

FALL 2022

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Spring 2023 Enrollment Requirements

On May 31, 2022, The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) reissued its guidance for the 2022-23 academic year and has clarified international student enrollment requirements.

International students who were actively enrolled at a U.S. school prior to March 9, 2020 and have continuously complied with the terms of their nonimmigrant status can temporarily engage in courses that are all online or a combination of online and hybrid/face-to-face to complete their full course of study during the 2022-23 academic year.

International Students admitted and enrolled after March 9, 2020 (beginning the summer 2020 semester), can only enroll in ONE online class toward their full course of study each semester during the spring and fall semester. If a student needs only one course to complete the program of study, the course cannot be online. Please refer to the FAQs for additional information.

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STEM OPT Extension

As international students complete their programs, most are eligible to apply for a one-year work authorization experience called Optional Practical Training. Students who graduate with a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degree are eligible to remain in the United States for an additional 24 months on an optional practical training (OPT) STEM extension.

The 24-month STEM OPT Extension allows international students in F-1 status who receive a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in an approved STEM field to apply for a 24-month extension of their standard 12-month Post-OPT period, twice in a lifetime. Employment must be with an E-verify employer. The STEM-eligible degrees at SIUE can be found here, and more information about STEM OPT Extension eligibility and procedures can be found on the ISSS website.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

International Student Programming

Past Fall 2022 Events

Festival of Nations - ISSS brought a group of students to the Festival of Nations celebration on August 27. This is the largest multicultural event in St. Louis and showcases food, crafts, and performances from around the world.

St. Louis Zoo - Around 40 new international students joined ISSS on a trip to the St. Louis Zoo on October 22.

Future Fall 2022 Events

Study Abroad Fair - On November 15, from 11am - 1pm, a Study Abroad Fair will be held in the MUC Goshen Lounge. For questions about the fair, please contact Study Abroad Advisor Ryan Donald at rydonal@siue.edu.

International Potluck - On November 16, from 4 - 5:30pm, the Department of Foreign Language and Literature's language exchange group TANDEM will host an international potluck in Peck Hall 2304. For questions about this event, please contact Susan McDonald from TANDEM at ssepence@siue.edu.

International Student Graduation Celebration

Save the date for the Fall 2022 International Student Graduation Celebration! Staff and faculty are invited to join and celebrate the accomplishments of our international students. Please email John Ampomah at jampoma@siue.edu or Dr. Mary Weishaar at mweisha@siue.edu if you would like to attend.

When: December 2, 11am - 12pm

Where: Fixins', 2nd floor of MUC



Did you know?

Some students want to invite their parents to graduation, but their parents must first apply for U.S. tourist visas. Due to long visa interview wait times, some students have been waiting nearly a year to learn whether their parents will be able to watch them graduate! For many students, their friends, host families, and campus supporters comprise their cheering sections at graduation.

VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Wei Cui
China

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

I am a visiting scholar in the Department of Educational Leadership. I am studying under Prof. Yuliang Liu. I am preparing for this study abroad to work in the areas of online teaching research and information technology and curriculum integration related to foreign languages in universities.

While I was in China, I taught at Changsha University of Science and Technology and studied for my PhD in Curriculum and Pedagogy at Hunan Normal University. My research focuses on information technology and curriculum integration for teacher competency enhancement and teaching model optimization.



Why were you interested in SIUE, and what are your goals for the future?

In order to acquire new information and broader perspectives, I applied for a program supported by the China Scholarship Council (CSC). After a rigid academia evaluation process organized by CSC, I have been awarded a scholarship under the State Scholarship Fund to pursue study in the United States of America as a visiting Scholar.

I hope to improve blended/online teaching methods and models by drawing on foreign experience, thus, to achieve the desired goal of improving teaching efficiency and effectiveness.

What is something that surprised you about SIUE, Edwardsville, or the U.S.?

After coming here, I found numerous things that attracted me, such as the colorful and beautiful campus, the well-equipped buildings, the wonderful activities, the super enthusiastic students, and, most surprisingly, the faculty. I've had so much help from the teachers here. My mentor Prof. Liu is a really nice person. He provides me with the latest news and activities on campus every day! When I first arrived here, I had some trouble on renting an apartment because of cultural differences, and the teachers who got the situation tried to give me as many options as possible, and finally Amy from ISSS stepped in and helped me out so that I had the ideal place to stay. Later, I wanted to apply for a course and took the liberty of emailing the instructor of that course I wanted to sit in on, and she turned me down because the course had formed a community and foundational knowledge in the middle of the semester and suggested I take the course later. I thought that was all there was to it, but no! Three hours later, I got another email from her with a list of classes available to me! Such examples abound in my life in SIUE. Because of such patient and dedicated teachers, SIUE is home.

Host a Visiting International Scholar

Visiting international scholars are usually researchers or professors in their home countries who come to collaborate on research or teaching programs with SIUE departments. They may be hired as employees of SIUE or they may be visitors representing their universities abroad in a professional capacity for meetings at SIUE. Most international scholars are invited to SIUE as Exchange Visitors (J-1 Visa), Temporary Workers in a Specialty Position (H-1B Visa) or Tourists (B-1 Visa for Business Purposes). International Affairs helps facilitate visits for scholars on J-1 Visas.

