

What is the Jayhawk Exchange Friends Program?

The Jayhawk Exchange Friends are KU study abroad returnees who volunteer their free time to get to know incoming exchange students and help in the process of welcoming them to the University of Kansas. The Office of Study Abroad (OSA) pairs incoming exchange students with KU students who are recent study abroad returnees, as they are familiar with the transitions involved with studying abroad.

Jayhawk Exchange Friends may volunteer to assist incoming exchange students in many different ways; this may be inviting them to attend social events, taking them shopping, or just being there to answer questions they have. You can also provide exchange students with valuable local knowledge and provide them opportunities to interact with other local students.

The only requirements are that you e-mail your exchange student as soon as possible after being matched (preferably before arrival), contact them as soon as possible after they arrive in the United States, and contact them at least once a month for the duration of their stay. We also require that you attend the Exchange Student Welcome Reception, which is usually held the Friday before classes start each semester, as it is a great opportunity to visit with them shortly after their arrival.

If you would like to be part of the program, watch for a call for applicants from the OSA sent via email to recent study abroad returnees shortly before the fall and spring semesters. Follow the instructions provided and complete the application by the deadline indicated for consideration.

We will do our best to match you with an exchange student who either A) has a similar major and/or interests or B) who comes from the country or region where you studied abroad, however, please note that this is not always possible. After we pair you with your student, we will send you their e-mail address and vice versa so that you can begin corresponding.

Questions? Contact osaexchange@ku.edu

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