



Daniela Wambold for International Officer

I'm very international myself – ¼ American, ¼ Iranian, and ½ American, with lots of other minorities mixed in. I have family all around the world – Asia, S America, Europe, N America, the Middle East, and Africa – so, I have much experience with **learning about** and **combining many cultures** (harmoniously).

Not only have I lived in New York, London, and Indonesia, but I've also travelled so much that I've had to get three new passports to have pages for stamping! I have a **great appreciation of other cultures**, and spend much time learning about them.

I'm an **outgoing** and very **friendly** person – I like to think that everyone feels they can come to me **any time and talk to me about anything** without my sharing what they've said. I also have the **courage** to bring up any issues that may arise and the problem-solving skills to try to help settle them.

I spent 3 months this summer working (for free) at a hotel with guests from all over the world. I interacted with them 5 days a week, 10 hours a day, whether they were asking for help, complaining about a problem, or simply wanted a chat. I was named 6 times in 1 month as the staff member who'd made the most positive impression on a guest. As int'l officer, I'd be available **7 days a week, 24 hours a day**.

What I would do:

Ensure that the international students feel **welcome** from the moment they know they have been accepted at Pembroke. To do this, I will give them information about both fitting in and retaining their individual identities. I will make it clear that they do not have to relinquish their culture in order to be accepted and loved at our University and that we would love for them to share that heritage with us, be it religion, history, politics, music, dance, or food!

Have more events directed at **mingling** of the international and 'domestic' communities in addition to the pre-existing getting-to-know-other-internationals opportunities. These events would include **local cuisines, music, films/books/art, news, and history**. I would organise ethnic troughs as well as formals, and would plan potlucks in which all participants would cook different dishes (or burn traditional CDs if their cuisine leaves something to be desired), so that all students would be able to contribute some of their own flavour to the proceedings.

Equip international students with all the necessary **information about the practical aspects** of moving to a new country, including **luggage, bank accounts, telephones, language, food, and location orientation**. I would endeavour to have someone available to explain this information **in the student's mother tongue**.

Personally make **each individual** international student feel that they are welcome and that they can come to me at any time or place to have a **chat, a meal, a drink, a cry, or just a sit**. I will try, in an unobtrusive manner, to check up on all international students to ensure that they are 'fitting in,' and getting the most out of their time here possible.

Help the international students **settle in** quickly, so that each two months of term run smoothly and aren't spent unpacking and moving in just in time to pack up once more.

Apprise the Pembroke community of **events going on in the rest of the world**, and encourage international students (and non-internationals) to give their perspective on issues and goings-on in their own countries.