

Speaker 1: [00:00](#) This is Taylor Millsap.

Speaker 2: [00:01](#) My name is Damla Unal.

Speaker 3: [00:03](#) And I'm Parker Evans.

Speaker 1: [00:04](#) Welcome to our anthropology 103 podcast. [music plays] At Parkland College, 3% of your student body is made up of international students. One of the biggest issues international students have when adjusting to college life is isolation and loneliness. To help combat that, the International Student Association was founded,

Speaker 3: [00:33](#) The ISA provides a community space where international and American students on campus can socialize, make friends and learn about each other's cultures. This also helps them to acclimate to Parkland's campus environment and life in the U.S. in general.

Speaker 1: [00:48](#) For our research project, we are looking into how the ISA helps international students with socialization. ISA meetings take place in the X-Wing of Parkland College. Meetings are held in a large bright room that appears to be designed for studying. As members filter in, they're in there talking and joking with one another. Everyone seems really close like they know each other and they are comfortable in each other's presence.

Speaker 2: [01:15](#) To gather our data for our project, we had done a combination of participant observation and individual interviews. For participant observation, we attended a couple of ISA meetings, which are on Thursdays. Some of the members we interviewed were the faculty advisor, the president, vice president, and two active members. So after questions we asked were about what their role was in their situation, how do you learn about it, what their favorite thing about it was, what things could be done to improve it, if it extends outside of the weekly meetings, what the goals of it are and how it achieved these goals. Here are the answers we got from them.

Speaker 4: [02:01](#) What is your favorite thing about the ISA? Freedom. Freedom. How would you describe your general experience with the ISA? Honestly, because there are people from other culture to other countries, so you get to learn and get used to their culture and make new friends. So my favorite thing about ISA, when I first joined, right, I noticed how welcoming it feels because, um, whenever we have a new member, we always try our best to get to know that person, to make them feel welcome. That's

just what I love about it. I see is that every one's fault. It just has a very welcoming sort of applied to it.

- Speaker 1: [02:47](#) What is your favorite thing about ISA?
- Subject 1: [02:50](#) Is just meeting people I like.
- New Speaker: [02:54](#) Okay. What is your favorite thing about the organization?
- Subject 2: [02:59](#) Um, just meeting new, meeting new, meeting new friends and having fun. Um, and it creates that I wasn't a very socialized person, but now I'm more open right now. It's so good. Um, cause before I come to, uh, when I first came here, it was kind of hard. I didn't have anything to do. I didn't have any friends, blah, blah, blah. Now, I hang out with these people, uh, sometimes, you know, make friends and I'm like one of the happiest person I [laughs] [inaudible] um, plays a role in that. So. Yeah.
- Speaker 1: [03:40](#) That's great.
- Speaker 3: [03:47](#) During one of the meetings we attended the ISA held an election for the next ISA president, as the current president was graduating. We use this as an opportunity to interview people, including the new ISA president about the future of the ISA.
- Speaker 2: [04:06](#) Um, so what are your plans for the future of ISA as a president? What do you,
- Subject 3: [04:11](#) Okay. Um, well, I want to take, ISA to a higher standard, like I want, whenever somebody talks about Parkland, that person should mention ISA. I mean we, we want to make it the best place or the best organization here for everyone. Okay. Um, it's not only for international students, but also for everyone who wants to come, you know, to enjoy, um, make new friends and have a happy hour basically.
- Speaker 2: [04:50](#) Um, in your opinion, what is the goal of ISA?
- Subject 3: [04:53](#) Um, the, okay. In my opinion, um, the goal of ISA is to create, um, friendship slash relationship. Um, you know, create, what's the word? Um, create in that atmosphere where everybody,
- Speaker 2: [05:16](#) Fellowship.
- Subject 3: [05:16](#) Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Um, where everybody's welcome. Just, um, know about other cultures. Know about other countries, know

about each other. Know about, um, um, you know, test other foods and play, all different kind of, kind of, kinds of game.

Speaker 3:

[05:42](#)

Through our research, we have found that the ISA helps with socialization by simply providing a friendly and supportive environment for not just international students, but local students as well. It is that combination of learning through socialization that makes the ISA such a compelling place for students to hang out. This has been anthropology 103 at Parkland College.