The Exchange Visitor Program is made possible by the U.S. Department of State. SIUE typically hosts approximately five to ten J-1 visiting international scholars at any given time, in several different departments. Visit [our website](#) to learn more about hosting considerations and responsibilities, different types of J-1 scholar categories, and the J-1 scholar application process. If you or someone in your department is interested in hosting, please contact Amy Nusser at anusser@siue.edu about next steps.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

Global Zone

On October 12, SIUE's first ever Global Zone International Student Ally training was conducted for nearly 60 faculty and staff participants. The purpose of this new training is to equip members of the campus community with the tools they need to best support international students. Participants are made aware of differences between U.S. and international student university experiences and provided with opportunities to hear international student perspectives. The training was developed as a response to the growing international student population and grounded in the results of a survey answered by over 250 students, a student focus group, and student interviews. The training development team was comprised of staff members from the Office of International Affairs, Graduate and International Admissions, and the Intensive English Pathway Program. The next Global Zone training will take place on November 28.



Global Zone team members Madeline Schurman and Emanuel Chon Sin speak at Oct 12 training

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants Connect with the Community

SIUE welcomes Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program participants each year to teach Arabic, Yoruba, and Russian. One of the main goals of the program is to "develop Americans' knowledge of foreign cultures", and this year's cohort of FLTAs have been busy doing just that, in between teaching language courses and taking courses of their own. SIUE's three FLTAs for the 2022-2023 academic year shared reflections from their recent cultural presentations and activities.

Olga Belozero
Russia

Stereotypes about Russia

International Women's Organization Meeting

The International Women's Organization (IWO) provides cross-cultural opportunities, educational programs and social activities for American and International women of the Metro-East Area. Women gather and share life experiences; network; learn about other cultures and traditions; build new global friendships and help create international understanding. IWO is a sister organization to the International Hospitality Program at SIUE and is affiliated with the SIUE International Affairs Office. My IWO presentation was about Russian Stereotypes, the culture and traditional Russian festivals and events; folk handicrafts and special foods.

Fulbright Table

Department of Foreign Languages Open House

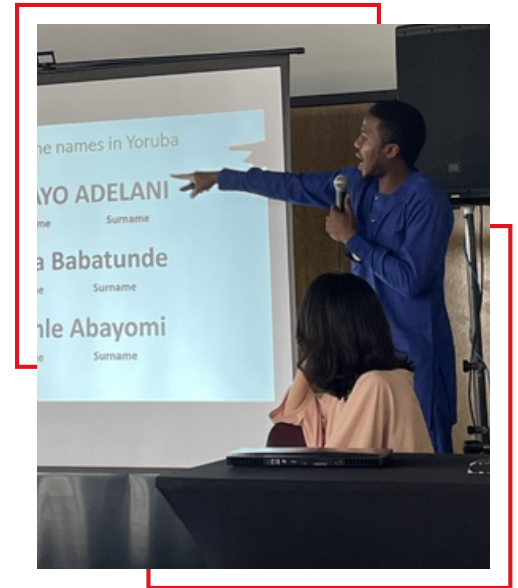
The Open House was an engaging event for students of our department where they could learn more about languages and language clubs that are present at SIUE and meet different cultures closer. The goal of the event was to expose students to other cultures and gain their interest. For our Fulbright table I provided Russian traditional items such as Matryoshka and shawl and was happy to talk to students and tell them about Russian culture.



Ayodeji Adebayo Adelani
Nigeria

What's in a Name: Conventions and Origins of Names from China, India, and Nigeria
Diversity Day

At the "Diversity Day", I was given opportunity to talk about Names as Identity in Nigeria using Yoruba Tribe as a case study. I started the lecture how Yoruba place much value on giving names to a child - especially the Firstname. We don't just give names without considering some curial factors like: Status of the family (Wealth, Royalty, War conquest, and Family background) and the situation surrounding the child's birth. Also, I talked about how a child adopts the father's name as the Surname/Lastname, and a married woman would drop her father's name (maiden name) and adopt her husband's surname as her Surname.



Maryam Janahi
Bahrain

Women of Bahrain: A View from the Arab World
Women's Studies Talks

I gave a talk on the women of Bahrain in the Women's Studies Department on October 25. I was surprised at the interest in women's studies and the number of attendees. They asked questions in various subjects in History, Religion, Politics, and Women's Rights in the Arab region.

Introducing Bahrain

International Women's Organization Meeting

The talk was in a hall named Eden that was turned into a chapel during the pandemic. This encouraged me to speak of the Ancient Sumerian's Genesis in which the paradise of Eden was a land named Tilmun (Bahrain).



International Affairs In the News

[SIUE Graduate and International Enrollment Reach Record Highs](#)

[Campuswide Training Helps Faculty and Staff Best Support Record Number of International Students](#)

[SIUE Partners with AASCU and Changshu Institute of Technology for Chinese Undergraduate Program](#)

898
International Students
in Fall 2022

61
Countries
Represented

195
Students on Optional
Practical Training (OPT)



If you have a question for International Affairs or would like us to cover a certain topic in the next newsletter, please let us know at iss@siue.edu.