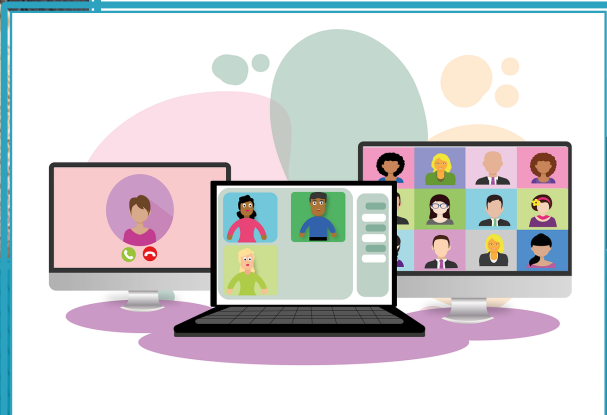




# CONVERSATION PARTNERS

## ORIENTATION



In a time of social distancing, face masks, and online courses, it's harder than ever to meet new people.

Conversation Partners is your gateway to making a new friend and building your language and social skills.

And you can do it all online.

The logo for Conversation Partners is enclosed in a blue speech bubble. The word "Conversation" is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, and the word "Partners" is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**Conversation  
Partners**

# What is conversation partners?

- ▶ A program that pairs people for weekly cross-cultural conversations
- ▶ You must be 18 years old or older to participate
- ▶ ARCC students, faculty, staff, and administration are welcome to participate



**Conversation  
Partners**

# Online Video Calls



- ▶ Until further notice, all conversations will be held through online video calls
- ▶ This means, in order to participate, you must have access to a device that connects to the internet and has a functional camera with a microphone and speaker (such as a smartphone or most laptops)



# Guidelines for Online Video Calls



- ▶ Conversations must be held over video calls so that you can see your partner while they are talking
- ▶ Use whatever video call application works for you and your partner (such as Facetime or Zoom)
- ▶ Conduct the video call in a quiet, well-lit space (Tip: Try to sit facing a window. The light should be shining toward you from the front, not from behind.)
- ▶ Dress as if you were attending a class on campus at ARCC

# Conversation Partners is NOT...

- ▶ A dating service
- ▶ A tutoring service
- ▶ You are just here to have cross-cultural conversations



**Conversation  
Partners**

# What is Cross-Cultural Conversation?



- ▶ We try to pair you with someone from a different cultural background
- ▶ We strive to pair native speakers and non-native speakers of U.S. style English
- ▶ We pair you with a partner of the same gender, unless you indicate that you are comfortable with a partner of a different gender
- ▶ We then suggest conversation topics that encourage you to learn from each other about your culture (traditions, food, music, etc.)

# If there is difficulty in finding you a partner, there are options available

- ▶ You will find this question in the online application:

If we are unable to match you with a partner, which of these would you like us to do? (Select all the choices that apply to you)

Hold on to your application in case a partner becomes available later

Try to include you in a group of 3 or 4 participants

Match you with a partner of another gender

I am not interested in any of these options

Match you with a partner with a similar culture/language background



# Why should you join?



- ▶ Make a new friend
- ▶ Practice cross-cultural conversation
  - Sharpen language and social skills
  - Learn about your partner's culture
- ▶ You may list the conversation partners certificate on your résumé
- ▶ The video call format is convenient for your busy schedule

# What are you required to do?



1. Fill out an online application ([click on this link](#) for the application)
2. Wait patiently for a confirmation email (this may take a week or more to process due to the complicated matching procedure)
3. Once you receive the confirmation email, read the instructions carefully for how to get in contact with your partner



4. Meet with your partner over online video calls for approximately 1 hour of conversation once a week over 8 weeks or more
5. Keep track of your sessions with your conversation partners log
  - We will email you your handbook with your log after you register
  - You can also find a copy on the bottom right side of our webpage ([click on this link](#))
6. At the end of the semester, submit your log with 8 or more sessions recorded and fill out a survey that will be emailed to you about your experience
7. You will then receive a completion certificate in your email

