use a phrase that cannot be translated literally into your partner’s language, write it down and ask your partner if they know it. Do not rely too heavily on slang or colloquialisms.

**Show Interest.** Express interest by using appropriate body language (leaning forward, maintaining eye contact, etc.) and listening actively. Invite your partner to participate by asking, “What do you think?”

**Don’t Overcorrect.** Let your partner know if they made a grammatical mistake by echoing the phrase in its correct form. Always remember, comprehension over perfection! Overcorrecting can hinder the development of fluency, so only correct errors that block communication.

**Don’t Interrupt!** Don’t finish your partner’s sentences. Let them learn and grow by practicing.

**Keep it a Two-Way Conversation.** Ask clarifying statements, use open-ended questions, and ask for details about topics of interest.

**Try New Things.** Spend time getting to know your Global Buddy by participating in the culture of Athens. Be open to trying new experiences with your buddy.

**Meet Regularly.** The more time you commit to getting to know your buddy, the better experience you will have. It is recommended that you meet with your buddy *at least* two hours per month. Set a long-standing scheduled time that you meet each month or week.

# Suggested Activities & Topics for Global Buddies

## 1. *Getting to Know You*

### **Objective**

Learn about your buddy, family structures, cultural values, and lifestyle.

### **Optional Activities:**

- Share photos of family, friends, favorite places, etc.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Discuss likes and dislikes, activities, academic study, future plans, etc.
- Share favorite memories about your family, relatives, friends, etc.
- Tell each other about any pets (dog, cat, fish, bird, etc.) you or your family own.
- Discuss parenting customs in your country.
- Discuss key lessons your parents taught you.

## 2. *Food*

### **Objective**

Learn about daily meals and special foods for celebrations. Possibly try new foods and exchange recipes.

### **Optional Activities**

- Eat at the campus café or dining hall.
- Meet at a restaurant and try new dishes.
- Exchange a favorite recipe or dish from each other's culture.
- Host each other for lunch or dinner at home.
- Take turns teaching one another how to cook a favorite dish.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Discuss what food is served during a typical day – do meals include breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
- Discover what foods are prepared on holidays and special occasions (birthdays, weddings, etc.)
- Talk about eating norms (etiquette, manners, eating utensils, etc.) and rituals
- Talk about dining out (ordering food, proper tipping, etc.)
- Discuss conceptions of your home country's food and cooking, including regional differences.

## **3. Sports and Recreation**

### **Objective**

Learn about national pastimes and each other's interests and hobbies.

### **Optional Activities**

- Bring a deck of cards or favorite board game and play together.
- Support UGA's athletic program by attending a sporting event together.
- Watch a sporting event on television.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Discuss what people enjoy doing as a pastime when not working or studying.
- Introduce favorite hobbies and crafts (comic books, jewelry making, etc.)
- Explain the basics of popular national sports (for example, baseball vs. cricket).
- Discuss the sports you like (and don't like) to play and those you enjoy watching on TV.



## **4. Arts and Entertainment**

### **Objective**

Learn about culture through the discussion of movies, T.V., books, music, art, etc.

### **Optional Activities**

- Go to a movie, play, concert, or ballet.
- Go to a cultural festival, art festival, or museum.
- Listen to music from your buddy's country.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Discuss favorite movies and T.V. shows and compare popular series.
- Compare and contrast music and dance styles between your home country and your buddy's home country. Ask about popular artists, bands, and other entertainers.
- Talk about other creative expressions such as art or literature.

## **5. Education**

### **Objective**

Learn about educational systems and teaching methods.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Find out what your buddy is studying/doing at UGA, why they chose their academic major or career field, etc.
- Talk about primary and secondary schooling, the ages when children begin their education, the length of the school day and year, and preparations for college.
- Discuss how and why your buddy decided to study in the U.S./UGA, and what their experience has been like at UGA thus far.
- Talk about how teaching styles and professors are different in each culture.
- Share success tips on studying.

## **6. Travel and Vacation**

### **Objective**

Learn about geography and tourism.

### **Optional Activities**

- Share photos of vacation/travel
- Attend an event in Atlanta
- Using maps, share fun places around Athens.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Explain how you prepare for a big trip – planning, packing, mental preparation, etc.
- Show on the map which places (countries, provinces, states, cities, etc.) you have toured and visited, and where you would like to go in the future.
- Make suggestions for spring break travel or plans for vacations during breaks.

## **7. Holidays**

### **Objective**

Learn about special days throughout the year and how they are celebrated.

### **Optional Activities**

- Invite each other to celebrate a special holiday.
- Carve a pumpkin, go to a haunted house, decorate a Christmas tree, etc.

### **Conversation Ideas**

- Compare and contrast common holidays (New Year, Valentine's Day, etc.) and how each is celebrated.
- Discuss other special days, such as legal holidays, religious celebrations, etc.

## **Holidays in the U.S.**

The following are examples of holidays in the U.S. Typically, government offices and many businesses are closed on these dates.

