

FALL 2024

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



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ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Enrollment Requirements & Reduced Course Loads

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.

There are limited exceptions to full course of study requirements for international students, including medical issues and program completion. In their first semester, they may reduce their course load due to academic struggles, for reasons such as unfamiliarity with American teaching methods and difficulty with reading requirements. This can be a good option for students who are having challenges with cultural and academic adjustment and need to ease into their coursework at SIUE.

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?



International students may not work off-campus unless they have prior authorization, and not until they've been full-time students for at least one full academic year. Off-campus work must be related to a student's major field of study.



International Student Employment Reminders

Immigration regulations and university policy limit international student on-campus employment hours. New and continuing students may work up to 20 hours per week, inclusive of all employment, while school is in session and up to 28 hours per week during official school breaks as long as they are planning to enroll full-time during the next academic term.

Continuing students may work on campus up to 28 hours per week beginning after the final exam period up until the next semester start date. Students who transfer to SIUE from another U.S. institution can begin working once SIUE has possession of their immigration record.

International students are not permitted to work after the last day of the semester during their final term. SIUE non-degree exchange students are not permitted to work on campus at all. More information about on-campus employment guidelines for international students can be found on the [ISSS website](#).

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 90 applications and paired 29 students in total this fall. Student mentors get to expand their leadership and interpersonal skills 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 is to create a welcoming space for students to connect and build a supportive community. On September 6th, ISMP hosted its Program Orientation for mentors and mentees, followed by a visit to the St. Louis Arch. 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, and the team is committed to easing the transition for new international students.



The Fall 2024 ISMP cohort attends orientation

Global Cougar Quest (GCQ)



First-semester international students at SIUE are invited to participate in Global Cougar Quest, an initiative designed to enhance their university experience while earning exclusive prizes from ISSS.

To begin, students can pick up their Global Cougar Quest Passport at the International Affairs Office during the first month of the semester. By engaging in a variety of activities and collecting proof of participation, they can earn stamps on their passports. Students need at least 12 out of 15 total stamps to claim their rewards at ISSS.

This fall, Global Cougar Quest has successfully garnered over 200 registrations and more than 130 active participants. Notably, two students have been recognized as "Global Cougar of the Month" for September and October, with the title of ultimate Global Cougar of Fall 2024 to be awarded at the semester's end.

Global Cougar Quest encourages our new Cougars to embark on this exciting journey and make lasting connections as they explore all that SIUE has to offer!

New International Student Success Series (NISS)

Undergraduate and graduate international students often face unique challenges in adjusting to university life, frequently finding themselves focused on navigating a new culture while grappling with academic expectations. As a result, they may struggle academically during their first one or two semesters. The New International Student Success Series (NISS) aims to ease this transition by providing tailored orientation specifically designed for this student population.

This fall, NISS consisted of six workshops spread over 6 weeks with a total of 202 attendees, covering essential topics such as navigating the differences in the U.S. classroom and overcoming culture shock. The content is crafted by International Affairs in collaboration with various SIUE offices, including Counseling Services, Academic Advancement, and the Kimmel Student Involvement Center. Many workshops feature student panels, where current international students share their experiences and offer valuable advice to help newcomers adapt and thrive at SIUE.



A photo during the *U.S. Classroom* NISS Session

Workshops

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

Through NISSS, we strive to empower international students with the tools and insights they need to succeed in their academic journey and create a supportive community on campus.

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 18 – 21. [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.

The week will kick off with an Opening Ceremony and Flag Parade in the Goshen Lounge and Quad on Monday, Nov 18 at 1pm. It will end with a U.S. cultural celebration – a Thanksgiving Social – in the Legacy Room on Friday, Nov 21 at 12pm. A full schedule of events can be found on the [SIUE International Education Week website](#).

A graphic for International Education Week 2024. It features a background image of diverse students smiling. The title "International Education Week" is in large red font, with "November 18-21 2024" below it. A red ribbon graphic is in the top right. The schedule is presented in six columns, each with a date, event title, location, time, and description.

Monday 18	Tuesday 19	Wednesday 20	Wednesday 20	Thursday 21	Thursday 21
SIUE FLAG CEREMONY	TALK AROUND THE WORLD	STUDY ABROAD SHOWCASE	CRAFTS	THANKSGIVING SOCIAL	CLOSING CEREMONY
GOSHEN LOUNGE 1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.	GOSHEN LOUNGE 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.	GOSHEN LOUNGE 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	GOSHEN LOUNGE 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.	LEGACY ROOM 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.	GOSHEN LOUNGE 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 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 - Scan the QR code to RSVP through our website.	Celebrate the end of International Education Week with a special performance!

Full schedule on the [International Education Week Website](#)

Global Zone

Join us for the Fall 2024 Global Zone Training!

Global Zone is a two-hour training course aimed at helping SIUE faculty and staff better understand and support international students. Offered each semester, the training explores the differences between U.S. and international student experiences, culture shock and adjustment challenges, as well as cross-cultural academic differences.

