



Making Friends at UConn!

Friday July 10, 2026

WELCOME! We will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Introduce yourself in the chat. Please tell us your name and where you are joining from.

Hello from CISS!

Dana Foster, ISSS



Ana Colon-Wallace, IPS



Before We Get Started....

- Keep your microphone muted unless speaking
- Use the chat to ask questions
- Stay until the end for questions and answers, as well as for important reminders.
- This session will be recorded and shared on the CISS website for students who were not able to attend.
- Presenters, please let Ana know when to go to the next slide.

We're excited you're here!



Question for you....

What's one thing you're excited to do your first year at UConn?



Question for you....

What is a food from your home country that everyone should try at least once?



Question for you....

What makes you nervous about making friends in a new country?

Agenda

- Getting to know **YOU!**
- Intercultural Programs and Support (IPS), Welcome Program
- Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)
- Undergraduate Student – Jemimah M.
- Cross Cultural Connections (CCC)
- Protect our Pack (Dean of Students)
- African American Cultural Center (AACC)
- Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA)
- Michael from The Graduate School!
- South Asian Graduate Student Community (Tarang)
- Student Activities – Malakoot T.
- Important Dates and Information

Making Friends at CISS Welcome Programs

The goal of the Welcome Program is to provide the support and connections new international students need to set up for success to start their new academic career at the University of Connecticut.

Making Friends at CISS Welcome Programs

The first people you meet may be some of the most important connections you make at UConn. You might meet a classmate, roommate, or fellow student who becomes a lifelong friend!

Welcome program activities are designed to help you find your community from the moment you arrive on campus. They provide opportunities to make new friends, build connections, and learn about important resources and support services available to you throughout your time at UConn. Connect with mentors.

Starting Friday, August 21st

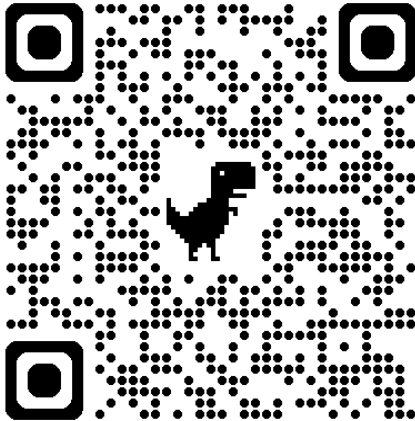
- Airport pick-up from JFK and Boston Logan Airport to the Storrs campus on Friday, August 21.
- Shopping trips to help students purchase essential items and settle into campus life.
- International Services Provider Fair to connect students with key campus resources and support services.
- International Student Game Night to meet new people and build friendships in a fun, relaxed environment.
- Welcome program designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate international students to help them transition smoothly to life at UConn.

Making Friends at CISS Welcome Programs

Undergraduate Students

Sunday August 23 – Tuesday August 25

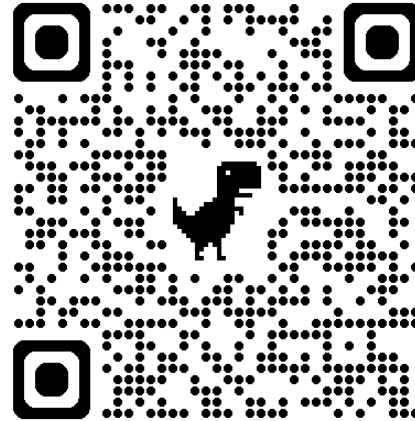
[Welcome Program Schedule](#)



Graduate Students

Monday August 24

[Welcome Program Schedule](#)



Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)

What we stand for:

