

The International Mentor Program for Academic and Cultural Transitions (IMPACT) facilitates the academic and cultural transition of incoming international PhD students, starting before they arrive on campus through their first year at the University of Chicago. The program provides a framework for positive relationships within the UChicago community.

Part of UChicago's Office of International Affairs, IMPACT connects peer mentors and mentees to:

- Provide comprehensive support to ease the adjustment period of international students
- Address mentee questions on topics ranging from academics to living in Chicago
- Improve students' experiences as they join the UChicago community

#### CONTACT US

Learn more about IMPACT or apply as a program mentor or mentee at [internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/impact](https://internationalaffairs.uchicago.edu/impact) or email [oiainpact@uchicago.edu](mailto:oiainpact@uchicago.edu).

Or visit the Office of International Affairs:  
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Building  
Connections  
on Campus





“It was really useful to have someone outside of my program with whom I could relate and ask for input. My mentor also invited me to a lot of activities and kept me posted on cultural events. This was really nice, especially in the first year. She has become a really good friend (and one outside of my own department). I found the IMPACT mentorship program extremely valuable!”

**Arvid Viaene**, IMPACT mentee

“I was introduced to a very nice student from a different culture, with whom I had many interesting conversations. We got together every few weeks for lunch or coffee, which was a nice break for both of us. I’m so glad I participated!”

**Kacy Gordon**, IMPACT mentor



### HOW IT WORKS

Interested first-year international PhD students from the four graduate divisions (biological sciences, humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences) are matched with a peer PhD mentor to help ease the academic and cultural transition.

Mentors and mentees who apply to participate in IMPACT connect prior to the start of the academic year and enjoy opportunities to meet at least once a month during the first year of study at UChicago. Along with informal contact between mentors and mentees, the Office of International Affairs has several events throughout the year for participants to connect, including mentorship training, a fun mid-year activity, and beginning and end of year receptions.

### BENEFITS FOR IMPACT MENTEES

- Make new UChicago friends before arriving on campus
- Learn the dos and don'ts of US culture
- Discover resources on campus
- Seamlessly transition to the new academic environment
- Hear from peers where to eat, shop, and socialize in Hyde Park and throughout Chicago
- Have a go-to contact for getting your questions answered

### BENEFITS FOR IMPACT MENTORS

- Strengthen the international community at UChicago
- Impact a student's life
- Receive training to best answer student questions and facilitate transitions
- Share your experiences with a new international friend
- Develop leadership skills
- Expand your network