

Count and Percent

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

	Count	Percent	
Are you a U.S. student or an international student?			Respondents: 65
US Student	38	58.46 %	
International Student	27	41.54 %	
Total Responses	65	100.00 %	

What is your status at WIU?			Respondents: 38
Undergraduate student	36	94.74 %	
Graduate student	2	5.26 %	
Total Responses	38	100.00 %	

How did you find out about Conversation Partners?			Respondents: 38
Classroom presentation	20	52.63 %	
I was a Conversation Partner in previous semesters	3	7.89 %	
A friend told me about the program	7	18.42 %	
I saw a flyer on campus	9	23.68 %	
I heard about the program at a different campus activity	3	7.89 %	
Other	2	5.26 %	
Total Responses	44		

Which of the following was the most important factor in your decision to participate in the Conversation Partners program?			Respondents: 37
Class credit	6	16.22 %	
Interest in other cultures	17	45.95 %	
To meet new people	6	16.22 %	
To enhance my foreign language skills	5	13.51 %	
Other	3	8.11 %	
Total Responses	37	100.00 %	

As an international student, what is your status at WIU?			Respondents: 25
WESL student	7	28.00 %	
Undergraduate student	6	24.00 %	
Graduate student	12	48.00 %	
Total Responses	25	100.00 %	

As an international student, how did you find out about Conversation Partners?			Respondents: 25
---	--	--	------------------------

Count and Percent

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

	Count	Percent	
As an international student, how did you find out about Conversation Partners?			Respondents: 25
From WESL teachers	3	12.00 %	
I was a Conversation Partner before	1	4.00 %	
A friend told me about the program	4	16.00 %	
I saw a flyer on campus	2	8.00 %	
Email from Kevin or Diana	19	76.00 %	
Other	1	4.00 %	
Total Responses	30		

As an international student, which of the following was the most important factor in your decision to participate in the Conversation Partners program?			Respondents: 25
To practice English	10	40.00 %	
To learn about U.S. cultures	8	32.00 %	
To meet new people	7	28.00 %	
Total Responses	25	100.00 %	

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best, please rate your overall experience with the Conversation Partners program.			Respondents: 62
1 (Terrible)	4	6.45 %	
2	1	1.61 %	
3	2	3.23 %	
4	6	9.68 %	
5 (Average)	8	12.90 %	
6	4	6.45 %	
7	10	16.13 %	
8	11	17.74 %	
9	9	14.52 %	
10 (Excellent)	7	11.29 %	
Total Responses	62	100.00 %	

Were you introduced to your conversation partner at the kick-off party?			Respondents: 62
Yes	18	29.03 %	
No	44	70.97 %	
Total Responses	62	100.00 %	

When did you first communicate (i.e., respond to email, speak on the phone, meet in person, etc.) with your conversation partner?			Respondents: 43
--	--	--	------------------------

Count and Percent

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

	Count	Percent	
When did you first communicate (i.e., respond to email, speak on the phone, meet in person, etc.) with your conversation partner?			Respondents: 43
The day after the kick-off party	5	11.63 %	
The same week as the kick-off party	21	48.84 %	
Two weeks after the kick-off party	12	27.91 %	
More than one month after the kick-off party	3	6.98 %	
We never met	2	4.65 %	
Total Responses	43	100.00 %	

How often do you and your conversation partner meet?			Respondents: 61
More than once a week	4	6.56 %	
Once a week	30	49.18 %	
A few times this semester	23	37.70 %	
Never	4	6.56 %	
Total Responses	61	100.00 %	

Why did you and your conversation partner meet only a few times or not at all this semester? (check all that apply)			Respondents: 27
It was too difficult to get in touch with my partner	6	22.22 %	
I met my partner and we had trouble communicating	1	3.70 %	
My partner was too busy	18	66.67 %	
My schedule was too busy	9	33.33 %	
My partner was not interested in meeting	7	25.93 %	
I did not like my partner	1	3.70 %	
I lost interest in the activity	1	3.70 %	
Other	4	14.81 %	
Total Responses	47		

At your weekly, or even more frequent, meetings, when and where did you usually meet with your partner? (check all that apply)			Respondents: 34
On the same day	13	38.24 %	
At the same time	11	32.35 %	
In the same place	8	23.53 %	
On different days	18	52.94 %	
At different times	19	55.88 %	
In different places	22	64.71 %	
Total Responses	91		

Which places did you and your partner use for meetings? (check all that apply)			Respondents: 55
---	--	--	------------------------

