Cultural Engagement and the Exchange Visitor Program
Educational exchange can turn nations into people...

J. William Fulbright
1945: Senator Fulbright introduces a bill to use proceeds from the sale of government war property to fund the “promotion of good will” through the exchange of students between the United States and other nations.

1946: President Truman signs the Fulbright-Hays Program into law, declaring “If we do not want to die together in war, we must learn together in peace.”

1961: President Kennedy signs the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act to promote “the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations” between the U.S. and other countries. The J exchange visitor visa is created to implement the Act.

2013: Department of State reminds J visa sponsors that “cross-cultural exchange is the crux of the Exchange Visitor Program.”
Mission Statement:
“...increase mutual understanding between people of the United States and people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges, thereby strengthening the ties between the nations.”
Regulations

22 CFR 62.1(b)

The purpose of the Program is to provide foreign nationals with opportunities to participate in educational and cultural programs in the United States and return home to share those experiences.
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22 CFR 62.8(d)

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(1) offer or make available… a variety of appropriate cross-cultural activities [giving exchange visitors] the broadest exposure to American society, culture and institutions…

(2) encourage exchange visitors to voluntarily participate in activities… for the purpose of sharing the language, culture or history of their home country with Americans…
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Why are you at the University of Washington?
Exchange Visitors are scholars
Exchange Visitors are ambassadors
Exchange Visitors are explorers
Questions to take back to the office

1. How can we ensure compliance with our legal obligation to “offer or make available… appropriate cross-cultural activities?”

2. Do our cross-cultural activities provide exchange visitors the broadest exposure to American society? Do we provide them opportunities to share with us and our students the culture and history of their home countries?

3. How best to keep records about the cross-cultural activities we offer? Are we prepared to provide a report of our activities to the Department of State?
For more information

E-mail ISO at: acadvisa@uw.edu

Cultural exchange requirement:
https://ap.washington.edu/ahr/visas/j1/j-1-cultural-exchange-requirement/

Our website:
http://ap.washington.edu/ahr/visas/
FIUTS advances international understanding through cross-cultural experiences, student leadership, and community connections.

www.fiuts.org
FIUTS K-12 Education Outreach Programs

Pen Pal Program
Connects UW students with 4th-5th grade children for 8 week letter exchange followed by campus visit.

Global Ambassador Day
UW students visit K-12 classrooms as presenters, sharing activities from their own country and culture.
FIUTS Community Visits

Small group visits to communities around Washington State.

Full day program includes:
- School Presentation
- Tours and Site Visits
- Public Event or Hosted Meal
FIUTS CulturalFest

Campus and Community Celebration of Cultural Diversity!

CulturalFest Expo
Thursday, February 8
More than 40 cultural booths, presented by students and scholars. 2,500+ visitors, including 800 children on field trips

CulturalFest Performance Showcase
Saturday, February 10
Ticketed Meany Hall event featuring selected groups performing music, dance, and martial arts. Small scale expo in lobby. 1,000 guests.
Other FIUTS Programs

International Student Orientation
Student Leadership
Social Events & Activities
Wednesday Lunch
Homestay and Community Programs
Visiting Programs
Thank you!

Questions?

Additional Ideas?