



CALIFORNIA COUSINS

An International Student Mentor Program

Dear California Cousin Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a California Cousin, a unique position of leadership on the campus. If duties are fulfilled, you may be awarded a non-monetary gift at the end of the year.

Each semester international students from over 50 countries begin their studies at Fullerton College. The students that they meet here will form their very first impressions of Fullerton College, FC students, and in many cases, America. So your enthusiasm and dedication is essential in this position. California Cousins are mentors and will serve a vital role in the successful transition and adjustment of new international students. California Cousins will help them adapt to the campus and orient them to college life and the U.S.

This packet contains the following:

- ✓ A description of the California Cousin's qualities, expectations, and duties
- ✓ Application form for the position

Because international mentors are key individuals in fostering a healthy living environment in this community, there are certain expectations of the student who serve in this capacity. Please review the attached qualifications and expectations prior to completing your application. California Cousins must have:

- Have a **2.0 minimum GPA** and
- Have attended the college for at least one semester

Applicants must be willing to participate for 2 semesters. Finalists will be called into the International Student Center for an interview, after which selected candidates will be notified by phone and email.

Fullerton College and the International Student Center applaud you for willingness to give your time and energy to our international students. We trust that this experience will be mutually beneficial, as mentors will gain cultural insights, personal experience, and ultimately a new friend. I look forward in meeting you and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate in contacting me via email, calling or stopping by the center.

Sincerely,

Nicole Diamond



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Cousin Role Description

Qualities/Job description:

A California cousin is a mentoring position that would assist at least 5-7 new students. A mentor combines a variety of skills, experiences, knowledge and talents that are vital to the role. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Qualifications

- Sense of self responsibility, including managing time and finances efficiently, maintaining good personal hygiene, and balancing studies, socialization, and rest
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, especially listening to others, expressing empathy, and communicating information clearly
- Outgoing, sociable, approachable, reliable and trustworthy
- Able to maintain confidentiality except when it may endanger someone's safety
- Genuine concern for others and sensitivity and respect for them as individuals

Duties

- You will be paired before their arrival and communication will begin with email. Write a welcome letter introducing yourself and answer their general questions
- Provide information about the campus and the community
- Elucidate American culture and social morays that may not exist in students' home country and in turn be open to and respectful of their culture
- Give students advice on transportation and housing
- Assist new students in identifying resources such as shopping, banking, food, entertainment, dry cleaning, laundromat, and other local services
- Explain course registration process (Do not offer academic advice)
- Explain computer resources available on campus
- Give tour of campus
- Offer to drive students or take them on the bus to help them shop or get an apartment (optional)
- Call student to see how he/she is doing
- Participate in activities or attend events on campus with the student
- Refer the student to the International Student Center or other appropriate FC support services regarding immigration, academic, financial, personal, health, social, and other concerns
- Act as a translator when appropriate and as needed
- Abide by and support all Fullerton College rules and regulations
- Exercise tolerance of human diversity, including race, nationality, language, religion, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, physical ability etc.

***NOTE:** Cousins **DO NOT** provide academic counseling, give immigration advice, proselytize religion, loan or borrow money, or enter in a dating relationship with student during Mentoring period.*



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California Cousin Role Description continued...

Required Duties

In order to earn a Certificate of Leadership and to successfully complete the California Cousin Program with a \$100 award, participants must complete the following requirements:

- Answer their general email questions before their arrival about the campus, student life and your personal FC experience
- Must attend International Orientation (early August & early January) to meet your students and provide tour. A 4 hour training workshop in June will be mandatory if not previously completed.
- Track and notify the coordinator of the contact made with your international cousin (e.g. emails or phone calls). You must make a **minimum of 2-3 contacts with student** during the first month.
- Attend at least **one International Club meeting** during the semester and the **End of the Semester Awards**, with or without your International Cousin.
- Participate in at least **two events sponsored by the International Student Center** with or without International Cousin (note: A university field trip from Cadena/Transfer Center can also be included but must be accompanied by International Cousin. International Club meeting and End of the Year Awards can't be included).
- **A one-page journal** (via email) to be written for the coordinator at the end of the semester regarding any topic in relation to your International Cousin (e.g. your experiences, what you learned).

NOTE: Your photo and a short biography will be featured on the ISC webpage. If you continue to participate an additional semester, you may have an opportunity to answer emails from prospective students about your experience at Fullerton College.



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Mentor Application

Page2. Please print clearly.

Name _____

Student ID _____

1. Describe any positions you have held (paid or volunteer) in which you helped or advised individuals or communicated with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. (Include experience in other countries).

What is the highest college-level English course you have completed?

How many hours per two weeks are you willing to devote to your student?

3. Why are you interested in applying to this program? What qualities can you contribute to being a helpful and successful international student mentor?

Lastly, do you think you can participate in this program for 2 semesters?

Yes

No

Not Sure