Count and Percent

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

	Count	Percent
Which places did you and your partner use for meetings? (check all that apply)		Respondents: 55
My home / my partner's home	22	40.00 %
University Union	36	65.45 %
Library	8	14.55 %
Coffee shop	8	14.55 %
Bar	2	3.64 %
Movie theater	4	7.27 %
WIU sporting event	2	3.64 %
Restaurant	11	20.00 %
Other	7	12.73 %
Total Responses		100

Did you and your conversation partner attend any of the Conversation Partner activities (i.e., Bowling Night, International Coffee Hours, etc.)?		Respondents: 61
Yes	10	16.39 %
No	51	83.61 %
Total Responses		61 100.00 %

Did you find the Conversation Partner activities helpful?		Respondents: 10
Yes	8	80.00 %
No	2	20.00 %
Total Responses		10 100.00 %

Would you be a Conversation Partner again?		Respondents: 60
Yes	51	85.00 %
No	9	15.00 %
Total Responses		60 100.00 %

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: Why did you not attend any of the Conversation Partner activities?

Conflicted with class and other activites I had

I had class whenever there was an International Coffee Hour.

she is busy so we didn't meet

No time.

Our shedules don't let us go to the activities.

My partner was not available

We had trouble meeting the first couple of weeks and we were busy and had other activities that we wished to participate in

too busy

No reason.

Because my partner was non existent.

time constraints - work and school schedules incompatible

I did not hear back from my partner and had other arrangements made due to that.

Dont fix to my schedule

too busy, already preoccupied during times

Schedual conflicts

schedule conflict

i often haven't time to attend any conversation partner activities.

Schedule differences.

Because we could'nt, by the schedule

I met once with my conversation partner and she didn't seem interested in meeting again.

as a grad student I dont have much time

The coffee hours conflicted with my schedule. We accidently forgot about the Bowling Night.

we planned to attend but both of us had class or exams on these days

We never really talked about it.

we were busy (classes, homework. . .)

conflict in scheduals

I have had prior engagements. I beleive the Bowling Night I couldn't attend because I was on Duty that evening in Higgins Hall.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: Why did you not attend any of the Conversation Partner activities?

I attended the kick off party, but my Conversation Partner didn't. He never initiated contact. I did all the initiating, and oftentimes he didn't follow up or call me back. As to the Coffee Hours, the vast majority of them were scheduled right in the middle of my classes, so it was impossible for me to attend.

he had no interest

There were other events we wanted to attend. I.e. the haunted house

we could not meet with her

buisy

Did not have the right schedule. i always had either job or the class at those time.

Too busy!

I usually had to work or had other previous engagements.

They did not fit into our scheduale

Times interferred with other events

I haven't time for attend the activities.

I had class every time something was offered, most things we offered on tuesdys or wednesdays, I would recomend having coffee hours on rotating days of the week so everyone can attend.

The activities always conflicted with both of our schedules.

because he is didnt send me his email

We nearly never met

Busy with other things

busy...

My partner never contacted me, and did not return contact attemtps. Also, I did not give permission to be with a male student, and was placed with one. That deterred my and curbed my enthusiasm.

The time was not good for us.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: Why did you find the Conversation Partner activities to be helpful?

it seemed to be a more comfortable environment for myself and my partner.

It gives benefit to both sides, the american and international student.

We got to talk to other people as well

It was a mutual time we could meet and learn more about each other.

something to do and meet other people

I enjoyed being with a large group of International students rather than just one on one. More conversation opportunities come up when there are multiple people.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: What are some activities that you think would be good to have for all Conversation Partners?

No suggestions.

optional converstaion partner study groups, outings that took the conversation partners out of the Macomb area and give them a chance to learn about Illinois, seminars/ informational meetings for the American students to provide background information on the counrty there conversation partner is from, seminars/informational meetings for the international students on American culture to provide basic background information.

Bowling was a great idea. Maybe going to the movies would be a good one as well.

trip to nearby mall,nearby major city

going to American sporting events, taking trips to other towns

Party

cook outs

coffee hours

The international dinners are a great experience to learn about many cultures at once and enjoy foods from multiple countries.

The coffee hours seem like a good idea and I would have suggested it, if it did not conflict with my schedule.

i think the conversation partners should actively talk with international students, while they could kindly invite students to do any activity.

Maybe an end of the semester dinner or something--I don't know.

Maybe a central website where people could stay in touch, and get all the news. Email is ok, but it's not as "fun" as a website with links to activities. Maybe a group activity would be good, such as something that could be presented to the student body at another event, like the Homecoming events.

