

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



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ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Spring and Summer Enrollment Requirements

Each fall and spring semester, international undergraduate and graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 and 9 credit hours, respectively. They may enroll in no more than one online course towards their full course of study, and they must be physically present on campus for the entire semester.

During the summer, enrollment is optional, and students may enroll in more than one online course. They do not need to be physically present on campus.

However, if summer is the student's final semester, undergraduate and graduate students must enroll in a minimum of 4 and 3 credit hours, respectively. They may only enroll in a maximum of one online course, but if they only have one course remaining, it cannot be online. They must be physically present on campus during their final semester, even if it falls during the summer.

There are limited exceptions to full course of study requirements for international students, including first-semester academic struggles, medical issues, and program completion. Students must first obtain permission from ISSS before taking a reduced course load; more information about this procedure can be found on [the ISSS website](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



Most of SIUE's international students are degree-seeking and on F-1 visas, and exchange students, who are here for 1-2 semesters, are on J-1 visas. Sometimes exchange students have particular enrollment requirements, and ISSS is here to help with any J-1 student advising questions.



Advising International Students Information Session



ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR ACADEMIC ADVISORS AND GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Friday, October 13
12pm - 1pm
Register below for session link

Academic Advisors, Graduate Program Directors, and any additional interested staff or faculty are invited to join this information session. Learn about SIUE's ever-growing international student population, review enrollment-related international student policies, and gain a deeper understanding of immigration processes requiring academic advisor involvement.

October 13, 12pm - 1pm

Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

International Affairs Programs

International Student Mentorship Program (ISMP)

The International Student Mentorship Program (ISMP) pairs new international students with continuing international and U.S. students. International Affairs received over 100 applications and paired 24 students in total for the pilot of this program this fall. Student mentors get to expand their leadership and interpersonal skills and receive six service hours after completing all the program's requirements. For mentees, it's beneficial to have a student to guide them and help them adapt to this new stage in their lives in the U.S.

A major goal of the program was to create a welcoming space for students to connect and build a supportive community. On September 9th, ISMP hosted its Program Orientation for mentors and mentees, followed by a visit to the St. Louis Zoo. Throughout the semester, additional events are planned to promote a sense of belonging and community for ISMP students. The structure of the program is based on its core competencies - Academic/Professional and Social/Cultural - which are designed to support new students in succeeding at SIUE while providing mentors with a framework for engaging in mentorship activities.

ISMP is spearheaded by International Affairs Graduate Assistant and international student Emanuel Chon Sin. Emanuel reflects, "The ISMP team has worked incredibly hard in developing this initiative, and we will continue to do so to ensure that it eases the transition of new international students to their new life in the U.S., which can be daunting and overwhelming, as I have personally experienced."



The inaugural Fall 2023 ISMP cohort attends orientation

New International Student Success Series (NISSS)

Undergraduate and graduate international students frequently struggle more than domestic students with adjusting to university life. Since they often first concentrate on learning the new culture of the classroom, campus, and U.S., they are more likely to perform poorly academically during the first one or two semesters. The purpose of NISSS is to ease students' adjustment period and provide the tailored orientation this student population needs.

This series is composed of six workshops spanning 12 weeks, on topics such as navigating differences of the U.S. classroom and overcoming culture shock. Content has been developed by International Affairs and guest speakers from a variety of SIUE offices, such as Counseling Services, Academic Advancement, the Kimmel Student Involvement Center, and more. Many of the workshops also feature student panels, composed of current international students sharing their experiences and offering advice meant to help new international students adapt and thrive at SIUE.



Students gather for a photo after the *Getting Involved* NISSS Session



Workshops

Getting Involved
Health & Wellness
The U.S. Classroom
Culture Shock
Employment
Succeeding Socially

International Education Week

The Office of International Affairs, alongside close collaboration with other key university partners, is proud to host this year's International Education Week (IEW) November 13 - 17. International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of State to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

A schedule of events can be found on the SIUE International Education Week website. The week will kick off with an Opening Ceremony and Flag Parade in the Goshen Lounge and Quad on Monday, Nov 13 at 1pm. It will end with a U.S. cultural celebration - a Thanksgiving Social - in the Cougar Den on Friday, Nov 17 at 12pm. Any faculty or staff members interested in getting involved with IEW should please contact Amy Nusser at anusser@siue.edu.

International Education Week
November 13-17 2023

Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17
SIUE FLAG CEREMONY GOSHEN LOUNGE 1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	TALK AROUND THE WORLD GOSHEN LOUNGE 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.	STUDY ABROAD SHOWCASE GOSHEN LOUNGE 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.	FESTIVAL OF CULTURES GOSHEN LOUNGE 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.	THANKSGIVING SOCIAL COUGAR DEN 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Official opening ceremony for SIUE's International Education Week.	An interactive event that celebrates international languages through fun games, interactions, and cultural displays of world languages.	Meet students and faculty who have studied abroad. Hear their stories and learn about the cultures they experienced.	An event to celebrate where our students call home through interactive activities, keepsakes, and information.	Celebrate the American holiday of Thanksgiving with pie, games, crafts, and a time to gather with friends.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

Full schedule on the International Education Week Website

ISSS Student Activities

On October 10, International Affairs hosted Pumpkin Carving on the Quad, where international students were welcome to enjoy the U.S. tradition of carving a pumpkin, grab a slice of pie, and have a moment of relaxation in between midterms. So far this fall, international students have also been invited to participate in an Ice Cream Social on campus and a trip to the St Louis Festival of Nations.

