

Do you want to volunteer as a conversation partner with an international student from the English Language Institute? If so, keep reading!

Information about the Conversation Partner Program & the Conversation Café

- The Conversation Partner Program matches UMBC students with ELI students to enjoy weekly casual conversation and cultural exchange.
- More information about the program will be provided during the **Volunteer's Conversation Partner Orientation**.
- Volunteering as a conversation partner **can fulfill the requirements of a variety of program projects** such as the M.A. TESOL "Informant Projects" or volunteer work for the Shriver Center.
- If you are unsure that you will be able to commit to being a conversation partner or if you are waiting to be matched with a conversation partner, **come to the Conversation Café!**
- **The Conversation Café is every Thursday in UC 201B from 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** It is an open, casual get-together where volunteers and ELI students can come for fun group activities.

How to Become a Volunteer Conversation Partner

Step 1: ATTEND ORIENTATION

New volunteers are required to attend the Volunteer's Conversation Partner Orientation on **Wednesday, February 12th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in UC 201B.**

Step 2: APPLY ONLINE

Complete the online application by using the following link: [Conversation Partner Application](#).

Step 3: COMPLETE SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

Complete the online training by using the following link: <http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/umbc/student/msgonce.shtml>. Upon completing this training, please either print out your certificate of completion and drop it off at the ELI Office front desk in UC 207 or email a copy of the certificate to conv@umbc.edu.

Step 4: CONTACT YOUR PARTNER TO BEGIN MEETING

Partners are assigned based on availability and mutual interests. You will receive an email within 2 weeks of orientation that provides your partner's contact information.

STEP 5: ATTEND CONVERSATION PARTNER MEET & GREET

This is an opportunity for you and your partner get to know other volunteers and ELI students in the program. The Meet & Greet can serve as the first meeting between you and

your partner if you have not done so yet. It will be held on **Friday, February 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in UC 201B.**

STEP 6: STAY IN THE LOOP

“Like” the UMBC ELI Facebook page to stay up-to-date on information about ELI events, field trips, and activities!

Important Information About Service-Learning

- ◆ If you are looking for a more extensive volunteer commitment with the Conversation Partner Program, please contact Eloise Grose (elgrose1@umbc.edu) at the Shriver Center to discuss the 096 Service Learning Practicum.
- ◆ Service-Learning volunteers are expected to serve 3-5 hours/week, which means that you will be managing at least 2 partners. Being able to work independently and manage multiple schedules is required for this role!
- ◆ Complete a Service-Learning Expectations and Learning Objectives Form (details on where to access this form can be found on the 096 Practicum syllabus) with one of your partners. This is a goal-setting activity that allows both of you to set expectations at the start of your service time. This is due by the middle of the semester and will serve as an attendance check-in to ensure that your partner matches have been made.
- ◆ Record your hours on a Service-Learning Time Sheet (details on where to access this time sheet can be found on the 096 Practicum syllabus). Your partner should initial each day that you meet as a way to authorize your time because you do not attend a site with an official “check-in” supervisor.

Any questions? Contact:
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