

CCIS volunteers continue to serve international graduate students, visiting scholars and their families at Stanford University. Read about some of our programs and events!



"Notes at the Top"

Annette Isaacson, President

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

There is a strong strain of volunteerism in the American character that I admire. We often learn it at our mother's knee. I used to accompany my mom as she walked the neighborhood collecting for the March of Dimes in the 1950s. I learned that when individuals joined together they could do great things.

When folks become parents they often volunteer in their child's classroom or in the PTA or as scout leaders or as coaches for soccer or Little League. Some folks become volunteers because of their friends or colleagues and volunteer for environmental clean-ups or soup kitchens or animal rescue. There are so many great volunteer opportunities.

Some folks, like you, volunteer with CCIS. You might be a board member or an English teacher, a Friday Morning Coffee participant, or an English in Action partner, a Hospitality Host, or a Virtual Welcome Partner.

No matter how you volunteer, you can be sure that those you come in contact with think you are great. Thank you for your service.

With gratitude,

Annette Isaacson
CCIS President

Thanks for being a part of CCIS and supporting our International Community at Stanford.

president@ccisstanfordu.org

Meet the volunteer



Vivian Euzent co-chair of English in Action

Reading by chance an article about CCIS and the Bechtel Center in the newspaper over ten years ago led Vivian Euzent to the **English in Action** program. After speaking with a staff person at Bechtel, she decided that being an EIA partner would best suit her interests.

The English in Action program matches English-speaking community volunteers with Stanford international graduate students, visiting scholars, post-doctorates, or spouses. Partners meet weekly for casual conversation and cultural exchange.

Vivian states that she learned three important skills during her time with EIA. First, be patient with her partners to give them time to compose what they want to say. Second, have a partner who wants to do anything and make the experience fun for both participants. Third, a Japanese partner spurred Vivian to learn Japanese so that she could converse with the parents when they visited. (Vivian has continued her efforts to learn Japanese.)

Asked about her favorite memory she discussed a heart-warming incident. An EIA partner (a spouse) printed the post meeting emails Vivian sent to her and shared them with her husband. She then taught him the new English vocabulary that Vivian had provided. The husband earned a PhD and was hired at Intel. He felt that his increased ability to converse in English (because of the EIA interaction) was a strong factor in being hired.

Vivian has enjoyed meeting her partners for doing simple activities, like shopping or hiking. Her favorite place to take partners is the San Andreas Fault Earthquake Trail in the Los Trancos Preserve area: <https://www.openspace.org/preserves/los-trancos>

COVID has put restrictions on the interaction with partners. Meetings have been conducted on Zoom. For those who are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable, meetings can be held in person.

Friday Morning Coffee continues

This popular program has continued on Zoom. Recent interesting topics have covered life in the United States. In January the group discussed Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy. The topics in February included Ground Hog Day (how do you explain this crazy event?) and the Super Bowl.



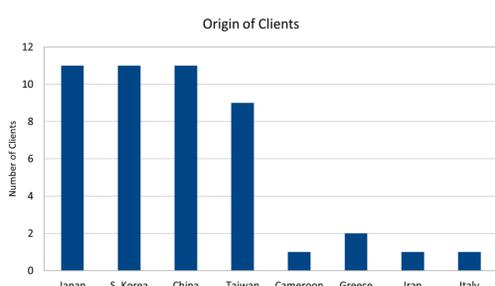
For an international focus the Chinese Lunar New Year was described by several participants. The artwork of French artist Anilore Banon was presented by a participant, Elisabeth Gnansia.

If you would like to participate in future meetings contact: ragnak@stanford.edu

Behind the Scenes at English in Action

Information provided by Vivian Euzant and Elizabeth Ambuhl- co-chairs of EIA

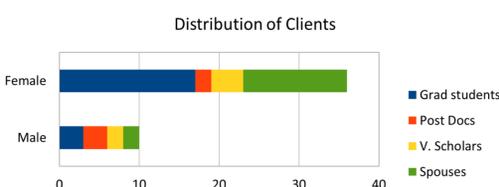
The very popular CCIS program, **English in Action**, matches community volunteers with international clients so they can practice speaking English and learn about American culture. This academic year we have made 47 matches and counting! While most of our clients originate from Asian countries, we do have a few from other parts of the world.



We target graduate students working on their masters or doctorate degrees, visiting scholars working on a research project as part of a degree in their home country or a special program for their current specialty, post doctorate researchers who are paid employees of Stanford, visiting professors, and the spouses of all.

While graduate students, visiting scholars, visiting professors, and spouses may have more flexible schedules based on their class schedules, post doc researchers' schedules are often determined by the project on which they work and, hence, their schedules are not as flexible.

Spouses are generally highly trained professionals. Their careers in their home country this year have included nurse, cardiologist, sales marketing manager, visual merchandiser, medical doctor, flight attendant, music teacher, dentist, urban and innovation specialists (involving patents).



Since the pandemic, English in Action partners now meet virtually as well as in person (vaccinations required). Approximately ten percent of clients meet only virtually while the remaining clients meet either in person or a combination of in person and virtually. Meeting times can be in the evenings and on weekends. This has allowed us to serve more international clients as well as make volunteering possible for people who are not available during weekdays. Thirty percent of partners meet weekdays and the remainder (70%) meet either evenings or weekends.

We are grateful to our members for being community volunteers and meeting regularly with carefully matched international clients. We recruit volunteers by posting on Nextdoor, by word-of-mouth, and through other community organizations. Below are tips on how you can become an English in Action volunteer and also how to make it easier for us to find a good match for you.

- If you aren't already a CCIS member- fill out the application form online. <https://ccisstanfordu.org/membership/membership.html>. This necessary step is **free** and it registers you in our database.
- If you are a member- you can update your membership to apply to be an EIA volunteer or send an email to the address shown below.
- Fill out the entire form, being sure to check the box for *English in Action* as well as the box *I am ready for a new partner*.
- Go wild when ticking off the boxes telling us about your interests. These are just topics for possible conversations with your partner. Maybe you don't cook but you have some favorite cuisines you like to eat. Or maybe you don't play any sports, but you do enjoy watching some on TV. The more interests you check, the easier it is to match you with a partner.
- Be as flexible as possible on when you can meet, how you will meet (In person? Virtually?), and who you would like to meet. It greatly reduces your chances of being matched if only you want a partner from South America who is a visiting professor. Feel free to add comments in the EIA box to share special information about yourself.



EIA volunteer Karina Nelsen and partner Yangji Li in front of the Cantor Arts Center. December 2021

They invite you to become a EIA volunteer!

eia@ccisstanfordu.org

A word from the editor

As the newsletter editor, I hope you will enjoy learning more about what's happening at CCIS. **Your feedback is welcome--send an email to notes@ccisstanfordu.org.**

Pamela Baird