

Meeting Practical Needs of International Students

1. Meet them at the airport.
2. Help them locate their campus and housing.
3. If needed, offer them a comfortable bed and temporary housing.
4. Help provide household goods and furniture for their new place of residence.
5. Research grocery stores that specialize in ethnic foods. Help them with transportation to the store as needed. Allow them to prepare food for you from their country. Explain how savings coupons work.
6. Help them locate exercise facilities.
7. Give them pointers about shopping. Explain the different types of stores, including grocery stores, drugstores, department stores, etc. Give them pointers about looking for sales or buying used items through newspaper ads/garage sales/craigslist. Help them understand the difference between lbs. and kilos.
8. Talk to them about security. Let them know that they can trust police and security guards in this country and advise them not to go out alone at night, and to be sure to lock their residences when they leave. Tell them to be careful to lock their bikes, even at home.
9. Show them around the area and how to use the public transportation system, parking meters, pay phones, and public restrooms (explain Kane and Wahine!). Also teach them about tipping in restaurants.
10. Help them set up a bank account and/or telephone service.
11. Help them practice their English. (And learn more about their language and culture in the process!)
12. Collect idioms and help them interpret their meanings. Explain pidgin phrases/local slang.
13. Spend time in conversation with them. Ask about their country. Let them talk about their ideas, needs, and fears.
14. Take them site-seeing around our beautiful island!
15. Invite them into your home for a meal. Invite them on family outings, or to celebrate a holiday with your family.
16. Offer to assist students by reading their school papers before they submit them and making suggestions on grammar or presentation.
17. Let them know it is appropriate to talk with their professors and teachers.
18. Introduce them to Christian friends.
19. Invite them to attend church services, weddings, baptisms, etc, as an *observer*.
20. Help parents meet the needs of their children, including appropriate dress for school and how to be involved in their children's schooling.
21. Help them find doctors, hospitals, and other medical facilities.