

Volunteer & Participant Feedback 2023-2024



The logo for VISAS features the acronym 'VISAS' in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font, centered within a stylized orange 'V' shape. The 'V' is composed of three segments: a vertical line on the left and two diagonal lines on the right that meet at the top to form a wide V.

International Participant: It has been a joy to meet the VISAS international participants and volunteers this semester. Your diverse perspectives have enriched me, and I'm thankful for the moments of learning and laughter we've shared. I fondly recall the spirited conversations and the cultural insights during our gatherings, which were always the highlight of my week. I'm inspired by your enthusiasm and commitment, and I want to express my deepest appreciation for the warmth and friendship you bring to the VISAS family. Thank you for a memorable semester!

Language Consultant: I loved meeting with my VISAS Partner, Lesly, this semester! She is so sweet and I love seeing her around grounds and chatting. VISAS is an amazing program that bridges the gap between native English speaking students and international students!

Conversation Facilitator: VISAS has been one of my favorite parts of UVA so far. I can't express how grateful I am to the diverse international community it has built, and the many friends I have made through the program.

International Participant: Thank you to everyone for giving me your time and the opportunity to improve my English.

Classroom Consultant:

I appreciate how the international students were always willing to participate, learn, and improve; I was so proud to see how much they'd grown by the end of the semester.

Workplace English Partner:

Working with Chosang for the past year has been such a pleasure. She has greatly improved in her English writing, reading, and speaking, and I am so proud of her. I will miss working with her!

International Participant: I really had a great time with my LC this semester. Our weekly meetings were very interesting and enjoyable. We even got to see the solar eclipse together, and then we went to the music library, which was the most interesting thing I did this semester. Thank you, Grace.

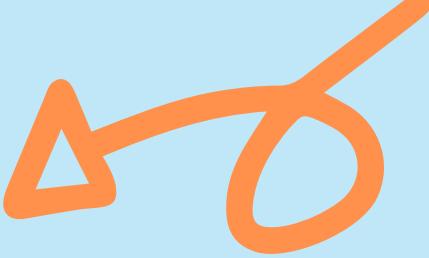
Language Consultant:

Shuai, I am so thankful for the past year and a half we had together as language partners. Meeting you was one of the best things that could have happened to me last year. I am so grateful for your friendship. You're brilliant and hard-working, and I have no doubt you will succeed in whatever goals you place for yourself. Jiayou!

Language Consultant:

The best part about VISAS is having new conversations, while also sharing personal experiences. My partner from the fall and I would share anything from awkward photos of middle school to her stunning wedding photos. I was especially touched when she brought me some homemade cake to thank me for being her partner, and I hope we'll have the chance to talk again in the future!

Classroom Consultant: Thank you to my CC's and ITA's! You made this whole experience enjoyable and I loved getting to know you.



ESL Class Instructor: I'm so grateful for all of our ESLAs! Because of you, our oral ESL classes were fun, interactive, and really beneficial for our students! Thank you for all the encouraging conversations and feedback you provided the students, and for your flexibility as you came in to class each week!



ESL Assistant: I had such a great experience this semester! I loved getting to know everyone and hear more about your fields! I have loved getting to see everyone's senses of humor especially, it is very endearing.

International Participant: I learned a lot from Maya and Elizabeth, who provided much useful information to sharpen my English speaking and expand my knowledge about American culture.

International Participant: I joined VISAS during the fall 2023 semester and it had been a great experience for me and my husband. We really adored our LC Peter Kim and we are still in touch. My favorite memory is the day when we were on the lawn and we learned a phrase from a foreign language. It was a fun day!

International Participant: I joined VISAS during the fall 2023 semester and it had been a great experience for me and my husband. We really adored our LC Peter Kim and we are still in touch. My favorite memory is the day when we were on the lawn and we learned a phrase from a foreign language. It was a fun day!



Language Consultant: Limeng, I have had such an amazing time meeting with you each week this semester and last semester. I really enjoy our dinners each week. I'm looking forward to continuing our friendship!
Best,
Margaux

Workplace English Partner: I have had such an amazing time getting to know my partner Sandra. She is so kind and I have loved hearing all about her family and seeing how much her English speaking skills have grown in our short time together!

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Language Consultant: Canyu,
It was wonderful meeting and getting to know you this semester! I wish you the best as you continue with your master's program and in the future!

Sincerely,
Zane

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International

Participant: I talked with Sasha, like her so much. We have the same major and we have lots of things to talk.



International

Participant: I was with Christina this semester. She is awesome! Very nice and always had a conversation topic.

