

I'm a conversation partner, now what do I do?

We ask for a minimum of one hour once a week.

You can spend this time on campus eating lunch, getting coffee, or going to events on campus such as music concerts or play productions. However, students often greatly enjoy their experience with their new international friend and end up doing any number of things.

We encourage you to make the effort to engage the student in different ways beyond eating at the Tiger Den (although the T-den is a great place for conversation).

The goal is to expose the students to culture and native English settings. Even taking your partner(s) to the grocery or hardware store can be a learning experience for them.

Some great cultural experience options:

- Cooking together—Teach them an American dish, or learn to cook one of theirs!
- Take them to visit your home/family to see an American household. (perhaps your mother is an excellent cook!)
- Go out to eat—Memphis has many great local restaurants, a taste of culture. *Note: Remember to be sensitive to cultural differences. Don't be afraid to ask a student what he/she can or cannot eat or drink, and help them to avoid menu items that are contrary to their standard.*
- Shopping—Oak Court, Wolfchase, Carriage Crossing, local shops
- Tourist attractions—Graceland (a little expensive, but many students would LOVE to go), Sun Studios, Stax Museum, Civil Rights Museum
- Get out and about for free!—Shelby Farms, Tom Lee Park and Harbor Town (the river), the Green Line
- Get together with other conversation partners for games or movies.
- Sports events—University of Memphis teams (check the sports/schedules according on the season at gotigersgo.com), Memphis Redbirds Baseball (late spring through the summer), Memphis Grizzlies Basketball (late fall through spring)

Important Note: IEI students pay a reduced Student Activities Fee. Therefore, they do not get into University of Memphis sports games free by showing their ID. They must purchase a ticket, or you can purchase them a guest ticket. Concerts and plays on campus are free for them, however.