- Finding a home far from home
- Establish a sense of belonging

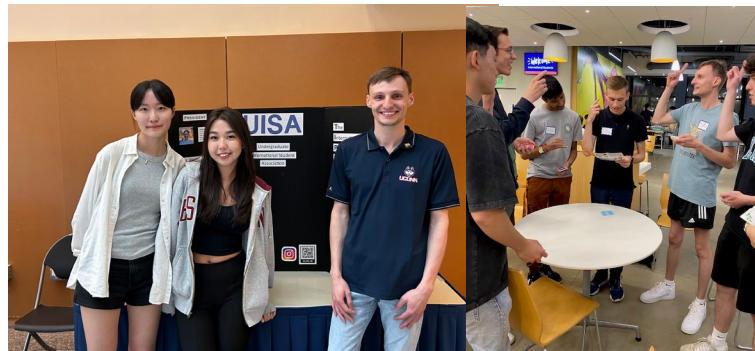
What you'll find at UISA:

- Resources for International Students
- Cultural & Holiday Events
- Bi-weekly Meetings



Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)

CISS Welcome Program



Cookie Making Event



Friendsgiving Event



International Student Career Workshop



Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)

UISA TIPS Mentoring Program

- UISA is collaborating with CISS for the Welcome Program
- Meet your mentor from your very first day at UConn
- Build friendships and feel connected from the start

Meet Your Mentor!

Your mentor will...

- Welcome you during move-in
- Participate in Welcome Program activities with you
- Answer questions about campus life
- Support you throughout your first semester



Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)

Important Information about Coming to UConn  Summarize this email

 Slayton, Jeannie
To:  Kim, Nahyun
Wed 7/8/2026 9:37 AM

 High importance

Hello and greetings from the University of Connecticut! I would like to introduce you to an international student mentor, Nahyun. Your mentor is available to help you with questions about living, working, studying, and adjusting to life at the University of Connecticut. They are a current UConn student and have volunteered to help make the transition to UConn easier.

One important thing to know is the mentor does not have your name and email address. Due to privacy laws, I cannot share your email address or your name with them. So, for your next step, please reply to this email and introduce yourself to your mentor! The mentor will then introduce themselves to you. I think this will be a really helpful and nice way to get to know another student at UConn before you arrive. Your mentor will be here on your first day at UConn. Here is a short introduction:

Hi! My name is Nahyun, and I'm a Pharmacy major at UConn. I'm currently a senior, but since pharmacy is a six-year program, I'll still be on campus for the next few years, so I'll be around if you ever need anything! I'm originally from South Korea, and I currently serve as the President of UISA (Undergraduate International Student Association). I enjoy meeting people from different backgrounds and love helping new students feel more comfortable as they adjust to life at UConn. Whether you have questions about classes, campus resources, student life, or just want someone to talk to, I'm always happy to help. I look forward to getting to know you and supporting you throughout your first semester!

Regards,
Jeannie

Check your UConn Email!!

Already received an email from Jeannie?

→ Reply and introduce yourself

1. Say hello

2. Tell your mentor a little about yourself

3. Start connecting before move-in

Haven't received one yet?

→ No worries – some mentor matches are still being finalized

Undergraduate International Student Association (UISA)



@uconnuisa

Feel free to ask any questions!

nahyun.kim@uconn.edu

uisa.uconn@gmail.com

Building Connections - Jemimah Mataka

Name

Jemimah Nsamwa Mataka

Clubs/Involvement

EHLC

3D Printing Club

Husky Ambassadors

Resident Assistant (RA)

Engineers Without Borders

Cru

Major
Mechanical Engineering

Year
Rising Junior (3rd year)

Fun Fact

I love football soccer
(Liverpool fan)

Country
Zambia



Looking for Community

- UConn has 700+ clubs and student organizations.
- Questions to ask yourself:
 - What type of people do I want to surround myself with?
 - What are my core values?
 - How can I invest in the person I want to be in the future?
- Spontaneity can be great, but it is also important to be intentional about the decisions you make.

Looking for Community

- Don't wait!
- Look at what UConn has to offer:
 - Visit the UConntact website
(<https://uconntact.uconn.edu/organizations>)
- Take note of what you're interested in and be ready to pursue it when you step foot on campus.
- Be open to new experiences.
- At the same time, have grace for yourself.