International Participant:

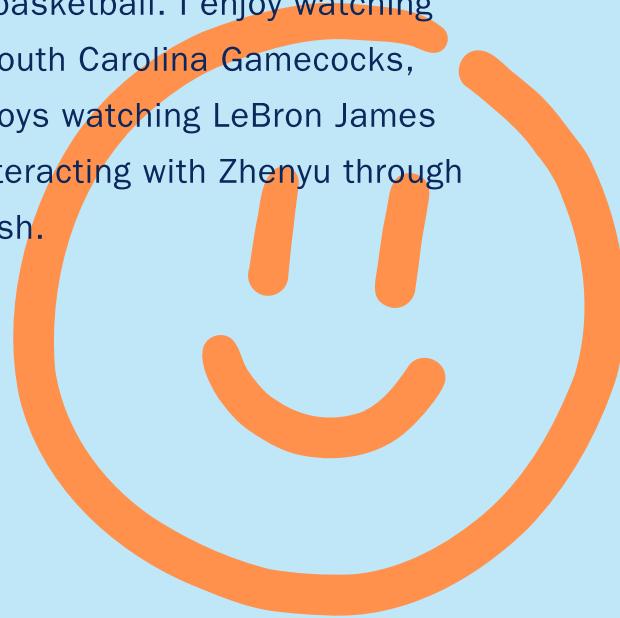
Sumama Haque and Ashley Barricks. They are passionate and eager to help me. It is so nice to share my life and know about their life. They will both graduate this summer. May they have health, happiness and outstanding success in all your ventures.



Workplace English Partner: Idalia is always so kind and never fails to put her all into everything she does - her dedication and drive are merits that I have always admired. I have loved the many laughs about strangely-pronounced English words this semester and the triumph of mastering difficult verb tenses, and I am very lucky to have been able to hear all of her stories about friends, family, and even pets in session! I wish her all the best of luck in her English journey going forward, and I have no doubt that she will excel!

Media Consultant: I've enjoyed learning about the work that VISAS does at UVA and the people that are helped by the program!

Language Consultant: My language partner is Zhenyu Li, a Ph.D. student from Xian, China. We meet weekly through the What's App app and discuss similarities and differences between American and Chinese cultures. One fond memory is when we bonded over our passion for basketball. I enjoy watching the Women's National Championship team, the South Carolina Gamecocks, with UVa alums & Coach Dawn Staley, and he enjoys watching LeBron James from the Los Angeles Lakers. It has been a joy interacting with Zhenyu through the VISAS program. It is an experience I will cherish. Best Wishes, Zhenyu, on fulfilling your dreams...



Classroom Consultant: As a CC-10 I got to participate hands on and make connections with the students, and I've been nothing but impressed with their stories, mindset and dedication towards learning. I just want to thank everyone in ESL-911 for contributing to such a great classroom environment and I can't wait to participate in VISAS again when I return from my study abroad.

ESL Class Instructor: The CCs in my classroom are always engaged and attentive. The classroom would not function without them. Sometimes ITA's integrate CC's names or personalities into their presentations, showing the true impact of their presence in the classroom. Thank you to all my CCs!!

Café Attendee: Hey Luke, it was really nice to get to know you these past two semesters. You have good humor, and it was interesting to learn about life in China. I hope we can continue to meet in the fall!

- Kyle Tran

Language Consultant: I talked with Tseganesh this semester and really enjoyed her company. A highlight was when we watched the eclipse together, and I'm lucky to have met such a kind woman.

International Participant: I met two incredible LCs this year, Medha and Sydney. Both of them are fantastic English tutors, who are so willing to help me improve my English skill. I really appreciate their time and effort.

Language Consultant: This was my third semester being language partners with Sunbok Park. I appreciate how incredibly caring and kind Sunbok is. She always asks me how my week is going and wishes me good luck on my exams.

Language Consultant: I made so many fun memories during the weekly VISAS cafe sharing my own culture and learning that of others. The greatest take away is the friendships forged from the cafe. We would see one another outside of cafe and start random conversations on the walkways. It always makes my day when we bump into one another on grounds. I also bonded with my language partners these 2 semesters where we learn a little more about each other every single week. It's really interesting to see how different cultures share similar ideals expressed in different ways.

Conversation Facilitator: I have had a great semester with VISAS through conversing with people and learning new things about other cultures and countries

Language Consultant: I really enjoyed getting to know Alireza this year! We had so many great conversations. I appreciate how funny, thoughtful, and encouraging he is.

International Participant: VISAS has been an incredible opportunity to improve my English and learn more about different cultures. Thank you to Abby Perkins and Faisal for sharing their time and stories with me.

Workplace English Partner: Volunteering for both VISAS and MOVE has been surprisingly rewarding! Watching our English learners make so much progress and use the stuff they learn in class outside of it is just the best and highlights how important our efforts are. I always left the class with a smile on my face, and the communication with everybody has been nothing but smooth!

