



Global Peer Mentor Program Overview

The Bellarmine Global Peer Mentor Program was established to help international students adjust to life in the United States and Louisville. It can be difficult to be far from home in a foreign environment with limited resources and language skills. The goal of the program is to make these international students feel welcome and at home at Bellarmine.

Bellarmino University has two types of International Students:

- International Exchange Students (study at BU for 1-2 semesters)
- International Degree-Seeking Students (study at BU for 4 years or until earn degree)

**The following list includes activities and responsibilities of the BU Global Peer Mentors:
(BU students will participate in these activities according to need and the student's availability.)**

- Picking-up the international students from the airport
(This is often a shared responsibility as some students do not have a car. This service is provided for all exchange students as well as for degree-seeking students who do not play a fall sport.)
- Giving a personalized campus tour and helping the international students get their BU student ID card and books
- Participating in most of the International Student Orientation events at the start of the semester such as the Bardstown Road Scavenger Hunt, shopping afternoon and the Q & A Session
- Having lunch or a coffee with the international students in their group during the first week of classes and then on occasion throughout the semester (The BU students are not required to pay for their international student)
- Making trips to Target or Kroger with the international students
- Taking internationals around town to places such as 4th Street Live, the mall, downtown and area museums
- Participating in the Bellarmine International Club
(This is not a requirement but all peer mentors are strongly encouraged to be active in the club.)
- Helping the international students learn about and prepare for Bellarmine events on campus (Ball on the Belle, Sports Events, Homecoming, Hillside...)

Global Peer Mentor Activities

Many activities are planned for the international students and mentors throughout the semester with the Bellarmine International Club (BIC). Activities may include the following:

- Welcome dinner with the International Programs Office
- International Student Welcome Reception (Campus wide)
- World Fest on the Belvedere (Labor day weekend)
- International Film nights
- “Dinner Around Town” nights at local international restaurants
- Trips to regional sites such as Mammoth Cave & KY Horse Park
- And many more!

Links for Louisville and KY Activities:

<http://www.gotolouisville.com/>

<http://louisvilleky.gov/Calendar/default.asp>

<http://www.kentuckytourism.com/>

<http://kentucky.gov/>

How do I get involved?

Bellarmino students sign up for the program at the end of the spring semester. A meeting with former and future peer mentors will take place in early April providing details about the program. Activities and responsibilities will also be discussed. Only students who are willing and able to commit to the program should volunteer. Many activities will be held during the International Orientation Week (August 12- August 19). Mentor participation is crucial during this week; if you will be unavailable at this time, you may want to consider getting involved in another capacity such as the BIC rather than the peer mentor program.

In order to participate in the airport pick-up and to assist the new internationals during the arrival period, peer mentors are allowed to move into the dorms early (August 10th) and will not be charged an early move in fee.

The International Programs Office will send a list of the international and peer mentor groups during the summer along with student contact information. Please make sure to check your BU email for updates and program information.

To sign up for the program please contact:

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