Making Friends in the Residence Halls

People on the floor:

- Resident Assistant (RA)
- Floor mentor (if you live in the learning community)

Hall Director:

- Look out for emails from your hall director! They often host events, which are a great way to meet people on your floor and in your building.



Making Friends in the Residence Halls

People on the floor:

- Resident Assistant (RA)
- Floor mentor (if you live in the learning community)

! You **CAN** and **SHOULD** rely on your RA!!!!

Struggles:

- Loneliness
- I can't find my group of friends
- Seems like everyone is ignoring me
- Home sickness
- Feeling of being lost

How to overcome it:

- Try your best to become close with your roommate(s)
- Talk to your RA. It's okay to ask for their help!
- "I won't lose anything if I try"
- Be the one who initiates things

Cross Cultural Connections



Cross Cultural Connections

General Info

Goals:

- Strengthen English language skills & spread cultural awareness
- Focus on understanding, inclusivity, and reciprocity

What You Will Do:

- Meet once a week with conversation partner for one-on-one cross cultural exchange
- Submit a monthly service log and attend monthly meetings
- Make new friends and have fun!

To Apply:

- Submit a completed application using google forms over the next few days; emails will follow once the semester starts!
 - Found on our UConn contact page
- To contact us with questions: uconn.co.ccconnections@gmail.com

Community Outreach, Language and Literacy

- CO's mission
 - UConn education and enrichment
 - Community service
- L&L CoP
 - Worldwide campus
 - Focuses on English language skills
 - International student assistance
- Other L&L programs
 - America Reads, ELL



Cross Cultural Connections (CCC)

How it Works

- 1 hour/week
- One-on-one cross cultural exchange

Goals

- International student comfort
- Strengthened English skills
- Cultural awareness
- Globally tolerant community

Participants

- International student participants
- Domestic student volunteers



Past Club Activities

Arts and Crafts

Cookie
Decorating

Painting

Human Bingo

Games

Marshmallow
Tower Challenge

Dumpling Making

...And much more!

Scan QR Code for Application

- International students submit a completed application and you'll be matched with a partner next semester!





Thanks!

Any questions?

Email:

uconn.co.ccconnections@gmail.com

CCC Monthly Gatherings



CCC Monthly Gatherings – Lantern Making



Protect Our Pack



Aditi Thaker

- Rising Senior majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology with a minor in Cognitive Science
- Originally from India
- Joined Protect Our Pack because she believes that a safe and supportive campus starts with students looking out for one another

Protect Our Pack

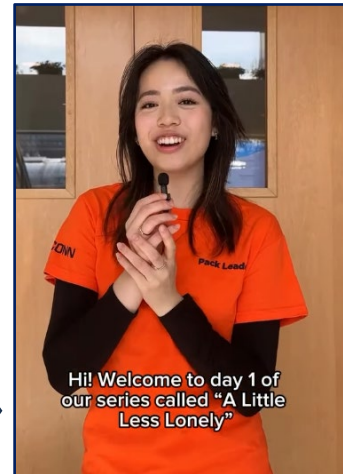
UConn's university-wide bystander intervention program

- How to help other people in need

Educate the campus community on effective problem-solving for issues like:

- Sexual assault
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Stalking
- Mental health concerns
- Discrimination & Harassment

**Social
media
content**



**Tablin
g**

Protect Our Pack

- **Pack Leaders: Volunteer, trained student leaders passionate about preventing violence & increasing a sense of belonging**
 - Interested students apply at dos.uconn.edu/protect-our-pack/
- **Participate & engage by:**
 - Attending weekly meetings
 - Create social media content
 - Help facilitate trainings
 - Host tables to raise awareness
 - & more!

Follow us on Instagram!!

[@uconnpackleaders](https://www.instagram.com/uconnpackleaders)



Protect Our Pack

Come see us at the Involvement Fair on **September 9th** on Fairfield Way!

Email hannah.halloran@uconn.edu to get added to our email list!





H. FRED SIMONS
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER

ABOUT US!