More Volunteer & Participant Feedback

VISAS 2023-2024

Language Consultant: I enjoyed getting to know my language partner's this past semester. We had some great conversations, and it was interesting to get to know what sort of schedules/lives they lead as PhD students. We also had a lot of fun doing different activities around groups including rock climbing, trying all the dining halls, and touring the different libraries. Overall, I really loved being a language consultant, and gaining new friends through this program.

Language Consultant: This semester I got to know Kyoungwon Jung. He was super nice and I really enjoyed getting to know about his experience in the medical field and studies, as well as learn about his life in South Korea. We ended up talking about travel a lot and I learned about different places in South Korea I should visit. I really enjoyed our talks this semester!

Workplace English Partner: I loved getting to know Wendy and bonding over our shared love for pasta and fish! Wendy made my week with her bright smile and funny stories about her family.

International Participant: I have greatly enjoyed being able to improve my English!

ESL Class Instructor: VISAS is a great opportunity for my students to use English to help others. This hopefully helps develop their interest in the English language, and makes them feel happy and fulfilled!

Language Consultant: It's been a such a blessing and joy to be paired up with the same VISAS's partner for three semesters now! I've learned a lot about their experience at UVA and also gained a deeper understanding of our shared culture. Looking forward to graduating with her next year around this time! :)

International Participant: It's really a fantastic memory to learn the difference between cultures so that we could more enjoy and respect the conversations.

Language Consultant: Really enjoyed having another LC and a new VISAS's partner this spring semester. We talked about her coming to the states, her work as a professor, and various interests.

Conversation Facilitator: Stella is one of the easiest people to talk to and is absolutely hilarious! So glad got to make a new friend through this

International Participant: I joined VISAS during the fall 2023 semester and it had been a great experience for me and my wife. My best memory was the first day at VISAS cafe where I met people from different countries and I am still in contact with many of them. I appreciate how the volunteers are really focused on accommodating our needs. We accidentally signed up for the online sheet and when we let them know about it they were very understanding and allowed us to find our in-person LC. We adored our LC Peter Kim and we are still in touch. He in fact came to our Bangladeshi Fest last Fall.

Workplace English Partner: I got to know Ayse this semester. I really enjoyed working with her. A fun memory was during one of our later sessions, where we discovered that we both liked the Turkish singer Tarkan.

International Participant: I just wanted to thank to both of my VISAS consultants. They were great and very kind. I really appreciate the time they spent with me and their patience to teach me english.

Workplace English Partner: I want to give a big thank you to Eden, Meleah, and Ross for being amazing workplace interns this year!! Their positive energy and creativity have made workplace sessions so fun, and I learned something from them every week :)

International Participant: I would like to thank everyone for their involvement, especially Arfa Butt, who I met most often and whose patience is admirable. And also to Raquel Lin. In addition to them, I would also like to thank Ada Zang for her emails, Elizabeth Wittner and the entire Visa team.

I loved talking to people who so kindly gave their time.

International Participant: It is excellent to have this program in UVA. It helped me a lot to improve my English level, but not only that, it also helped to be integrated in the UVA international community. Thanks a lot!!!

Language Consultant: Meeting with Dilara has been great! I've learned so much about Turkey, and we got the chance to explore grounds together, learn about each other's cultures, and enjoy coffee and matcha together!

Workplace English Partner: Deysi was an awesome partner and we became very good friends! I even helped her start a cleaning business!

International Participant: Jane is a talker, it was very good to find conversation subjects

Language Consultant: I had great meetings and learned a lot about Peruvian culture from my VISAS international participant. During our time spent together we shared stories about our experiences in Peruvian, American, and Salvadoran cultures.

International Participant: Many thanks both VISAS volunteers and international participants! You are all making our time at UVA more culturally rich and very funny. You are great!!

Classroom Consultant: I've loved getting to know everyone in the 9-11 class! Everyone has been so nice, and I actually learned a bit about English and how Americans speak, which I was not expecting at all.

Language Consultant: Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to learn more about your culture and for all the fun stories you had to tell about your childhood and hobbies! I really enjoyed hearing about all the fun facts you had and perspectives that I would not have had the chance to hear about if it weren't for you!

Language Consultant: I visited one of my language consultant partners (Shuxin) when she had set up shop at a Farmer's Market in downtown Charlottesville! It was our first in-person meeting, and it was great to meet her.

ESL Assistant: I really enjoyed spending time with all the volunteers and the learners! I learned a great amount from various subjects and fields.

Language Consultant: I have participated in VISAS for the last 3 years! It has been a great and extremely formative program that has been part of my UVA experience.

International Participant: I am meeting Zheng. She is a nice LC. We had lots of conversations about cross-culture and other kinds of stuff.

