These international students are organizing Global Gopher Events and the other fun activities happening throughout the summer! You can contact them by emailing isuccess@umn.edu or on Instagram (@isssumn).

Global Gopher Leaders

Ray Wu

Hi everyone, my name is Ray. I use he/him/his gender pronouns. I am a junior studying psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. I am from Shanghai, China. I am really excited to show you all about my experience and help you to transition into campus life.

My tip for you all is to keep an open mind. When you assimilate to American campus life, there could be culture shocks, so keeping an open mind will be a good option to learn more new things about other cultures. At the same time, learning different cultures will help to think about things through different perspectives which will benefit you in the long run. Feel free to explore different things and enjoy your college experience.

Ky

Hi everyone, my name is Ky. I use she/her/hers pronouns. I am from Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. I am a senior majoring in Developmental Psychology.

I am very excited to be your GGE Leader this year. My advice for you as a first-year student is to not be afraid to reach out to others for help and take any job/volunteer opportunity you can. You might end up with the best experiences in your college life.
Ife

Hi, my name is Ife. I use he/him/his pronouns. I am a senior studying economics in the college of Liberal Arts. I enjoy reading, and playing/watching soccer.

A piece of advice that I think is important is to make sure to try to put yourself out there. Try to meet people. When you walk into a room, introduce yourself to at least one person, because the people you meet during these 4 years will most likely be your people for life.

Leo

Hi everyone, My name is Leo Ma. I am from Beijing, my gender pronouns are he/him/his, and I am currently a sophomore majoring in Landscape Architecture. My hobbies are photography, playing bridge and badminton.

Getting to Minneapolis in spring could be a hard time if you are from places that never snowed. I suggest everyone get more than enough clothes for the cold winter and be prepared for other winter protections like gloves and masks etc. Also, the weather here could be really dry, so always having lipstick with you will be really helpful. I am really looking forward to meeting all of you in the GGE. I hope you will enjoy and learn more about the University and the city.

Global Gopher Influencers

Bhargavi

Hello, I’m Bhargavi! My pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am a third year Chemical Engineering student at the College of Science and Engineering. I was born in India and have been raised in the Middle East in the countries of Oman and Qatar. I love playing badminton, going on walks near nature, and having fruitful conversations about philosophical ideas.

My advice to new students would be to take a deep breath and know that everything will turn out okay at the end of the day! Making mistakes and overcoming them is a natural part of college. I promise that you’ll only learn from them and come out from it a more emotionally mature, strong individual.
Meejoo Cho

Hello, I’m Meejoo Choi! I use she/her/hers pronouns. I am a rising junior studying Marketing and Management Information System at Carlson School of Management. I was born and raised in South Korea.

My advice to new students is to explore campus resources and ask questions! Our university has plenty of resources. It will be essential to figure out what you need help with and ask for it! In addition, I hope you can meet new people through campus events and student organizations. I learned a lot through socializing with people who have different backgrounds, personalities, and perspectives.

Huda Ahmed

Hey, everyone! I’m Huda Ahmed, and I use she/her/hers pronouns. I’m a sophomore majoring in Psychology at the College of Liberal Arts. I’m from India but I was born and raised in Dubai. Jamming out on my guitar, playing soccer, and going out on picnics with my friends, are just a few activities I enjoy.

To all the incoming international students: don’t be afraid to go out and explore the campus and city. Yes, your college work comes first, but take some time out to appreciate Minnesota and all it has to offer you. Find spaces that make you feel at home, and make sure to utilize the warmer months to spend time outdoors!

Minhui Pei

Hi, My name is Minhui. I use she/her/hers pronouns, and I am from Taiwan. I am a junior majoring in Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. I enjoy doing winter sports after coming to Minnesota.

My advice is not to be afraid of reaching out and putting yourself out there to try different things. You will probably encounter difficulties during your transition. The University has tons of resources that could help.
Michelle

Hi everyone! My name is Michelle, and my pronouns are she/her hers. I’m from Jakarta, Indonesia and I’m a second year College of Science and Engineering student who plans to major in Chemical Engineering and minor in Economics.

A piece of advice that I think would be useful to new students: Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone! You’ll never know where a single step might take you.

Culture Corp Team

Satomi Mitani

Hello, my name is Satomi. I use she/her/hers gender pronouns. I am a first-year PhD student, specialized in international education, at the College of Education and Human Development. I am from Japan.

My advice to you is trying to have communities that you feel you truly belong to. Joining a student group or Cross-Cultural Discussion Group, engaging with your department's cohort, or becoming a Global Gopher Leader can be one of them. Your community does not necessarily have to be the US-originated one. It is also okay if the members of the organization are from your country, like (in my case) Japan. The people you will meet, you will go out with, or you will work with will be your great assets to survive your new life in the US. I hope you have many wonderful encounters!!!

International Buddy Program Leadership Team

Gyeongeun Park

Hi everyone! Welcome to the University of Minnesota! My name is Gyeongeun from Seoul, South Korea, and I go by she/her/hers pronouns. I am a senior studying political Science and Economics in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA). I am excited to share my college life with you all at the UMN global-minded community and happy to help you transition into the campus.

My best advice is do not hesitate to ask for help and use campus resources when you deal with the difficulties of having new experiences, learning new things, and communicating with various people. We are always open to your questions, so feel free to reach out to us!
Pear Tanthavorn

Hi all! My name is Pear (she/her/hers), and I am from Bangkok, Thailand. I am a rising senior studying Finance in CSOM. I want to give you a warm welcome to the UMN college life, and I am delighted to be a part of your amazing journey!

My little advice is to take advantage of the UMN limitless resources whether it is talking to professors, networking with friends, becoming a student leader, or even using free printing! I found those to be valuable opportunities for me to improve myself, personally and professionally. So, make wise uses of them while they last!

Seoyeon Bae

Hi everyone! My name is Seoyeon, and I use she/her/hers pronouns. I’m a senior double majoring in psychology and strategic communication focusing on advertising. I’m from Seoul, South Korea, and I’m so excited for you all to join our UMN community!

I would say my favorite advice is to step out of your comfort zones and challenge yourself. You never know where you’ll find your people, passions, and valuable experiences. Personally, I’ve met such amazing people, got wonderful opportunities, and learned so much through experiences that I didn’t expect much from. Say yes to the next volunteer, work, or engagement opportunities you run into and see where it takes you!

Dat Luong

Hey yall! My name is Dat, and I go by he/him/his pronouns. I’m currently a rising junior studying Computer Science. I come from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Welcome yall to the University of Minnesota! I know that yall will have a wonderful time here. I know that the transitioning process between high school and college is rough, but I believe that yall can ace it eventually.

My best advice for this transition process is to finish your work well before the due date so that you won’t have to catch up on too many things near the due date. Anyway, I wish yall the best of luck, and again, a big welcome to yall. GoPher it Gophers!
Hello everyone! My name is Rome, I use he/his pronouns. I’m a junior studying Economics. I come from Surat, India. Welcome to the University of Minnesota! I am sure you all will enjoy your time here. Transitioning to college can be tough but it is one of the most life changing and adventurous moments in your life.

My best advice for transitioning to college is explore as much as you can, be open to new experiences and meeting new people of various backgrounds, and overall just take advantage of all the new opportunities offered to you.