A valuable part of studying overseas is meeting new people and making new friends. This is your opportunity to learn more about other people's culture and many lifelong friendships are formed at University. Sometimes it is easy to surround yourself with people and friends from your home country, but we would encourage you to expand your group of friends to include other students, both local and international.

**UTASLife**

UTASLife is a group made up of current students, both international and domestic. They run many activities and social events throughout the year and provide lots of opportunities for you to meet new people and make new friends. Some of their activities include weekly Refresh Sessions, UniMates sessions, Cooking on Campus, Human Library and off-campus trips.

**International Peer Leaders**

International Peer Leaders are current international students who are here to help you settle into your new environment. They can connect students within their College to University held events and activities and are available for one-on-one consultations to share their experience and give tips on how they made friends when they came to the University of Tasmania.

**Clubs and Societies**

The Tasmanian University Union (TUU) offer lots of different clubs and societies. Joining a club or a society is a great way to get involved, try new activities and meet new people. You can find a list of the clubs and societies on the TUU website.

**Volunteering**

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and make new friends while contributing to the community. Volunteering also allows you to gain some work experience skills to help you in the workforce once you graduate. There are opportunities to volunteer at the University through Mumford's Pride and UTAS Life.

Volunteering Tasmania can also give you further information about volunteering and the opportunities available in the broader community.

**Practising English**

Student Learning offers opportunities at UTAS to practise your Aussie English skills and make friends at the same time. You could attend the weekly ‘Speak English with Confidence’ workshops, visit the Student Learning website, or visit Drop In to talk with a Student Learning Mentor.

**Students with families**

Students who are accompanied by their families are usually keen to get to know people in the community, and one good way is for students and/or their partners to join a community group. There are local groups focused on all kinds of interests, from sports and hobbies to volunteering and community service. Apart from searching online, the local library or council offices are good places to find out about groups in your area.

For students with children, there are other opportunities as well. Having children in school or childcare can give you the chance to interact with other parents and families, and you may be able to volunteer at the school regularly or for special events. During school holidays, the public libraries and local councils often organise activities for children and families as well – usually these are free or at low cost.

Parents with younger children may be able to find a local parents' group that meets casually for children to play together while parents get to know each other and share experiences. These groups often get together in local parks or playgrounds, and the best way to find out about them is usually through your nearest Community Health Centre.