As part of SIUE's International Education Week celebration, the Global Zone Committee invites you to our fall training on Monday, November 18, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Morris University Center, Mississippi/Illinois Room. Space is limited to 45 participants. Faculty and staff can register [here](#).

STUDY ABROAD

In September we hosted the annual SIUE Study Abroad Fair. We were excited to see strong interest this year and look forward to the possibility of sending out even more students on life changing experiences around the world. To engage with the students, we welcomed faculty-led program leaders, departments promoting international experiences, and some of our outside partners. The Financial Aid office was also there to answer questions about funding study abroad through eligible financial aid sources.

There is still time for students to apply for studying abroad through opportunities such as our faculty-led programs scheduled to take place over Spring Break and in the summer. If you know of an interested student or want to encourage your class to consider this opportunity, please send them our way!

We are also looking to partner with departments and faculty members to increase the number of faculty-led programs offered by SIUE. If you are interested in learning more or starting the process, please see our [website](#) and reach out to us at studyabroad@siue.edu or contact Ryan Donald at rydonal@siue.edu to schedule an appointment. We are also going to be offering a workshop later this semester for prospective faculty leaders.



Students visit the Fall 2024 Study Abroad Fair

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

Fall 2024 Exchange Students

This fall, SIUE welcomed three new Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) to teach a foreign language course for two semesters while taking SIUE courses, running language clubs, and sharing their cultures with the campus community: Florence Otaya (Kenya, Kiswahili), Halyna Morozva (Ukraine, Ukrainian), and Nourddine Amanouz (Morocco, Arabic).

SIUE is also hosting a student from the Global UGRAD Pakistan program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and two degree-seeking Fulbright scholars: Nadine Assi (Palestine, Biological Sciences) and Humam Maala (Iraq, Applied Communication Studies).

In addition to welcoming 21 new exchange students from Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Japan, Austria and the UK, SIUE is currently home to 30 students from the Sino-US Cooperation in Higher Education and



Professional Development (CHEPD) program, who are studying Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering and will earn a degree from both SIUE and their home institution, the Changshu Institute of Technology (CIT). Six students participated in the CHEPD graduation ceremony in Zhenjiang, China this June, and Dr. Terry Yan, Chair of the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering and Amy Nusser, Lead Immigration Specialist and CHEPD program coordinator traveled to support these graduates.

In spring 2025, SIUE will welcome 19 more students from CIT. A new agreement with an additional CHEPD institution, the Guangdong Business and Technology University, will soon bring additional Chinese students to the Department of Engineering.

VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Halyna Morozova

Ukrainian language and culture Teacher | Ukraine

What brought you to SIUE, what are your current goals here, and what has surprised you most about the community and your work?

As a Ukrainian, I am honored to have the opportunity to share about the courage of the Ukrainian people who, despite the war and destruction brought by Russia, continue to live, help and support each other. Before coming here, I had been teaching at Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University. I know for sure that the experience at SIUE is life changing. Currently, I am focused on teaching and participating in all the events where I can share about the beauty and richness of the Ukrainian language and culture.



Florence Otaya

Swahili teacher | Kenya

What brought you to SIUE, what are your current goals here, and what has surprised you most about the community and your work?

Before getting this golden opportunity, I was a high school teacher back in Kenya and I was handling Swahili and Geography. I came to the US because I wanted to expand my teaching skills, share Kenyan perspectives and experience American culture. The US offers diverse methodologies, technologies and collaborative opportunities. My goal for the future is to pursue a master's degree here in SIUE. What surprised me the most in the US is personal space and privacy.



Nour Ddine Amanouz

Fulbright Arabic Teaching Assistant | Morocco

What brought you to SIUE, what are your current goals here, and what has surprised you most about the community and your work?

As a visiting scholar at SIUE, my primary goal is to enhance my academic and professional skills while fostering cross-cultural connections. I aim to develop my teaching methodologies, particularly in language instruction, by engaging with diverse student groups. Beyond my time at SIUE, I hope to apply these skills in my home country, contributing to language education and promoting cultural exchange. Additionally, I aspire to build lasting networks with fellow scholars and educators.



Meet the International Affairs Graduate Assistants



Meenakshi Panghal

Meena, a master's student in computer science from India, joined International Affairs at SIUE in May 2024 as a Graduate Assistant at ISSS. She supports international students through programs like ISMP, Global Cougar Quest and Global Zone, while also providing general office assistance.

Sandesh Pokheral

Sandesh, a master's student in civil engineering specializing in Geotechnical Engineering at SIUE, joined the ISSS team in April 2024. Originally from Nepal, he supports international students by planning programs, managing social security processes, and handling front desk inquiries.



Sumitra Shrestha

Sumitra is a master's student in Computer Science at SIUE and holds a bachelor's from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. As a Graduate Assistant for International Affairs, she supports students with programs like NISSS and Study Abroad, manages SSN/job offers, OPT, and website maintenance, while also serving as Treasurer of the Nepali Student Association.



This Fall at SIUE



Enrolled International Students



Exchange Students



Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT)

CONTACT US



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SIUE International
Students



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