

SPRING 2023

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

IN EVERY ISSUE:

*Advising International
Students*

*The International Student
Experience*

Visiting Scholar Spotlight

Study Abroad

International Affairs Updates

Enrollment Requirements

International students must be physically present on campus each semester they are enrolled.

Summer

During the summer, unless international students are in their final semester, they have more enrollment flexibility than in the spring and fall. Enrollment is optional, and students may enroll in more than one online course. If summer is a student's last semester, however, they must meet the minimum enrollment requirement of three credit hours (unless they receive reduced course load approval from ISSS). If they are only in one course, that course cannot be entirely online.

Fall

During the fall, students can only enroll in one online course towards their full-time enrollment, and the remainder of their courses need to be in face-to-face or hybrid format. Full-time enrollment is considered 12 credit hours for undergraduate students, 9 for graduate students, and 6 for graduate students with assistantships. Please see the ISSS website for more information about [enrollment requirements](#).

Cross-Cultural Resources

TANDEM

TANDEM is a program run by the Department of Foreign Languages & Literature that facilitates language exchange between international students and U.S. students studying a foreign language. Students meet regularly for conversation hours and language-themed events. Contact Susan McDonald at sspece@siue.edu for more information.

Cross-Cultural Resources, cont.

International Student Associations

International student associations are run by students and include the African, Indian, Nepalese, Iranian, Chinese, Muslim, and Bangladeshi Student Associations, as well as the International Student Council. A full list of contacts for these student groups can be found on [the ISSS website](#).

Intensive English Pathway Workshops

The Intensive English Pathway Program offers regular workshops for international students who would like to improve their English or take a deeper dive into cultural differences that may affect academic performance, such as plagiarism and rhetorical structure. More information about these workshops can be found on the [Intensive English Pathway website](#).



Did you know?

There are many stages of culture shock. While everyone cycles through the stages at different rates, it is often several weeks to a few months after arrival that students shift from the honeymoon stage to the rejection stage, when cultural adjustment feels the toughest and more intense feelings of homesickness and isolation may occur.



Culture Shock Workshop

Student Academic Success Sessions (SASS) aim to impart necessary academic skills to attendees through engaging conversation and discussion. Attending these sessions can help students fulfill the Health Education Requirement but also can be attended by any student who has interest in the presentation topics. This semester, a session on Culture Shock will be offered, which can particularly benefit new international students. More information about this and other Spring 2023 sessions is on the [SASS website](#).

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE



International Students & Taxes

Due to the complexities of U.S. tax law and legal restrictions, university staff are neither qualified nor permitted to advise on taxes. However, The Office of International Affairs arranges access to Sprintax Tax Preparation with codes provided by SIUE. Please refer students who have tax-related questions to ISSS so they can be advised to purchase a \$3 Sprintax code. Additional information about international students and taxes can be found on [the ISSS website](#).

International Student Events

African Banquet

Saturday, February 25 from 6pm - 10pm
SIUE Vadalabene Center

Will showcase African traditions such as food, dance, and performance. Organized by the African Student Organization and sponsored in part by the Kimmel Student Involvement Center.

India Night

Saturday, April 8 from 6pm - 10pm
Student Fitness Center

India Night is a celebration of Indian culture organized by the Indian Student Organization and partly sponsored by Kimmel Student Involvement Center. The event will showcase a variety of Indian traditions, food, and performances.

Field Trip to St. Louis Arch

Saturday, March 18 from 11am - 3pm

International Student and Scholar Services will lead a trip for international students to explore the architectural history of the St. Louis Gateway Arch and its vicinity.

Additional Programming

Throughout the semester, ISSS leads immigration-related information sessions and facilitates events together with other campus offices. If your department is interested in partnering with ISSS on a workshop or other event geared towards international students and scholars, please send an inquiry to iss@siue.edu.



STUDY ABROAD

Spring 2023 Update

Study Abroad has seen an exciting bounce back from the lean COVID years. We have seen a strong return for both faculty-led and partner programs (semester and summer).

This year SIUE Cougars have been or will be represented across the world, exploring places such as Alicante, Antigua, Barcelona, Belfast, Berlin, Catacamas, Dublin, Florence, Granada, Hannover, Kyoto, Limerick, Madrid, Munich, Nantes, Prague, Rome, San Jose, Seoul, Seville Turin, and Yendi.



We welcome additional faculty-led/travel study programs for the coming academic year. Our goal is to see every student have the opportunity to study abroad within their major. Faculty-led programs continue to be the most popular option for SIUE students. Proposals and renewals are submitted by early summer, so that promotion and recruitment can begin in earnest as students return to campus for the Fall semester.

VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Shaker Nairat

Palestine

What are you studying at SIUE, and what are you particularly proud of accomplishing here?

