

## Intercultural Leadership and Church Relations

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The Office of Intercultural Programs (OIP) exists as part of Intercultural Leadership and Church Relations to meet the specific needs of American ethnic students, international students, missionary kids (MKs), and third culture kids (TCKs) at Taylor University. OIP works to cultivate an intercultural encouraging, supporting, and welcoming environment that provides educational and experiential opportunities for all students, staff, and faculty. Our programs and events promote leadership, racial reconciliation, global engagement, and cultural humility and highlight the beauty of God's creation in every person.

We function based on five pillars:

- Keep God at the center of our diversity efforts
- Build on our individual and organizational strengths
- Celebrate and engage diversity
- Recognize the struggles faced by those around you
- Provide hospitality

We provide an environment where:

- Students are developed to be Christ-centered servant-leaders
- Students are supported and advocacy is provided
- Students are prepared for the future by engaging in programs that cultivate understanding and provide interaction with the entire Taylor community
- We offer positive, respectful, and meaningful dialogue around issues of diversity
- We seek the recruitment, retention, and graduation of ethnically diverse students
- We build engagement and collaboration with Taylor's community, faculty, and staff

We provide experiential opportunities for students and celebrate the cultures of students. Our events promote cultural and racial reconciliation and global engagement while recognizing we are made in the Imago Dei (image of God). Taylor students can gain leadership experience and share their culture through six organizations:

- Asian Society for Intercultural Awareness (ASIA)
- Black Student Union (BSU)
- Latino Student Union (LSU)
- Middle Eastern Collegiate Association (MECA)
- Multicultural Student Association (MSA)
- Voices of Praise Gospel Choir

We also provide leadership opportunities, mentoring, and connections to especially help first-generation students and urban student leaders thrive during their time at Taylor. These opportunities are provided through our scholar programs:

- Act Six Scholarship Program
- Cultural Diversity Scholarship Program (CDS)

We also seek to support the unique needs of international students, MKs, and TCKs by providing opportunities to build community while meeting the obstacles and challenges that a student coming from another country may face. This starts immediately when a student arrives for International Orientation, where their peers welcome them from around the world. We provide legal support for F-1 students and student development care through student affinity groups, whose goals are to create a community for its members:

- MuKappa (missionary kids organization)
- International Student Society (ISS)