# Qualities of a Good Conversation Partner



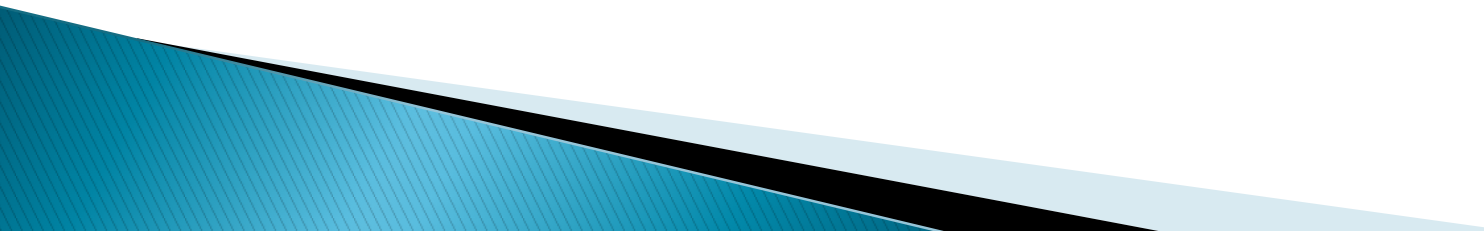
- ▶ Active listener (asks follow-up questions and is curious about their partner)
- ▶ Keeps confidentiality
- ▶ Is informal yet respectful (even when disagreeing)



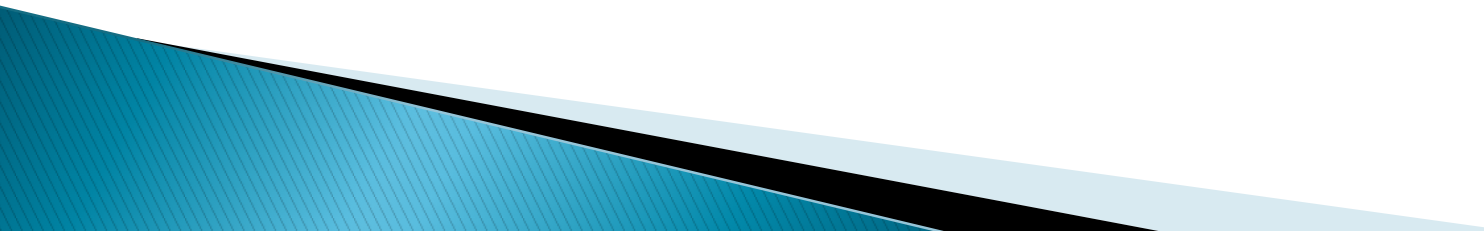


- ▶ Is willing to find a conversation style that is comfortable for both partners
- ▶ Sets and remembers boundaries of relationship (for example, it would be inappropriate to ask your partner for money)
- ▶ Is patient

# A Conversation Partner Does NOT:

- ▶ Stop all communication with their partner (a.k.a. ghosting)
  - ▶ If you do not show up for a meeting, you must contact your partner as soon as possible and re-schedule
  - ▶ More than one “no show” and you may lose your partnership
  - ▶ If your partner stops participating, please communicate with us so that we can find you a new partner
- 

# A Conversation Partner Does NOT:

- ▶ Do anything that goes against the ARCC Student Conduct Code
  - ▶ The expectation is that you conduct these video calls in the same way that you would if you were meeting your partner on the ARCC campus
  - ▶ If you do not follow the ARCC Student Conduct Code you will no longer be allowed to participate in the program
  - ▶ If your partner intentionally disrespects you or violates the ARCC Student Conduct Code, please communicate this to us immediately
- 

# Your Next Step



- ▶ [Click here](#) for the link to the application.
- ▶ Fill out the application and submit.
- ▶ Will try to send you a match as soon as we can. However, the matching process can be complicated and takes time.
- ▶ Thank you in advance for your patience! And thank you for participating in a program that promotes cross-cultural conversation!



# Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns:

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  - (763) 422-6093
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# We can't wait for you to meet your Conversation Partner!

