

## What it takes to be a strong and effective sponsor:

Being a good sponsor can take several different forms. However, joining this program is a commitment to developing a lasting friendship which requires work. Often good sponsorship relationships include several key characteristics:

- Frequent contact with those you sponsor both electronically and in-person
- Invitations into your American homes for traditional American holidays such as Thanksgiving
- Attending and finding events to help or engage with your Fellow to understand American culture.

Being an effective sponsor means being a strong and dependable friend. Open communication and spending time with the Fellows forges bonds that will last long after studies have concluded.



## How to join:

If you are interested in joining our international outreach efforts, or if you would like more information on the program, feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to change the world one friendship at a time.

## Contact Us

International Student Management Office

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## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

**June 2016—June 2017**  
National Defense University

# International Sponsorship Program

The International Student Management Office (ISMO) manages a sponsor program designed to offer support and assistance to the International Fellows (IFs) studying at the National Defense University. Sponsors have the opportunity to establish a meaningful relationship with an international officer and their family. This helps the students of NDU deepen their understanding of the United States, our culture, and develop lasting connections during their studies here.

For over 30 years the sponsorship program has been helping foreign military officers adjust to and enjoy their time in the US. Since the program's inception hundreds of students have been aided by membership in the program. These Fellows have returned to service in their home countries with a more nuanced understanding and more meaningful ties to the United States.



## The Benefits of Sponsoring

Involvement provides sponsors the opportunity to learn about another culture first-hand. As a Sponsor, you will be invited to participate in receptions and activities at NDU, and build a network both at NDU and around the globe.

These events span the year and may include the following:

- Annual 4th of July Reception
- Andrews Air Force Base Air Show
- Director's BBQ Reception
- Formal Fall Welcome Reception
- DC United Tailgate and Soccer game
- Hosting Thanksgiving Dinner
- Bowling at JB Myer-Henderson Hall
- Sponsorship Appreciation Evening



## Your role in the program

Your role as a sponsor can take many forms and cover a wide range of responsibilities. Although ISMO will provide assistance in most transition items such as banking, schools, housing and medical needs. The sponsor serves as a force multiplier to provide additional, in-depth assistance. Sponsors answer questions about U.S. culture, customs, local shopping and activities.

There are also certain standard expectations for all sponsors. Sponsors need to make contact with their Fellow by phone or e-mail, shortly after receiving their Fellows contact information. Sponsors should meet face to face with their Fellow at least once a month. When eating with the Fellow, sponsors should understand their IF's basic food requirements as dictated by religious/cultural tradition and dietary restrictions. Be willing to explain and learn about each other's cultures in a respectful manner. Finally, ISMO encourages you to attend as many NDU sponsor program events as possible.

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*"For me, the sponsor program is an opportunity to build a bridge of understanding with someone from another culture. I learn from them and they learn from me and my wife."*

*-Chris Eagan, sponsor*

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