Established in 1968, the AACC is dedicated to supporting Black students, faculty and staff, whether that be African American, African, Caribbean, or from across the African diaspora—by fostering a strong sense of community, cultural pride, and academic success.



Our Mission: to promote cultural preservation, quality leadership, and academic excellence through a variety of programs and activities that foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of the rich heritage and cultures of African Americans and the African Diaspora.



OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



OCT. 18th

C.R.O.W.N Day

In recognition of the C.R.O.W.N. Act, this event offers free hair services, cultural food, games, and community to celebrate and support the beauty of Black and Brown students' natural hair.



AUG. 30th

Community Kickoff Cookout

The Community Kickoff Cookout is a fun, welcoming event held at the start of the semester where students, faculty, and staff come together to build community over music, food, and good vibes.



SEPT. 29th

Welcome Back Dinner

Students, staff, and alumni gather each fall to share food, music, and community during AACC's annual Welcome Back Dinner. Join us this fall and be part of the tradition!



TBD

Ghana Study Abroad

The Summer in Ghana program, offered through the AACC, is a study abroad experience that immerses students in Ghanaian culture, history, and diaspora connections while earning academic credit.



DEC. 11th

Kwanza Celebration

Kwanzaa honors African American heritage, unity, and culture through food, music, dance, and the lighting of the kinara. Join us as we close the semester with this meaningful celebration.



TBD

Black Excellence Summit

The Black Excellence Summit is a two-day event that brings together Black, African, and Caribbean students to connect, share experiences, network with alumni and leaders, and celebrate community and success.

B.L.A.C.C. PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Black Leadership And Community Cultivation (B.L.A.C.C.) program pairs first-year and transfer students with upperclassmen mentors to support their transition to UConn. It's a great way to connect with peers, get involved, and find community.

Scan the QR code to apply as a mentor or mentee!



FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS



@uconn.aacc



<https://aacc.uconn.edu/>



uconn aacc

UConn Cultural Centers

- African American Cultural Center (AACC)
- Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC)
- Puerto Rican Latin American Cultural Center (PRLACC)
- Rainbow Center
- Women's Center
- Native American Cultural Programs
- Middle Eastern Cultural Programs

All cultural centers are located within the
Student Union Building

Cultural Centers Information Page



Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA)



WHO ARE WE?

- It has been established for 30 years
- Nonprofit student organization supported by the New York Consulate
- The largest and most influential Chinese student organization on the UConn campus.
- Committed to providing services and assistance to UConn students
- Organize various activities to enrich students' campus life

UConn CSSA

CLUBS

- Band
- Basketball Team (CWB)
- Soccer Team
- GED Dance Team
- Esports Club
- AND MORE



UConn CSSA

EVENTS

- Mid-Autumn Festival
- Chinese New Year
- Singing Competition
- Photography competition
- Freshman Welcome Event
- AND MORE



UConn CSSA

We welcome everyone to join us, explore Chinese culture, and make new friends along the way!

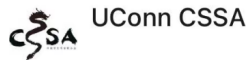
Email: uconn.cssa.storrs@gmail.com

ins: uconncssa

wechat: 留学在康涅狄格大学

red: UConn CSSA

抖音 : UConn CSSA



扫二维码，添加我为朋友。

Michael N. The Graduate School

Michael Inkoom Nyarko

Graduate Assistant

The Graduate School

HESA 27'

Ghana

VP – Ghanaian Student Association

1. Support incoming Ghanaian students to UConn
2. Create community building programs for them.
3. Partner with other affinity orgs on campus in organizing events.



Finding Your Community at UConn

- Attend Graduate School events to meet graduate students from different departments.
- Explore UConn's cultural centers and affinity communities (First gen, Black students, Asian students etc.)
- Participate in Graduate student senate events, including monthly coffee hours.
- Talk to classmates before leaving after class. Remember you will be seeing the same people almost every week.
- Use The Graduate School Website, Newsletter/Instagram/Facebook, UConn calendar, soapbox and UConn daily digest to discover upcoming events.
- Join graduate student organizations tied to your identity (There are many on campus, including the Ghanaian Students Association).



