

Seattle Central International Student E-NEWSLETTER

How to Make Friends with Domestic Students

By Seana Sperling

Coming into a new culture can be exciting, but it can also be a lonely experience. I taught EFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) for Peace Corps in Estonia in 1992/1993. After training, my first three months at my Peace Corps site were a lonely time, filled with hours of lesson planning, letter writing and reading. I also used to leave on weekends to visit other P.C. volunteers, so I wasn't available when my colleagues and neighbors had time to socialize. This was not productive for making new friends in my town. During the winter, my travel lessened and I began to make Estonian friends. Lesson learned: You have to be available and approachable to create new friendships.

Making new friends is never a cake walk, but when you are in a new culture it is sometimes twice as difficult. Below are some things to avoid if you want to make new friends.

Domestic Students may be shy to approach an International student if:

- You are in a group of students from your home country.
- You are speaking in a language the Domestic student does not understand.
- You seem too busy gaming, texting or talking on your cell phone to be approached.

Here are Some Tips to Help You Meet Domestic Students:

- **Join club and activities on campus.** A good way to connect is to join clubs and activities that will put you in contact with other students. Try something new where you will meet a diverse assortment of attendees. These clubs provide a safe and structured environment where all should be welcome. Student Leadership above the bookstore has over fifty clubs.
- **Go to the MAC (Student Activity Center).** The MAC has pool tables, chess boards and all sorts of equipment for student use. You can always

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Your diploma!

The Registration Office has been mailing out diplomas for students who graduated Spring quarter. BUT—uh oh!! The post office has returned some diplomas to Seattle Central because the address is not correct.

If you applied for your degree and later changed your address, you will need to contact the Registration Office. Stop by their office, or send an email to SCCCRegistration@sccd.ctc.edu. Be sure to give them the best address to send your diploma, whether your home country, your new apartment near your future university, or a Seattle address. If you graduated but didn't apply for your degree, do it now! Here are two web links: [Applying for your Degree](#); [Forms](#) (choose the correct form for your degree).

Upcoming IEP Workshops

High School Completion Workshop Thurs, July 23 at 3 pm in BE 3200

Learn about how you can earn your High School diploma while attending Seattle Central! We will discuss the requirements and go over everything you need to know to get started with high school completion! Kristen Davey from the Career Center will also be there to talk about the High School & Beyond Plan that most high school completion students must complete! Come and meet her!



UW Business School Applications (Transfer Center Workshop) Wed, July 29 at 1pm in BE 1102A

Applying for business at the UW? Sharmon Follet from the UW Foster School of Business will be here to answer your questions about the application process. This is a really great opportunity to speak directly with admissions staff from the University of Washington! Don't miss it!

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ask to join a game. They also offer some free activities each quarter. Please check with the front desk staff in the MAC for these.

- **SCCC also offers non-credit Community Education Classes** in subjects such as cooking or dance, which can be taken for fun. (Caveat: These classes are non-credit courses and will not count toward maintaining your full-time status or count towards a transfer degree.)
- **Volunteer.** Not only will this allow you to meet a variety of possible new friends, you will gain some practical experience you can later place on your resume. (Be sure and get a Recommendation Letter from your Supervisor after you finish.)
- **Reach out to people in your classes.** Don't be afraid to speak with domestic students. Many times they are as shy as you are. Say "Hi," when you see your classmates in the hallway.
- **Join the Conversation Partners Program** that the Intercultural Activities Board coordinates. This program puts international students in direct contact with domestic students who have volunteered for the program.

Social Networking Sites: Although these sites are popular and do not require risk taking, such as saying "Hi," to a classmate, don't rely solely on Social Networking sites like Facebook and MySpace for making new friends. While the majority of people that contact you might be legitimate, there is always a potential for misrepresentation and even identity fraud. If you do make a new friend online:

- Never give out personal information to new online friends. (Address, phone number, etc.)
- If you choose to meet with them, make it a public place such as a café or coffee shop.
- Give them a time limit in the beginning, so you don't feel compelled to stay if you are uncomfortable. Tell them you have to be home at a specific time.
- **Do not go to their home!** People in the United States are very comfortable hearing, "Sorry, I can't. I'm expected at home." Don't be afraid to just say NO!
- Do not feel obligated to make a later meeting either. Ask for their phone number rather than giving your own and if you wish to meet with them again, you can call them.
- Let your friends or host family know if you are meeting a new person and where you will be.

Important Dates:

August 10
Deadline to withdraw

August 13
Deadline to pay for
Fall quarter classes

August 20
Summer qtr ends

September 29
Fall quarter begins

Tip of the Week:

Always keep your class syllabi. They can be very helpful if you later request transfer credit at another school.

Business Students—ACCT 203 for Fall?

The Business department is considering adding one section of ACCT 203 for Fall quarter, but they need to make a decision right away. If your major is related to Business, you will have completed ACCT 201 and 202, and would like to ACCT 203 if it's offered in Fall, please let us know! Send an email to our office at iepsccc@sccd.ctc.edu by **tomorrow (Wednesday), 2:30PM** and include your name, ID number, and a statement that you will take ACCT 203 if it's offered.

Weekend Festivals

Ballard Seafood Festival

(July 25—26)



Every year Ballard closes down the streets and rolls out the fun. With entertainment for all ages, beer and wine gardens, a plethora of seafood vendors, arts and crafts and our unique contests, it's a great, old fashioned summer party. Click [here](#) for more information!

Capitol Hill Block Party

(July 24—25)



If you like live independent music, the Capitol Hill Block Party is for you! 2 days, 3 stages, and over 50 bands: Enough said! There will also be food, craft booths, and much more! Tickets are on sale now! For more information or to check out the band lineup, click [here](#).