Welcome and thank you for your interest in Experience Adelaide, a strategic initiative by our University to connect international students with our local alumni and University staff, as individuals or with their respective family. The program aims at offering our overseas students a unique and personal education experience while they will be studying at the University of Adelaide. Experience Adelaide was launched in March 2014.

A. **Your Involvement**

‘Experience Adelaide’ is not a homestay, nor a mentoring program. It aims to welcome new international students by inviting them into our homes or on outings that reflect our Australian culture and lifestyle. These outings could be as simple as taking a coffee together in town or on campus, a BBQ in the park, a stroll along the beach or a cultural or sporting event – just to name a few examples. The program aims to help international students better adapt to their life in Adelaide, get to know Australian culture and people, further develop their social and language skills and build lasting connections.

We hope that it will also offer you an exceptional opportunity to discover the student’s culture, life and country.

**Timeline/Process**

Jan. & Feb. 2017
- Promotion for semester 1/2017 to new international students
- Promotion to local University community (alumni and staff)
- Briefing sessions for local University
- Collating of online registrations
- Registration deadline: 26 February 2017 (day before beginning of semester 1/2017)

March 2017
- Information session for registered international students
- Completion of matching process
- Announcement of matched parties by email (around mid-March 2017)
- 23 March 2017: Welcome reception for participants of semester 1/2017

From then on forward
- Joint activities by matched parties (*end date determined by parties*)
- Role of Project Manager: point of contact, facilitation, problem solving
- Online survey for program evaluation after approx. 6 months (starting after welcome reception)

*We cannot guarantee that we will be able to match you with a student, but once the matching process is complete, you will receive a notification of the outcome by email.*
B. How does the matching process work?

The Experience Adelaide Project Manager will match you with a registered international student, based as much as possible on shared interests. Some student might wish to be paired with a friend/another student, but we will not match you with more than 2 students. You can express preferences (cultural and/or linguistic, academic background, gender, etc.) and these will be taken into account as much as possible during the matching process. Please understand, however, that ‘preferences’ do not mean ‘requirements’. If a certain profile is a condition to your participation in the program, then you need to state that explicitly in the registration form. If you would like to be matched with more than one student we will gladly do that. Some students, particularly our postgraduate students, may have a partner or young family so this is something you may wish to take into consideration when you express your preferences for being matched.

Once we will have identified a student for you, we will confirm this with you by e-mail and invite you to the welcome reception on 23 March 2017, together with your assigned student(s). We would like you to get together with your matched student(s) for an activity of your choice. That activity does not need to be specifically organised for the student, but can be something you plan to do anyway with family or friends.

While we do hope that you and the student(s) will wish to meet several times, the frequency, time, activities and duration of your involvement in this program are determined only by you and your assigned student(s). The Experience Adelaide Project Manager will follow up with you and your assigned student ad-hoc to receive feedback. You will also receive a short online survey approximately 6 months after the welcome reception, to gain your final feedback.

C. Costs associated with the Program

We do request you please cover all costs for the international student(s) you will be matched with. The activities do, however, not need to cost anything. We recommend that you not consider any activity which may be costly.

D. Register online:

https://international.adelaide.edu.au/life/experience-adelaide/staff-alumni/register/

Please contact: Mrs Annette Wheatley, Project Manager, via e-mail: annette.wheatley@adelaide.edu.au or phone: (08) 8313 2284 for enquiries.

The program will be offered every semester. Registrations for local volunteers for semester 1/2017 will close on Sunday, 26 February 2017.
E. **University Insurance cover & safety measures**

The University insurance cover has been extended for this program. Policies extending cover to **participating international students**: Corporate Travel Policy & Group Personal Accident Policy

Policy extending cover to **participating local volunteers**: Third Party Public Liability Policy

**NO insurance cover for international student** in case of loss, damage or liability which results from flying in a privately owned aircraft (ie. a non-commercial aircraft) or from training for and/or participating in professional sport of any kind (i.e. for which the student receives any fee or monetary reward)

**NO insurance cover for local volunteers** for activities involving the ownership, possession or use of any aircraft.

The policy does provide cover in the event of high-risk activities related injuries, yet **your risk assessment** prior to any engagement in an activity is necessary.

**High-risk** activities include *(but are not limited to)*:

- Bungy-jumping
- Parachuting
- Skydiving
- Drag racing
- Rock fishing
- Rock climbing (indoors and outdoors)
- Water activities (e.g. diving, snorkelling, boating, swimming*, surfing, water skiing).
  
  *Please note*: many international students are unable to swim, so please ensure standard precautions are taken if the activity involves swimming.

- **And any activity that is likely to create a risk to life or limb.**

We urge you not to expose your international student to any activities which will be beyond the student’s capability and to take reasonable care to ensure your own safety, the safety of the student and of others while participating in the program.

- **Responsible service of alcohol (see next page)**

F. **What to do in case of problems**

In case of emergency/critical incident, please follow standard procedure and contact ‘000’.

Please contact the ‘Experience Adelaide’ Project Manager, Mrs Annette Wheatley:

- as soon as possible if you have any concerns
• within 24 hours of any injury or incident

For all questions regarding the University insurance cover please contact Mr Tom Pontt (Finance and Insurance Officer) by phone: 8313 3878; e-mail: thomas.pontt@adelaide.edu.au

G. Communication with University of Adelaide

Mrs Annette Wheatley, Project Manager, will be your main contact person at the University of Adelaide for this program. You will be able to reach Annette at the International Student Centre during normal office hours (9:00 am – 5:00 pm) by phone: 8313 2284 or e-mail: annette.wheatley@adelaide.edu.au

After hours, please contact the University of Adelaide Security Services (North Terrace campus) by phone: 8313 5990 (24 hours, 7 days/week). Please contact Annette Wheatley:

• as soon as possible if you have any concerns
• within 24 hours of any injury or incident
• if you wish to withdraw from the program
• if you as the registered volunteer can no longer be the primary contact person for your family

H. Some considerations when interacting with International students

• Exposure to alcohol:
Some international students might not be allowed to drink alcohol because of religious or health reasons. Others might, however, like to know more about wine appreciation and about the many wine regions South Australia has to offer.

In the past, some international students have commented that they had the impression Australians cannot have a good time and enjoy themselves without alcohol. While this comment could be endlessly debated, it is a fact that alcohol forms an important part of the lifestyle of many Australians. We ask that you take these perceptions into account when you are considering offering alcohol as part of your activity.

We would like to suggest offering both non-alcoholic and alcoholic options at meals and activities and not encourage the student to drink alcohol if s/he does not explicitly request it.

• Need for Australia Awards students to return home after graduation:
This group of students needs to return to their home country after graduation for at least 2 years and apply the knowledge acquired here. They should therefore not seek your support in finding employment or work experience opportunities in Australia.
• **Political situations in some home countries:**

We need to be mindful of the fact that some of our international students come from countries with a different political system than ours and that, therefore, political events and realities will influence the students’ life here.

• **Cultural Considerations**

Given the wide variety of countries from where our international students originate, there are some cultural considerations that will hopefully be useful for you in preparation for your meeting with your international student (Appendix A).

We would like to suggest you also utilise the Internet and specific publications to find out more about your student’s country, culture and customs before meeting him/her.