Upcoming Graduate School Events

- Graduate Student Resource Fair: Wednesday Sept, 2.
- GradChat: Date TBD
- Timely Topics (Link in chat)
- Industry Insights : Date TBD
- 3MT & Grad Student Showcase : Wednesday Oct 7
- National First Gen College student Week: Week of Nov 8 (Lots of events)
- Network for Enriched Mentorship : Date TBD
- And more.....



Tarang

- Tarang is a cultural organization that was created to bring together the South Asian community at UConn and help promote and preserve their cultures and traditions. The association comprises of graduate students, faculty and non-faculty members from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.
- Storrs Campus: Open for all graduate students



Tarang

Events

- Diwali Fall Fest
- Spring Festival
- Tea time with Tarang
- Coffee Hour with CISS

Website

<https://tarang.rso.uconn.edu/>

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram

@uconntarang

Email

uconntarang@gmail.com





Malakoot Tabarssi

- Rising Senior majoring in Political Science with a minor in Human Rights
- Student Worker at UCAELI

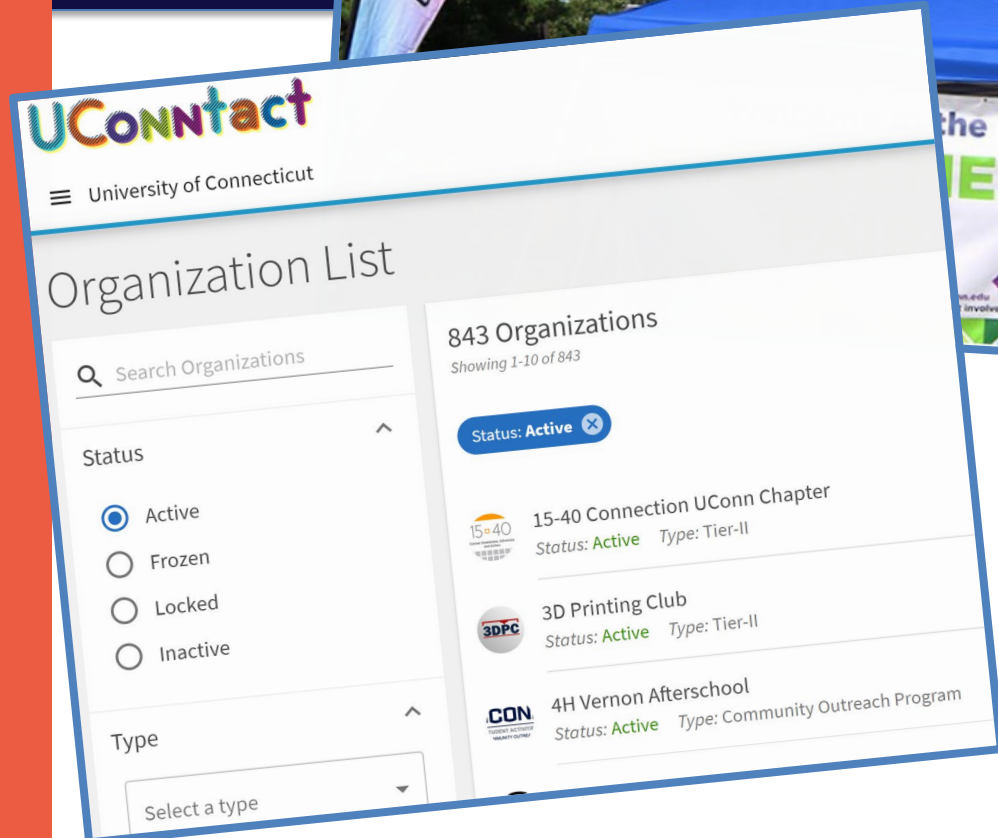
FIND ORGS:

INVOLVEMENT FAIR

- 2nd Wednesday Each Semester (Fall-Sept. 9, 2-6pm)
- 500+ groups/programs to talk with