A dinner

I think the bowling idea was great. I think that the idea of going on walks should be pushed for, you both get excersize and can socialize as well.

Maybe like a food culture day, where you can bring in something from wherever you are from, and share it with others.

A picnic, bar crawls, trips to different citys

cinema, bowling, volleyball

Bowling, and I would have liked to go to the cultural spotlight on my partners country, but I had class at that time.

Bowling, Cookout, potluck, group games, community events, etc.

definatly keep the coffee hours however it was very hard for me and my partner to attend due to the time that you had them. we both work so it was hard to go.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: What are some activities that you think would be good to have for all Conversation Partners?

Playing common board games. Movies. Cultural fair. Sharing music and food. Home-made lunch or dinner exchanged to immerse each other in your culture.

Movie nights.

game night

Trying different sports, like bowling, mini golf, frisbee. Things they have never done and probably wouldnt do if they didnt have any american frineds. Also carving pumpkins, christmas traditions, ex.

1. go to bar
 2. go to sport place
-

Have a lunch with partner

Meet at different places. Obviously, sports,visiting a nearby town/place.

I think you are doing the right things, just the times never worked out for me. Always had class during coffee hours, etc...Maybe just some more structure, things we could talk about/do together during our conversation partner time, that might help with reflection.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: Please give us any additional comments or suggestions you might have about improving the Conversation Partners experience?

I think my conversation partner just did it for a class requirement and had no real interest in getting to know me.

It went very smooth and I think it went well

It was an awesome experience, i was just upset we couldnt participate in any of the groupe events because they were always on the same days.

Better adherence to partner preferences, or maybe compatibility surveys (like many schools do with matching possible roomates.) That would make communication a lot easier. Also, it would be really neat to have groups of partners. then it would be a less threatening environment of learn about other cultures.

I think if you have collect with all conversation partner at the some places in some weeks, , it will be better to see and meet them because I have trouble to meet with them....

have more activits

plan more activities for all of the international students and their partners to go to!!!

I really enjoyed it, but I also have a very good partner who is flexible and easy to talk and meet with.

See above. Also, a little more advance notice on some of the events might be helpful. If there were a calendar of activities available, either online or in the mail, that might facilitate that process. Personal contact is also nice. Other than the events, that was lacking. Because I'm interested in trying to make this work, I'd be willing to give it another shot.

Taking part in a group meeting might be good too. Even in a small meeting, pair singing competetion might work: though prize is not necessary... or any thing funny.

Make sure everyone knows about the weekly time commitment, though it was nice to have the flexibility.

Get rid of that stupid policy of matching up girls with girls, boys with boys - a person's preference should be considered in the first time.
You should add this checkbox on your application form.

When I was abroad in Germany they had the week full of different events for foreign students and their partners to participate in.

I think that it was awesome, maybe have a few different activities for the partners, but I will continue to be friends with my partner even after this semester. When we do get together, it is for more than 1 hour.

none

Maybe a once a semester meeting with a faculty member with both partners together.

should we get the interested survey between the American students and International students? i think that will very helpful for fist time join the conversation partners program.

I really do not know how to improve it, but I would like to be involved, but if I keep getting partners that do not show up at a time that is agreed on or just does not even respond at all, then it will be hard for me to keep interest in this program. I am hoping to have a partner that is more interested or committed than I had this semester. I really feel the skills that I learn from this will help me in the future.

Text and Paragraph Responses by Question

Conversation Partners Feedback Survey

Question: Please give us any additional comments or suggestions you might have about improving the Conversation Partners experience?

It should go on. it is an excellent program

Maybe a person could have more than one conversation partner

This was a useful experince, and the only thing that I would change was how you matched up the conversation partners. For example, in the situation that I had my converstion partner was a male Graduate student which made it hard for me to relate to him.

Make sure that the international student is serious about practicing.

create an easier way to communicate.

Instead of just one International student meeting with one US student, you can give the students an opportunity to sign up with multiple partners (only if they want to and have the time to). I find it beneficial to be with more than one person so that there aren't as many awkward silences.

I feel that the people who set up the conversation partners need to make more of an effort in ensuring that the partners are able to meet up with eachother for the first time. If your partner was not in attendance at the kick-off meeting it was difficult to meet up for the first time. I recieved the wrong email address for my partner and she and I had a hard time understandingn eachother over the phone. I was given her address a few weeks after the first meeting and finally went to her dorm to meet her for the first time.