- New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Martin Luther King Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January
- Memorial Day, Last Monday in May
- Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in September
- Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in November
- Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup>

## Global Buddies Activity Board & Prize Drawing

The following board offers a variety of activity ideas for you and your buddy to do either virtually or in person. If you complete four activities in a row (either across, up/down, or diagonally), you can be entered to win a prize. Once you have completed four activities, send an email to [isl@uga.edu](mailto:isl@uga.edu) with the activities you completed and photos/screenshots of you and your buddy and we will enter your names into a prize drawing. Deadline for submissions is the last day of classes of the semester.

# Global Buddies Activity Board

*Complete four activities in a row and be entered to win a prize!*

<p><b>PLAY A GAME</b></p> <p>such as a card game, board game, or game you grew up playing</p>	<p><b>TAKE A WALK</b></p> <p>around Lake Herrick, the Botanical Gardens, or on your own and share photos with your buddy</p>	<p><b>WATCH A MOVIE</b></p> <p>Pick one of your favorites to share and discuss with your buddy</p>	<p><b>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</b></p> <p>Take a break from studying and meet for a cup of coffee or tea in person or virtually</p>
<p><b>SHARE PHOTOS</b></p> <p>of vacation, travel, your favorite places, family, friends, etc.</p>	<p><b>FREE SPACE!</b></p> <p><i>(No activity needed)</i></p>	<p><b>READ</b></p> <p>a favorite book, poem, short story, or essay together and discuss as your own Global Buddy Book Club</p>	<p><b>LISTEN</b></p> <p>to music together; find some of your favorite songs, artists, and albums to share</p>
<p><b>TEA TALKS</b></p> <p>Attend an ISL Tea Talk together and discuss your thoughts after. More info at <a href="http://isl.uga.edu">isl.uga.edu</a></p>	<p><b>SHARE A MEAL</b></p> <p>Have a picnic or share a meal and talk about the foods you brought</p>	<p><b>STUDY SESSION</b></p> <p>Meet in your Zoom Room or in person to work for 20 minutes, break for 5, and keep each other productive</p>	<p><b>SHARE</b></p> <p>an element of your culture with your buddy. For example, share about a cultural holiday and how you typically celebrate</p>
<p><b>CHEER</b></p> <p>on a sports team. Pro Tip - you can also watch games online!</p>	<p><b>DESIGN</b></p> <p>an activity for you and your buddy to do and share with ISL what it is!</p>	<p><b>TEACH</b></p> <p>your buddy about something you're passionate about or a skill you have and want to share</p>	<p><b>COFFEE HOUR</b></p> <p>Attend an ISL International Coffee Hour together. More info at <a href="http://isl.uga.edu">isl.uga.edu</a></p>



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*Once you have completed your activities and have four in a row (across, up/down, or diagonally), email [isl@uga.edu](mailto:isl@uga.edu) with which activities you completed and photos of each one for your chance to win.*

## Social Media Photo Challenges

We want to see what Global Buddies are up to throughout the year! Post a photo on social media and use the hashtag **#GlobalBuddiesUGA** on Instagram, Twitter, and/or Facebook. Challenge dates will be shared in the Global Buddies Newsletter. to be entered into a prize drawing for the Global Buddy photo challenge!

## Video Challenge

We want to hear from you about what you enjoy most about the Global Buddies Program and something you have learned through the program. Send a short video (30 seconds-1 minute) to [isl@uga.edu](mailto:isl@uga.edu) sharing your thoughts and be entered into a prize drawing.



