



## Global Connections Program Description

Global Connections is a service offered by the Office of International Programs that connects you with a partner on campus or in the community who shares an interest in developing multi-cultural awareness. Sharing information and experiences about culture and language, history, values and lifestyles through Global Connections will help you meet new people, grow as an individual, prepare for and adapt to international experiences and increase your understanding of the world.

### Goals

- Connect students who have completed an international educational experience with students who will be going to the same country
- Connect internationals to the local population for linguistic and cultural exchange purposes

### Benefits

- Students who will do an IEE
  - i. Helps students to know what to expect which reduces anxiety
  - ii. Helps reduce culture bumps so students can focus more on their purpose and less on cultural missteps
  - iii. Prepares students on what is expected of them during their international experience
- Students who have completed an IEE
  - i. Communicating newly developed cross-cultural knowledge and skills will help with retention
  - ii. Communicating international experiences to others helps the individual understand and process emotions associated with the experience
- Internationals at KUMC
  - i. Eases adjustments to new culture
  - ii. Improves cross-cultural communication
  - iii. Provides emotional support/improves sense of belonging
  - iv. Increases integration with KUMC and the KC area
  - v. Enhances the American cultural experience
- Faculty, Staff and KUMC Students
  - i. Professional development: Improves cross-cultural communication skills
  - ii. Personal development: learn about other countries and cultures