Conversational English Partners

Conversational English Partners is a program that is hosted by Dr. Jungjun Park, the Graduate Program Director of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences.

In this program, we will pair non-native English-speaking graduate students (their spouses as well) or visiting scholars with native English-speaking undergraduate students (called “language supporters”) for weekly one-on-one, informal, and programmatic conversational interactions in English. This is not a tutoring program, but volunteering language supporters help students practice English and learn about American culture.

Conversation partners are arranged for one semester and meet one hour per week at times and places of their convenience. Please note that all language supporters are majoring in communication sciences and disorders (better known as speech-language pathology) and are trained specifically in the skills and knowledge that relate to increasing participants’ speech accuracy, overall linguistic competence, and career-related English skills such as research presentations, lectures or interviews in English, or simple writing. The program is also designed to promote and encourage cultural awareness and understanding and help our international graduate students better understand and adapt to U.S. culture. Moreover, it offers all participants a way of fostering global knowledge and engagement and creating international friendships and networks on campus.

How can I participate?

1. Eligibility: To be eligible, participating students must have taken the class offered by the Baylor Graduate School. If the interested participant is not a Baylor student (e.g., visiting scholars), he or she is not required to take this class.

2. Contact Dr. Park: If eligible, interested students or visiting scholars should email Dr. Park (jungjun_park@baylor.edu) at least two weeks before the beginning of Fall or Spring semesters (* This program is not offered during the summer semester.).

3. Partner match: Selected students will be matched with one or two conversation partners, based on the results of a brief survey or assessment of their current English skills. The number of participants is limited to 10 per semester.
4. Orientation Meeting: A preliminary orientation meeting will be held to introduce partners to each other. In the meeting, participating partners’ articulatory difficulties, speech fluency, overall language competence, and acculturation patterns will be assessed.

5. Weekly meetings: Partners begin meeting independently as soon as they have been matched. In order to facilitate efficient use of time and maximize learning outcomes, participating students will be provided programmatic activity materials for each week (*If, at any point, participants have concerns about the program, they should contact Dr. Park immediately).*