If you have recently arrived to Yale as a spouse of a Yale student or scholar, or you’re still abroad and planning to arrive this academic year, please join us for our International Spouses & Partners at Yale (ISPY) orientation event on Thursday, October 1st at 9am to start building your virtual community! Register here for the orientation event. [1]

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Please note that OISS has postponed all in-person ISPY Group meetings until further notice in compliance with Yale guidance on the prevention of COVID-19 [2]. However several groups are meeting virtually; see below for details. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

OISS encourages international spouses and partners to get involved and make your stay at Yale a positive and enriching experience. See the many ISPY events listed below and feel free to contact the group organizers for more details. If you would like to start a group of your own, please contact Molly Hampton, Assistant Director of Programs. [3]

**Babies @ Yale**

**Mondays, 10:30am - 12:00pm - occasional virtual meetings (see Facebook group for details)**

This playgroup is an ideal opportunity for little ones to begin socializing and learning about group play. This is also a great meeting place for parents and caregivers looking for opportunities to practice speaking English, and for everyone to share experiences, tips and ideas. As the International Center does not offer a child-proof setting, Babies @ Yale is recommended for babies and toddlers that will be content playing together behind the glass partition (up to approximately one year). The OISS has a limited number of toys and books available to the group. Families are invited to bring their own activities to share with the group. If you are interested in joining the group, and for details regarding summer meeting locations, please join the Babies @ Yale Facebook group [4].

**Crafty Mondays**

**Not Currently Meeting**

We will be making many crafts and learning many different techniques. Our goal is to make a unique craft for each season and learn with each project more about U.S. holidays. Everyone is welcome to join. For more information, join the Crafty Mondays Facebook Group [5].

**Yale Productivity Group**

**Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm - meeting virtually (see Facebook group for details)**

The Yale Productivity Group, also known as the “Anti-Procrastination Group” or the “Trick-yourself-into-getting-things-done group” is for independent workers and learners. The group gets together to provide a structure, spend
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time with other people, break down goals into manageable pieces, set deadlines, and keep each other accountable. Join the [Yale Productivity Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2424958378638903/) for more information and group updates. Stop by any week to join in!

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**Japanese Conversation Group**

*Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30pm - meeting virtually (see Facebook group for details)*

You can improve your Japanese and also learn about Japanese culture! Let's enjoy Japanese traditional games, seasonal events, and so on! For questions, please send an email to [japaneseoiss@gmail.com](mailto:japaneseoiss@gmail.com), or find us on the [Japanese Conversation Group Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2153636340887926/)

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**Knitting/Crocheting Group**

*Not Currently Meeting*

Come together with fellow knitters (or those who crochet and do other needlework!) over a cup of coffee or tea at the IC. All are welcome, even if you don't know how to knit or crochet. For more information, contact the group coordinator at [knittingoiss@gmail.com](mailto:knittingoiss@gmail.com).

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**ISPY Book Club**

*Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm - meeting virtually (see Facebook group for details)*

Welcome to the ISPY BOOK CLUB! We have started the book club because we love to read and being a part of the international community at Yale, we also wanted an alternative way to improve our English skills together.

We will read just one book a month and then come together for a weekly discussion. The book of the month will always be the cover photo on our Facebook page. Do you want to join the book club group but you don't have a book yet? It's not a problem! Just stop by and join us for the book discussions. You can start anytime! Join the [Book Club Facebook group for updates and to contact us.](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2314052047076339/)

**PS: What Is a Book Club?**

A book club is a reading group, usually consisting of a number of people who read and talk about books based on a topic or an agreed-upon reading list. It's common for book clubs to choose a specific book to read and discuss at the same time.

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**Yale International Cooking Club**

*Not Currently Meeting*

Come to meet fellow food lovers from around the world to share new ideas and learn about others' cuisines. We will meet once a month to learn new cooking techniques and challenge one another! Each participant will pay $5 per session, to go towards the ingredients for the food that you'll be cooking. For updates about the meeting times, please follow the Cooking Club on Instagram (@yaleinternationalcooking) and join our [International Cooking Club Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2154039720914693/).

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**Job Hunters**

*Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm - meeting virtually (see Facebook group for details)*

Are you looking for a job? (Or will you be looking for one in the future?) Join our group and learn from others about...
creating effective resumes in the American way and writing superb cover letters, networking like a pro, nailing job interviews, and in general just to get support through the (sometimes stressful) process of job hunting. You don't have to go through it alone! For more information and summer meetings, please contact the group at oiss.jobhunters@gmail.com [12], or find us on the Job Hunters Facebook page [13]!

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**Traditional Chinese Painting and Calligraphy**

**Not Currently Meeting**

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world, dating back to the Neolithic Period. This group is open to anyone interested in Chinese painting and calligraphy. Please contact YaleCPCgroup@gmail.com [14], for more information or visit the Traditional Chinese Painting and Calligraphy website [15].

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**Spanish Conversation Groups**

*Meeting virtually - see Facebook group for details*

**Introduction to Spanish** - Fridays, 10-11am  
**Spanish for Beginners** - Fridays, 11am-12pm  
**Spanish Conversation Group (advanced)** - Fridays, 2-3pm

Whether you're a beginner looking to learn Spanish or a native speaker, we have a group for you! Spanish for Beginners is targeted to those who are looking to learn the basics of Spanish, or brush up on language skills you might not have used in a while. Spanish Conversation Group is for advanced or native Spanish speakers. This group will engage in lively discussion and allows you to meet fellow speakers from around the world! The SPC is not a language class, but rather a weekly opportunity to practice your language skills in a pleasant, low-key setting. For both groups, please contact: scgoiss@gmail.com [16] or find them at the Spanish Conversation Group Facebook page [17].

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**Chinese Conversation Group**

**Fridays, 3:30-4:30 PM - meeting virtually, see Facebook Group for details**

The Chinese Conversation Group provides a relaxing environment that offers opportunities for conversing in Mandarin Chinese. People of all skill levels are welcome, including beginners, experts, native speakers, and everyone in-between. Please join us! You can improve your Chinese and learn more about China and Chinese culture by discussing a variety of topics. Please contact oiss.chinese@gmail.com [18] or find us on the Chinese Conversation Group Facebook [19].

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**Toddlers at Yale**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10:00am - 12:00pm - Occasionally meeting virtually (see Facebook group for details)**

Meet fellow parents, bring your toddlers, and bond over shared experiences as international families in New Haven! This is best for toddlers ages 1-4. Please join the Toddlers at Yale Facebook group [20] to get updated information.