INTRODUCTION

The Rotary Club of Davis was founded in 1926 as a service club working to better the community of Davis and the world, in general. One purpose of Rotary is to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace through multiple opportunities for service, fellowship and cultural understanding. This is accomplished in our local community of Davis through global exchanges with citizens of other countries, primarily through hosting students, scholars, government representatives and professionals.

This guide is designed to assist Rotarians and community members who would like to interact with international visitors occasionally and casually. It provides resources and ideas to make these interactions with our foreign guests a rich and rewarding experience.

Our Rotary club and members of the Davis community have an opportunity to enrich their lives by opening their doors to our global visitors and to build international friendships. Thank you for taking time to be part of our mission of global understanding and peace.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to encourage fellowship, cultural exchange and vocational benefits between our foreign visitors, Rotary Clubs and the Davis community.

OUR OBJECTIVE

Provide opportunities to learn about each other as people, as citizens of their country, their occupations, families, interests, etc; and, thereby, broaden each other’s knowledge and understanding of places in the world.
HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

International House Davis

International House Davis fosters global cross-cultural exchange, respect, and appreciation through a variety of programs and services. The International Friendship Program matches international students/scholars or visitors with a Friendship local host (a family, couple or individual) from the community to form a “Friendship Family.” Friendship local hosts provide international students/scholars and visitors with an introduction to life in the United States and the city of Davis, while learning about their new friends’ culture and country. This is not a host family program and does not involve home stays. International House Davis also offers additional ways to meet and become involved with the international community.

UC Davis Services for International Students and Scholars (SISS)

The UC Davis Office of Services for International Students and Scholars (SISS) serves more than 8,000 international students, faculty, and researchers and their accompanying family members who come to UC Davis each year from more than 100 countries and six continents. SISS provides orientation, assistance, information, and referral to international students, faculty, and researchers regarding financial, personal, cultural, and academic concerns.

City of Davis Sister Cities

A Sister City relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries, officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement. On occasions when Sister City representatives visit Davis, volunteers from the community are welcomed to provide a more personalized visit with the sister city dignitaries. The City of Davis has Sister City Relationships with eight cities from around the world:

- Inuyama, Japan
- Los Banos, Philippines
- Muñoz, Philippines
- Qufu, China
- Rutilio Grande, El Salvador
- Sang-Ju, Korea
- Uman, Ukraine
- Wuxi, China

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship/Pre-Academic Orientation & Training Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is administered by the UC Davis University Outreach and International Programs office. Each year 10-13 Fellows come to UC Davis with backgrounds in a variety of disciplines to complete classes on campus, attend workshops, seminars and conferences. A Humphrey Fellow is matched with a Humphrey Fellowship Host, who plays a critical role in helping the Fellows get settled into their new community and the U.S. The Hosts do NOT provide housing – the Fellows are provided a stipend to line in their own apartments. There are no specific costs to being a host, just an interest in meeting new friends and learning more about the world.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), empowers young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking opportunities. From mid-June to early August 2017, the Mandela Washington Fellowship provides young professionals from Sub-Saharan Africa with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, grow their professional networks, and increase their knowledge of the United States.

BENEFITS TO ROTARIANS

- Learning about other cultures and languages is enriching and stimulating.
- Building friendships with people from around the world may open new doors of opportunity.
- Becoming a global citizen through broader awareness of other countries and cultures enhances your understanding and perspective of our world.
IDEAS FOR FRIENDSHIP HOSTS

- Invite guests into your home for light refreshments and conversation. Give a tour of your home and/or the community to show how people in the U.S. live. This can be fascinating for people for a country such as Japan, where space use, appliances in kitchen, furniture, bathrooms etc. are vastly different. These small differences are usually very interesting to people and are usually not seen if you don’t visit a home.

- Hosts should be encouraged to talk or show something that they are interested in such as craft or hobby, especially if it has a cultural context. For example, guests in Japan may show a Kimono collection or offer a calligraphy lesson.

- Practice listening about the visitor’s culture: Ask the guests about their families, geographically where they are from, what their occupations are, what they enjoy doing in their free time and previous countries they have visited and their impressions.

- Prepare to exchange a gift from the local area or culture and talk about why you chose that gift. Davis has a bounty of farm goods, wine, olive oil and local art to share with our visitors.

- Communication must be simple, thorough and frequent. Exchange emails, phone numbers, addresses, itineraries, and other important information in multiple communication formats.

- Be aware and sensitive to cultural differences. Ask in advance for any food allergies or religious restrictions. Political or religious proselytizing is not appropriate and should be avoided.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS

The Rotary Club of Davis aims to build long lasting cross-cultural friendships between international visitors, Rotarians and the Davis community. This guide is designed to inform and inspire community members to participate as friendship hosts through the many established international programs in Davis. Additional ways in which you can encourage participation include:

- Attend local internationally focused events
- Invite local friends and neighbors to meet your international visitors
- Write up a one-line description for the Agrotarian
- Provide information in the Davis Enterprise about hosting opportunities and/or visits
- Happy Bucks announcement
CONTACTS

ROTARY CLUB OF DAVIS
General, info@rotaryclubofdavis.com, http://www.rotaryclubofdavis.com/

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE DAVIS
General, (530) 753-5007, office@internationalhousedavis.org, http://www.internationalhousedavis.org
International Friendship Program, friendship@internationalhousedavis.org

CITY OF DAVIS SISTER CITIES

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP/PRE-ACADEMIC ORIENTATION & TRAINING PROGRAM
UC Davis, Nikki Grey Rutamu, Associate Director, (530) 297-4650, ngreyrutamu@ucdavis.edu, http://www.humphrey.ucdavis.edu
UC Davis Extension, Kelly Currywood, Program Coordinator & Public Education Specialist, International English and Professional Programs, (530) 752-8186, kscurrywood@ucdavis.edu

SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & SCHOLARS (SISS)
General, (530) 752-0864, siss@ucdavis.edu

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS
Karen Beardsley, Director, Sponsored Programs and Special Projects, (530) 752-8961, kbeardsley@ucdavis.edu