Also planned for this semester are a visit to Six Flags St. Louis for Fright Fest, a St Louis Blues Game, and an ice-skating event. Leading these excursions is International Affairs' new International Student Program Advisor, Sara Duft.

STUDY ABROAD

On September 12, International Affairs hosted the first post-pandemic Study Abroad Fair. Students had the opportunity to learn about their study abroad options and talk in person with program leaders. Students also had the opportunity to learn more about International Studies and Foreign Language and Literature programs. Most of SIUE's faculty-led programs for this year were represented, as well as several outside study abroad partners. The Financial Aid office was also on hand to answer questions about funding study abroad, as many students can use their financial aid towards study abroad opportunities.

If your students express interest in Study Abroad, please connect them with Study Abroad Advisor Ryan Donald at rydonal@siue.edu. There is still time to join upcoming faculty-led and full-semester spring and summer study abroad programs.

Quick Study Abroad Facts

1

Approximately 100 SIUE students studied abroad this past year

2

Students study abroad on short-term programs or for 1 semester/academic year

3

An information session for faculty interested in leading a travel/study group will be offered during IEW!



"I'm excited to plan events for our new and returning international students, both in Edwardsville and St. Louis. The goal is to create events for students with varying interests, and I hope students are excited about what we have coming this Fall, as well as events being planned for Spring 2024!"

Sara Duft, International Student Program Advisor



Students enjoy ice cream at the ISSS Ice Cream Social



Students visit the School of Business table at the Fall 2023 Study Abroad Fair

VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Manas Jyoti Das

Instructor, Computer Science
India

What are you working on at SIUE, and what were you doing before beginning your program?

I was a postdoctoral fellow at University of Missouri, Columbia campus. I was working under Dr. Praveen Rao on an NSF (National Science Foundation) project to accelerate the computation of genomics using GPU, smartNICs and FPGAs. During my initial year of research, I contributed to several research papers, leading to an extension of my appointment through 2024. Subsequently, I got this faculty position at SIUE in the department of computer science in the school of engineering. I always wanted to be a teacher and grab the opportunity, I am grateful to the department for giving me this opportunity and I continue to actively engage in my research pursuits.



What did your journey to SIUE entail?

My initial exposure to the United States was in the Midwest, where I encountered warm and welcoming people, fueling my anticipation for joining SIUE. The process of transitioning into this new environment was remarkably smooth, a credit to the support provided by both the current department chair, Dr. John Matta, and his predecessor, Dr. Igor Crk. The department of computer science has a welcoming vibe. Additionally, I received valuable assistance from the enthusiastic Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Cem Karacal, who aided me with my major/minor challenges. A shout out to the international office of SIUE and to Amy Nusser for making all this happen. Overall lovely work environment at SIUE.

What are your goals for the future?

My objective is to impart the knowledge I have accumulated through my research endeavors to students, striving for success in this endeavor. I am eager to pursue collaborative research across diverse fields and do my part to enhance SIUE's reputation as a prominent research institution.

Save the Date - International Student Graduation Celebration



Save the Date for the International Student Graduation Celebration on December 1 from 3 - 4pm in the MUC's Maple/Dogwood Room.

Any faculty, advisors, or other members of the SIUE community are welcome to attend to support this semester's graduating international student class.

Nearly 50 graduates participated in the Spring 2023 celebration (pictured).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

Cheryl Borowiak Named Interim Executive Director

Effective fall 2023, Cheryl Borowiak will be serving as Interim Executive Director in the Office of International Affairs. She also assumes responsibility as the Principal Designated School Official (PDSO), the main point of contact relating to the university's immigration compliance regarding F-1 SEVIS program regulations. She has extensive higher education experience in student services and has served in multiple leadership positions previously at the university as Assistant Director for Graduate and International Admissions and as the ITTA in Human Resources. Cheryl will lead the office staff supporting the mission of SIUE and carrying out the mission of the Office of International Affairs which includes maintaining immigration compliance, promoting and facilitating programming, retention activities for international students and overseeing study abroad programs and activities at the University.



Introducing Sara Duft, International Student Program Advisor



Sara Duft, International Affairs' new International Student Program Advisor, has a background in student advising, training, and event planning. She oversees pre-arrival, arrival, and orientation activities for new international students, carries out specific retention and student success initiatives, and plans programming events for international students. Sara holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri in Health Science and a Master's degree from the University of Missouri - St. Louis in Adult and Higher Education. You can connect with Sara at sduft@siue.edu.



This Fall at SIUE



Enrolled International Students



Exchange Students



Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Have you completed the Global Zone International Student Ally training? If not, please complete the quick form on the [Global Zone website](#) to be added to the priority registration list for the November 13 training.

CONTACT US

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SIUE International
Students



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