

## 3 X 3

# BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH CULTURAL WISDOM

## 3 THINGS TO KNOW

**1** Most international students would love to have a close American friend, but 40% do not. Friendship in an unfamiliar culture is valuable.



**2** You might be the first Christian your international friend has met. Internationals are often open to spiritual conversations.

**3** Developing trust takes time and consistent prayer. Internationals often look for relationships that go deeper.



## X THINGS TO AVOID

**1** Avoid idioms, jokes, and pop-culture references unless you explain them. Speak at a slower pace; this will greatly increase understanding.



The show has come to an end; it's all over.

**2** Avoid assuming things about your new international friends. They have much they can teach you. Come with a learning posture.

**3** Avoid viewing your international friends as a project or ministry. International students need true friendships, and so do you!



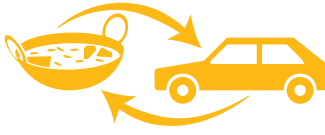
## 3 THINGS TO TRY

**1** Find where international students gather on campus and go there. Think network maps ([tiny.cc/net-map](http://tiny.cc/net-map)): try international clubs, cultural events, or pick-up sports games.



**2** Use open-ended questions in conversations to build relationships and share your faith. Reveal early on that you are a Christian.

**3** Internationals cherish reciprocity and hospitality. Ask what they need, offer practical help, and learn from them. Eg: Swap rides for cooking lessons.



## MORE RESOURCES

Questions? Email Adri [adri.fonteijn@intervarsity.org](mailto:adri.fonteijn@intervarsity.org)  
Put "Friendship 3x3" in subject line.

Article: Being Culturally Sensitive [tiny.cc/3x3friend](http://tiny.cc/3x3friend)

Booklet: *Crossing Cultures Here and Now* [tiny.cc/cchn](http://tiny.cc/cchn)

Book: *Crossing Cultures with Jesus: Sharing Good News with Sensitivity and Grace* [tiny.cc/ccwj](http://tiny.cc/ccwj)

Book: *A Beginner's Guide to Crossing Cultures: Making Friends in a Multicultural World* [tiny.cc/bgcc](http://tiny.cc/bgcc)

**3X3 resources give you quick tips and tools to help you engage international students.**

Check out more 3X3s at [tiny.cc/3BY3](http://tiny.cc/3BY3)

