Welcome Corps on Campus

is a U.S. Department of State program that empowers campus communities to sponsor refugees through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. While welcoming refugee students through private sponsorship is a significant commitment, your campus community is already uniquely positioned to support refugee students in obtaining a higher education degree while helping them to integrate into their new communities.

The Welcome Corps on Campus provides ongoing support and guidance throughout the sponsorship journey ensuring that your campus is ready to provide the warmest welcome for a refugee student.

Private Sponsor Groups

Sponsoring as a campus community helps refugees better integrate and can be deeply rewarding for everyone involved. Campus private sponsor groups offer refugee students a softer landing by providing the necessary academic, logistical and integration support as they pursue a higher education degree.

With the support of institutional leadership, sponsor groups welcome refugee students who are academically qualified and have been offered a sponsorship opportunity to study at your college or university.

Sponsor groups must have at least five members, and all sponsors must meet the same minimum eligibility requirements:

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- Complete and pass the required background check;
- 18 years or older; and
- Have a connection to the campus and surrounding community where the refugee student will resettle.

The Welcome Corps on Campus recommends an all-of-campus approach. Your group should include a variety of campus leaders and stakeholders—staff, faculty, students, and community members—to provide refugee students with holistic supports during the 12-month sponsorship period.

Ways to Welcome Refugee Students

There are two ways to welcome refugee students through the Welcome Corps on Campus.

Match with a refugee student

The Welcome Corps on Campus team identifies refugee students residing overseas in select locations and matches them with participating institutions. Students submit an online application, including academic and refugee status documents. Shortlisted students complete a pre-screening English language test and take part in an in-person interview before final selection.

Refer a refugee student

Institutions can form a campus private sponsor group to refer a specific refugee student to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. To qualify for a referral, refugee students must meet all Welcome Corps on Campus program and refugee eligibility criteria.

Sponsoring Refugees Students. Strengthening Campus Communities.

Campus ecosystems provide access to education, housing, health services, and social supports. Our team provides ongoing support and guidance. Learn more at welcomecorps.org/campus and take the first step in your sponsor journey.