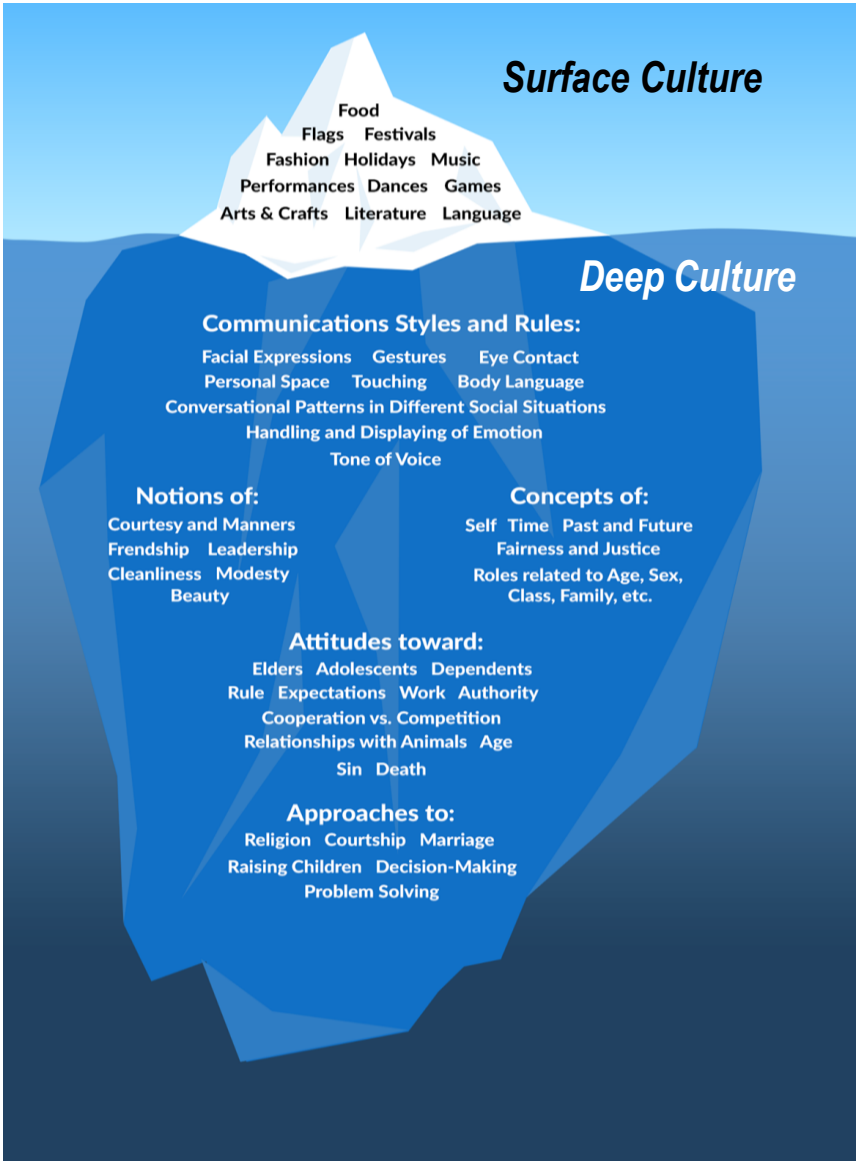
Follow International Student Life and Student Government Association to see featured Global Buddies



**@UGAISL**  
**@UG<sup>1</sup>ASGA**

# The Cultural Iceberg

Although we can often see differences in cultures, there are many cultural differences that can't be seen. The Global Buddies Program allows participants to learn more about surface culture and deep culture by offering opportunities that invoke critical thought through conversation.



## Event and Location Suggestions

Athens is always bustling with fun events and activities. Here are some ideas for fun things to do around Athens with your Global Buddy!

- Exploring downtown Athens for unique shops, activities, delicious restaurants, and coffee shops.
- Taking walks in the UGA Botanical Gardens.
- Check out local events in Athens through the Flagpole magazine at [www.flagpole.com/events](http://www.flagpole.com/events)
- Attending UGA sporting events, many of which (except football) are free with a student ID.
- The University Student Union often hosts many events, all of which should be free for you to attend as long as you're a university student. Events include:
  - Comedy Shows
  - Dawgs after Dark (a fun themed activity where food is often included)
  - Skate in Tate
  - Movie Showings
  - And much, much more. Check out [www.ugaunion.com](http://www.ugaunion.com) and click under Event Calendar for the current year. Each month is packed with fun activities right on campus!

If you ever find yourself feeling adventurous, Atlanta is not too far away! Of course, if you and your buddy mutually agree on venturing out to Atlanta, there are many events happening every day - a great place to find out where and when events will take place is at [www.atlanta.net/events/#events](http://www.atlanta.net/events/#events). Example of some events around Atlanta are:

- Annual Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival
- AJC Decatur Book Festival
- High Museum of Atlanta
- Six Flags Over Georgia
- Georgia Aquarium
- World of Coca-Cola
- Ferris Wheel/Skyview
- Civil Rights Museum

## Resources & Referrals

International students are encouraged to seek help as necessary, and both partners are encouraged to help make referrals to these numerous other campus resources.

Office	Website	Can help with...
<b>Writing Center</b>	<a href="https://www.english.uga.edu/writing-center">https://www.english.uga.edu/writing-center</a>	Class assignments, graduate school essays, job or internship application essays, lab reports, etc.
<b>Engagement, Leadership, and Service (ELS)</b>	<a href="https://els.uga.edu/">https://els.uga.edu/</a>	Events and organizations to get involved on campus.
<b>Career Center</b>	<a href="http://www.career.uga.edu/">http://www.career.uga.edu/</a>	Graduate school essays, job or internship application essays, resumes and cover letters, mock interviews, etc.
<b>Division of Academic Enhancement</b>	<a href="https://dae.uga.edu/services/tutoring/">https://dae.uga.edu/services/tutoring/</a>	Class assignments and readings, grammar, research, etc.
<b>Reference Libraries</b>	<a href="http://www.libs.uga.edu/askaquestion/index.html">http://www.libs.uga.edu/askaquestion/index.html</a>	Research consultations, book loans, etc.
<b>Student Care &amp; Outreach</b>	<a href="https://sco.uga.edu/">https://sco.uga.edu/</a>	Customized networks of care and support to help students reach individual goals.



## Getting to Know Your Global Buddy

Ask your buddy to share the following information about themselves:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best Way to Stay in Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Food:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Thing to Do on the Weekends:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Memory:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Somewhere They Would Like to Travel:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Movie or TV Show:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dream Job:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





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