



CALIFORNIA COUSINS

An International Student Mentor Program

Dear California Cousin Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a California Cousin, a volunteer peer mentor position and a unique experience of student leadership on the campus!

Each semester international students from over 40 countries begin their studies at Fullerton College. The students that they meet will form their very first impressions of Fullerton College, FC students, and in many cases, America. Therefore, your enthusiasm and dedication is essential for 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 new students adapt to the campus and orient them to college life and the U.S.

This packet contains the following:

- ✓ A description of a California Cousin's qualities, expectations, and duties
- ✓ An application form

Because international mentors are key individuals in fostering a positive experience for a new student, we maintain some guidelines for interested applicants. Please review the attached qualifications and expectations prior to completing your application.

Minimum Requirements to be a California Cousin Peer Mentor:

- Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA**
- Must have attended Fullerton College for at least one semester**
- Be available to participate for two semesters (fall and spring)**
- Be open to new experiences, be culturally sensitive, and have a friendly personality**

Finalists will be called into the International Student Center for an interview, after which selected candidates will be notified.

Fullerton College and the International Student Center applaud you for your 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 to meeting you and if you have further questions please do not hesitate in contacting me via email, phone, or stopping by the center.

Sincerely,

Hugo Flores
CA Cousins Program Coordinator



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CA Cousin Peer Mentor Role & Responsibilities

Qualities/Job description:

A California cousin is a volunteer mentoring position that would assist up to ten (10) 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 efficient time and money management, maintaining good personal hygiene, and effectively balancing both academic and non-academic demands.
- ❑ 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.

Roles & Responsibilities

- ❑ You will be paired with your mentee(s) before their arrival and communication will begin with email. Write a welcome e-mail introducing yourself and answer general questions they may have.
- ❑ Provide information about the campus and the community.
- ❑ Explain aspects of American culture and social norms that may not exist in the student's home country and in turn be open to and respectful of his/her 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 (but do not offer academic advice).
- ❑ Explain computer resources available on campus.
- ❑ Give a tour of the 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, preach religion, loan or borrow money, or enter in a dating relationship with student during mentoring period.



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CA Cousin Required Duties for Two Semesters (Fall & Spring)

Required Duties

In order to earn a *Certificate of Leadership* and to successfully complete the California Cousin Program, participants must complete the following requirements each semester (fall and spring):

- ❑ Attend mandatory CA Cousin training workshop and/or meetings before each semester begins.
- ❑ Answer general questions from mentee(s) before their arrival about the campus, student life and your personal FC experience (via e-mail or phone).
- ❑ Participate in F-1 Visa Orientation for new international students **each semester** (held in August & January) to meet your student mentees and provide a campus tour (total of 2 orientations).
- ❑ Make a **minimum of three contacts with international cousin(s)** during their first month.
- ❑ Make a **minimum of one contact with international cousin(s) per month** until the end of each semester.
- ❑ Attend at least **one International Club meeting** per semester with or without your International Cousin(s).
- ❑ Participate in at least **one event sponsored by the International Student Center** per semester with or without International Cousin(s). May be substituted with another campus sponsored event if accompanied by international cousin and with pre-approval from CA Cousin Program Coordinator.
- ❑ Participate in **one CA Cousins Group Check-In** or **Individual Check-In** with CA Cousins Program Coordinator
- ❑ Track all CA Cousins activities and submit a log to the CA Cousins Program Coordinator at the end of each semester. (e.g. emails/phone calls/in-person meetings, ISC events, fieldtrips, etc).
- ❑ Complete **End of Semester Assessment** each semester.
- ❑ Attend the **End of the Year Awards Recognition** in May.



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For ISC Use Only:

RECEIVED _____

GPA Check _____

FC for one semester

Mentor Application

Instructions:

Please print clearly on both pages of the application. When you are finished, submit **only the application** to the **International Student Center, Room 220** at the College Center. You may keep the letter, role description and required duties for your reference.

Date of Application _____

FC Student I.D. @ _____

Mr.

Ms.

Last/Family Name	First Name	Gender (male or female)
Address	City, State	Zip Code
Phone	Email	Major

1. What is your educational goal: AA/AS Degree Transfer Certificate Undecided

2. When was your first semester at Fullerton College? Semester _____ Year _____

3. When do you anticipate will be your last semester at FC? Semester _____ Year _____

4. What languages do you speak other than English or which language classes have you taken, if any?

5. In what campus activities and/or organizations do you actively participate, if any?

6. Have you ever traveled or lived abroad? If so, please name the country/countries below:

7. When you are not studying or in class, what do you like to do in your free time?

8. Are you willing to invite your international cousins to participate in non-academic activities (example: go out for coffee, go shopping, see a movie together, etc.)? Yes No



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Mentor Application (Page 2)

9. 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, if applicable).

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

11. How many hours per week can you devote to your cousin (*please note that there is not a standard amount of hours required*)? _____

12. Can you participate in this program for two semesters (fall and spring)?

Yes

No

Not Sure

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

14. If selected to be a CA Cousin, do you have certain preferences you would/would not like in an international cousin (*example: gender, specific ethnicity, language, certain interests, etc.*)?*

**Although we cannot guarantee that the international cousin will meet all of your preferences, we will use this as a guide to pair you as best as we can if you are selected.*

15. Is there anything else you would like us to know? _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____