UConnTact:

<https://uconntact.uconn.edu/>



UConn Involvement Fair

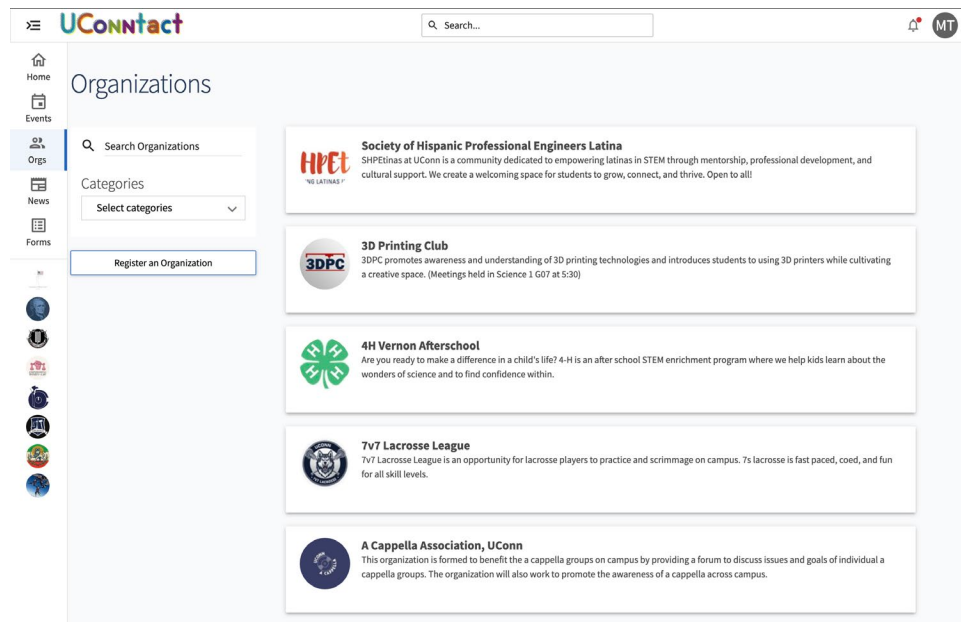
- Held at the beginning of each semester
- Over 500 student organizations
- Meet students with similar interests
- Learn about clubs, volunteer opportunities, cultural organizations, club sports, and academic organizations
- Great way to make friends and get involved on campus



UConntact

- Search for 800+ student organizations
- Find clubs based on your interests
- Discover campus events and meeting times
- Join organizations throughout the year

Link: <https://uconntact.uconn.edu/>



Community Service

Types of Programs:

Semester Long programs

- Education
- Health
- Social

Alternative Break Programs

- International & Domestic

One-Time Events and Programs

Democracy & Political Engagement and Dialogues

<https://communityoutreach.uconn.edu/>
UConncontact.uconn.edu



Major Events

- HUSKY WOW (starts August 22)
- <https://huskywow.uconn.edu/>
- LATE NIGHT
- FAMILY WEEKEND
- TRIPS & ROADSHOWS
- HUSKYTHON
- SPRING WEEKEND



Important Information and Upcoming Dates

Review ISSS Pre-Arrival Information and “International Student Welcome Guide”

<https://issu.uconn.edu/prepare-for-arrival/>

Saturday, August 1- UG students fee bill due

Friday, August 14- Early Move-in for Grad students moving into Northwood

Friday, August 21- New Student Move-in for UG and Grad students moving into Northwood and The Oaks ([Airport Shuttle Pick-up](#)) and Grad fee bill due

Saturday August 22- International Services Fair (open bank account/cell phone) and UG shopping trip and Grads-Submit your Arrival Documents

Sunday and Monday, August 23-24 - CISS UG Welcome Program with a shopping trip and game night

Monday, August 24- CISS Graduate Welcome Program and Grad shopping trip

Wednesday and Thursday, August 26-27- UG University Orientation

Monday, August 31- First day of classes

Questions?