



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Participant Guide

Thank you for your interest in participating in UT's 41st annual International Festival! Student-organized booths, performances, and demonstrations are the cornerstone of the festival, and the International House team is looking forward to working with you to celebrate UT's global diversity and community!

The information below has been compiled to help you understand the goals of the festival and what you need to know about participating. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the International House at ihouse@utk.edu or visit the reception desk. Our helpful student assistants will answer your questions or direct you to the staff member who can.

After you submit a participation application, you will receive an email from a member of I-House staff within 3 business days. The International House wants to make this experience fun and fulfilling for you and your group, so please let us know if you need help with anything as you prepare for the festival.

Again, thank you for your interest and willingness to participate in the festival. It is one of my favorite days of the year thanks to students like you who put thought and energy into sharing customs and traditions that remind us all that our community's diversity is a strength worth celebrating!

All the best,
Lauren Wood
International House Director

Friday, October 25, 2024
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pedestrian Walkway



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Purpose

International House's most popular event for decades, International Festival is a vibrant celebration of UT's global community. Student groups and organizations host booths with food, activities, art, and more to showcase their cultural traditions. Along with music and dance performances, a fashion show, and cultural demonstrations, the International Festival provides our campus community with an opportunity to explore cultures from around the world without ever leaving campus. Learn more about the history of the festival and last year's event [here](#).



Goals

1) We hope that students hosting booths and providing performances and demonstrations enjoy sharing their respective cultures and traditions and feel that they are valued members of the campus community.

2) We hope that festival attendees and participants:

- learn about traditions and cultural practices different from their own;
- reflect on their respective cultural identities;
- reflect on the interconnectedness of our global society;
- leave the festival feeling curious and motivated to learn and experience more; and
- understand that International House is a resource where they can access local opportunities for global engagement, community, and support.

3) We will practice sustainability and invite others to join us as we engage as global citizens who can participate in creating a more peaceful and prosperous world.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





Expectations of Booth Hosts

General

- Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority will be given to student groups whose booths align with festival goals.
- Prepare a booth that provides festival participants with the opportunity to learn about and experience an element of (or many elements of!) your country, region, or cultural group.
- Be familiar with and actively supportive of festival goals.
- Respond to emails and information requests from International House about festival matters.
- If your booth must cancel participation in the festival, notify International House via email (ihouse@utk.edu) no later than Friday, October 18 at 4:00 pm. If you cancel after that time, your group/organization will be required to pay a \$150 fee to cover the cost of the tent rental.
- Be present at your booth throughout the festival, and do not close it until the festival ends at 2 pm. Some festival attendees may not be able to arrive until 1:45 pm, and we want them to have a positive experience and not feel like they missed all the fun because booths were already closed.
- Decorate your booth to help attendees learn and become curious! Ask International House for materials they may already have that you might want to borrow. (Please consider using reusable decorations. Ask I-House for suggestions if you need ideas. We'd love to help with this!)
- Answer a questionnaire about your booth for festival marketing, emcee talking points, and the festival playlist.

Food/Drinks

- If your booth is serving food or drinks, provide information about what you are serving and describe its cultural significance.
- A representative from your group must attend one of our Food Safety Workshops (Oct. 14 & 17). Failure to do so will result in your group not being allowed to serve food or drinks at the festival.
- Follow all safety measures outlined at the workshop. If a measure is violated, the booth will be given a warning. Upon second violation, the booth will be closed.
- Support the festival's goal of having a zero-waste event. International House will provide all booths serving food or drinks with compostable food service materials at no cost to you. You just need to fill out the supply form you receive to notify us of the items you need.

Schedule

8:30-9:45 am	Setup
9:30 am	Check in deadline for booths serving food
10 am - 2 pm	Festival!
2-2:30 pm	Clean up

Questions about hosting a booth?

Contact our festival booth coordinator Jenny at ihousega2@utk.edu.



DID YOU KNOW?

Last year's International Festival included 18 booths that served food/drink, and it produced only 1 bag of landfill waste which meant it was considered a zero-waste event! Let's do it again!

Thanks to the incredible cooperation of our booth hosts and attendees and the support of the Office of Sustainability, we were able to limit the use of single-use plastics and prioritize the use of reusable and compostable materials.

Zero-waste event = >90% waste diverted from landfill



Expectations of Performance, Cultural Demonstration, & Fashion Show Participants

- Student group priority deadline: Apply by Monday, September 16.
- Prepare a performance, demonstration, or fashion entry that provides festival participants with the opportunity to learn about and experience an element of (or many elements of!) your country, region, or cultural group.
- Be familiar with and actively supportive of festival goals.
- Respond to emails and information requests from International House about festival matters.
- Arrive and check in with festival stage manager at designated time.
- Answer a questionnaire about your performance/demonstration/clothing for festival marketing, emcee talking points, and the festival playlist.
- Demonstrations are a fun way to share a custom, tradition, or technique that might not be a traditional performance. It can be as simple as teaching a children's game or be something a little more involved like teaching a simple folk song. Some other ideas are dance lessons, simple food/drink preparation, poetry readings, drum circles, and art demonstrations. You can have one person or a group of people on the stage demonstrating, or you can invite audience participation. There are lots of possibilities!
- Since the festival is occurring on a weekday, we are not allowed to use amplified sound (speakers) during class times. This means that performances that require use of a microphone, music, etc. need to be scheduled during the following windows:
 - 10-10:20 am
 - 11:10-11:30 am
 - 12:20-12:40 pm
 - 1:30-1:50 pm

Thank you for understanding that we must follow a tight schedule to ensure that we follow university guidelines. If we do not, we could be risking future opportunities for International Festival.

Questions about performing, leading a demonstration, or participating in the fashion show?
Contact our festival stage manager Cymone at cymone.samuels@utk.edu.