

## GEI Conversation Partners Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Conversation Partners Program?

Volunteers and Global English Institute students are paired and meet weekly during the semester for one hour to talk. This program is a free opportunity for Global English Institute students to practice their English conversation skills and meet people from the college and community. Volunteers can learn something about the student's culture, meet someone new, and help a student practice his/her conversation skills.

### When does the program begin and end?

Conversation partners generally begin the second or third week of the fall and spring semesters. The commitment is for one academic semester (four months), although partners may continue to meet when the semester is over.

### What times are available and where do we meet?

Conversation partners generally meet on the campus of JCCC, e.g. in the cafeteria, lounge areas, COM 319, etc. Meeting times are to be discussed and agreed on between partners. If you need to reschedule your time, simply contact your partner in order to meet at another convenient time. A partner who does not consistently show up for conversation will be dropped from the program. In the event no times initially work, contact the Global English Institute staff to see if we can provide another potential partner. We match partners based upon a first-come, first-served basis.

### How many partners are in each group?

Normally, the groups will consist of one Global English Institute student and one volunteer. However, you may be assigned to more than one partner if you choose to do so and if partners are available.

### Is this opportunity the same as English tutoring?

No. The students are not to ask volunteers for help with lessons, homework, etc. Volunteers are not to provide students with tutoring, English instruction, or help with lessons, homework, etc.

### What other things do I have to do with my partner?

Nothing. Speaking English for an hour per week during the semester is the only requirement. In some cases, friendships are formed over time and partners may want to do fun things outside of this time. Some typical activities include eating a meal, celebrating a holiday, going to social/cultural events, etc.

### Who are GEI students?

The students attend the Global English Institute at Johnson County Community College and may or may not be from different countries. Their goal is usually to improve their English proficiency for various reasons.

### Can we practice speaking in another language?

The initial hour is time for the students to practice conversing in English and not speak in another language. If partners agree, they can speak in a different language at another time.

### Can GEI students here on a visa help with child care, housework, etc., with or without pay?

Absolutely not! This is not the purpose of the program. The appropriate actions will be taken with partners who engage in such activities.

### How do I sign up or get more information?

Contact the Global English Institute staff via the information listed on the agreement. To learn about the Global English Institute, check out [jccc.edu/globalenglish/](http://jccc.edu/globalenglish/).

# Global English Institute



## Conversation Partners Program

Read it. Write it. Speak it. Live it.

# Global English Institute – Conversation Partners Program Agreement

The Global English Institute offers the Conversation Partners Program for students enrolled in English for Academic Purposes courses. The program is a free opportunity for students to practice English conversation skills with an assigned volunteer. If you are interested in participating in the program, please read the agreement below. If you agree to the terms, return the completed form to the Global English Institute staff at the location listed below.

## I understand and agree that I will:

- attend a required orientation or meet individually with Global English Institute staff to receive further information.
- consistently meet my partner(s) for one semester, one hour a week at a time to be determined between me and my partner(s), for the express purpose of English conversation practice conducted only in English.
- not help a student(s) with homework or teach a student(s) English. Students are not to request such help and volunteers are not to provide it.
- meet my partner(s) on campus. Partners who wish to meet off campus should mutually agree to do so.
- speak to my partner(s) in a foreign language outside of the scheduled English conversation time if he/she/they agree(s) to do so.
- return messages from my partner(s) in a timely manner especially if it involves a change to the scheduled meeting time.
- allow my contact information, i.e., email and phone number(s), to be given to my partner(s).
- respect my partner(s). I will not force, coerce or induce my partner(s) to do something against his or her will, values, ethics, morals, cultural mores; discuss uncomfortable/taboo topics if so stated; and/or engage in illegal activities; etc.
- not ask my partner(s) to help me with personal or professional favors/duties/responsibilities.
- volunteer (no compensation, fees or favors) my time and effort.
- contact the Global English Institute staff if I have any problems with or concerns about my partner(s) or if I need to discontinue the program for any reason. Additionally, volunteers should refer students to the Global English Institute staff for personal or academic issues– volunteers should not counsel or advise students.

**Please fill out the following information (if you are a student, please use only your JCCC email address and not your personal email address):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a partner:  who is the same gender as myself or  gender does not matter

Would you like to meet with more than one partner per week?  Yes If yes, how many partners? \_\_\_\_\_  No

**Global English Institute Student Only:** My level is:  1  2  3  4

**Volunteer Only:** I am a:  JCCC Student  JCCC Faculty/Staff  Community Member

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Return agreement to: JCCC Global English Institute, 12345 College Blvd, Box 80, Overland Park, KS 66210-1299 or Carlsen Center 214B or [gei@jccc.edu](mailto:gei@jccc.edu)**

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