I began my journey at SIUE two years ago coming from Palestine as a Fulbright scholar to study a master's in civil and environmental engineering. During my time at SIUE, I was able to take advantage of a variety of academic and extracurricular activities and programs that have benefited me greatly. In my first year at SIUE, my academic adviser connected me with a group of two researchers from Washington University in St Louis. For the span of 8 months, I worked with this research group of two PhD students on impressive machine learning research related to wastewater treatment plants. Our research won the second-place prize at the IWPC conference in Springfield and was later published in the American Chemical Society journal. Not only did this experience provide me with unparalleled knowledge and information about scientific research in general and machine learning in particular, but it also gave me the opportunity to become a published researcher in my first year of master's, which is a unique achievement that I'm proud of. I've also been able to attend and speak at multiple conferences in San Diego, Springfield, and Rabat, Morocco during my time at SIUE so far.

In terms of extracurricular activities and programs, I had the opportunity to be selected and participate in the Legacy Leadership Program with the Kimmel Student Center. Legacy is a year-long program for advanced student leaders looking to finesse their leadership style. I was also selected to serve as a mentor in the LEED mentorship program, which is also run by the Kimmel Student Center. Both experiences allowed me to build lasting relationships on campus, help others who can benefit from my experience, and learn from the experiences of other students as well.

I've also recently joined student government as a Graduate Senator with the goal of helping and serving students on campus. Additionally, I've completed around 100 volunteering hours with multiple organizations on and off campus, including the International Institute in St Louis, International Students and Scholar Services ISSS, International Hospitality Program IHP, Muslim Student Association MSA, Student Government, and the Kimmel Student Center.

What were you doing before SIUE, and what do you plan to do after graduating in May?

Before I came to SIUE, I was working in Palestine in the development and humanitarian sector. My work focused on project management related to building schools, hospitals, roads, water networks, wastewater networks, and other important infrastructure projects. I've chosen my career in engineering and project implementation because I've always wanted to play a role in building my country which suffers from an on-going conflict that impacts the daily lives of people in all aspects.

After years of working, I began to look for a new challenge and opportunity to expand on my knowledge and skills, so I applied for the Fulbright program, which is a competitive scholarship that enables students from around the world to study and conduct research in the United States. After being selected to the Fulbright program, I chose SIUE to attend because of the strength of the environmental engineering program here.

After I finish my master's degree in May, my plan is to go back home to Palestine and continue my work in the development sector. I've committed my life to help rebuild my country and provide people with the resources that they need to overcome the obstacles and challenges that living in a political conflict brings.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

Dr. Mary Weishaar Receives Fulbright Award

Dr. Mary Weishaar, Executive Director, International Affairs, received an International Education Administrators award in Taiwan. Although the award was granted in January, 2021, COVID delayed the award until March, 2023.

International Education Administrators awards are seminars designed to help U.S. international education professionals and senior higher education officials create empowering connections with their counterparts and higher education systems of other countries. During the seminar, Dr. Weishaar will have the opportunity to learn about the host country's education system as well as establish networks of U.S. and international colleagues over the course of an intensive two-week grant period. The overarching goal of the seminar is to promote mutual understanding and benefit through contributions to both host and home communities.

During the seminar in March, Dr. Weishaar will travel to 17 universities, governmental entities and nonprofit agencies throughout Taiwan. In addition, she will visit important cultural sites.

Dr. Weishaar stated, "The Asia-Pacific region is uniquely interesting to SIUE because of its global prominence. Taiwan, in particular, is a successful democracy, with interest in internationalization. My participation in the International Administrators Seminar will increase understanding and expand possibilities for developing and facilitating more exchange opportunities in Taiwan for SIUE students and faculty."

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.



Introducing Timanye Watson & Bill Dean



Timanye joined the ISSS team in November 2022. She oversees routine student immigration procedures such as transfers, travel signatures, new student immigration check-in, reporting, and maintaining various databases. She also assists and facilitates study abroad programs. In 2013, Timanye first became an employee of SIUE as an Admissions and Records Officer but also has experience as an Office Support Specialist and an Academic Advisor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Secondary Education from McKendree University and a Master of Arts degree in School Counseling from Lindenwood University.

Bill holds a B.S. in Economics from Bradley University, an M.B.A. from the University of Arkansas, and membership with the Missouri Society of CPAs. He has thirty-plus years of experience as a finance and accounting leader, mostly in manufacturing as controller. He recently retired from full time work but looks forward to working with the team at SIUE's Office of International Affairs as the department's Account Technician, where he manages department expenses, records, budgets and any other office management requests.



806
International Students
in Spring 2023

70
Countries
Represented

196
Students on Optional
Practical Training (OPT)