

Student Groups for New International Students

University of Minnesota, Fall 2019

Do you want to make new friends or develop your leadership skills? Join a student group! There are more than 1,000 student groups at the University of Minnesota, including groups that focus on academics, culture, volunteering, sports, and more.

Below is a short list of groups that support new international students. You can find the entire list of registered student groups on GopherLink (gopherlink.umn.edu). We hope you will join one this semester!

If you have any questions about these or other student groups, please come to the Student Activities Office in [Coffman](#) 126, contact sao@umn.edu or call (612) 626-6919.

ISSS Student Groups

Go to iss.umn.edu/programs to learn more about ISSS's programs where you can gain leadership experience, learn about other cultures, and make new friends.

Culture Corps Ambassadors (3799)

Culture Corps is a program focused on international students developing projects and initiatives that bring global perspectives to the University of Minnesota campus. International students receive monetary awards based on the time investment, resources committed and impact of the project.

E-mail: culturec@umn.edu

International Buddy Program - IBP (2180)

International Buddy Program aims to ease new incoming students' transition to the U, with current U.S. and international undergraduate students helping new undergraduate and non-degree students as mentors. Join IBP mentor and buddy program today and be prepared for your exciting transition to the U! Application is now available in Gopherlink. Stay tuned with us for fun events!

E-mail: ibp@umn.edu

Small World Coffee Hour (SWCH) (591)

Small World Coffee Hour (SWCH) is an International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and Student Services Fees-sponsored campus life program that offers space on campus for international students. SWCH hosts events on Friday throughout the semester where students come together to learn about new cultures, food, customs around the world and make friends.

E-mail: swch@umn.edu

Campus Student Groups

The Aurora Center (720)

The Aurora Center for advocacy and education offers free and confidential services to those dealing with gender violence, domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Our advocates work a 24/7 helpline and give community presentations to educate on rape culture, healthy relationships and self-care.

Email : aurora@umn.edu

Chinese Culture Club (3560)

The Chinese Culture Club is dedicated to disseminating Chinese culture internationally through our events, which involve a lot of Chinese traditional elements. Also, facilitating Chinese international students in order to build solidarity by helping them become familiar with the environment and adapt to university life are also among our main goals.

During our welcome event, we will provide free Chinese food! We will also introduce our group and our students' life experiences, including the events we hold at the U.

Email: cccumn@umn.edu

Chinese Students and Scholars Association (242)

Chinese Students and Scholars Association of University of Minnesota, (or CSSA) registered in 1984, is one of the longest history Chinese student groups. It is the only Chinese student group that is admitted and invested by China consulate in Chicago; the prescribed cooperation organization of the international office of Chinese Center in University of Minnesota. During these 30 years, CSSA had kept a friendly connection with the UMN community by holding diversiform to welcome new students, such as Mid-Autumn Festival Gala Evening, Spring Festival Gala Evening, Academic Lecture Room, and Lecture on special topics like immigration. CSSA has become a brand in student activities in UMN.

Email: cssa@umn.edu

Council of International Graduate Students (3272)

CIGS provides a place for international graduate and professional students to advocate their voices about their academic, professional, and social development. We organize events tailored specifically to benefit the international student community at the University, while allowing international students to form ties with domestic students. In addition to organizing events and bringing international students together, we aim to serve as a liaison between international students and various other groups within and beyond the University. We collaborate closely with University administration and services to ensure that students' needs are met, and their voices heard.

Email: cigsumn@umn.edu

de-stress (3402)

Boynton Health's de-stress student group provides peer support, connects students with resources, and promotes healthy stress management through outreach events and social media. We serve both undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Minnesota. The best way to contact us is through our email.

Email: destress@umn.edu

Malaysian Student Organization (24)

PERSISMA is a non-profit organization that serves the welfare of Malaysian students at the University of Minnesota. This organization has been passed on to dedicated groups of students who take on the responsibility of providing support to Malaysians in Malaysia and Minneapolis. We organize events every semester to keep Malaysians connected and to introduce our community and our culture. We also co-host and help out at affiliate events to extend our reach to locals.

Email: persisma@umn.edu

The Minnesota Daily (186)

The Minnesota Daily is a student-led media organization serving the University of Minnesota campus and surrounding community. The print publication is distributed bi-weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer semester. Content is also published on mndaily.com. The Daily acts as a training institution for University of Minnesota students, giving them hands on training in areas such as journalism, multimedia, photography, finance, marketing, human resources, information systems, and more.

Email: hr@mndaily.com

Minnesota International Student Association (MISA) (184)

MISA is an umbrella organization for a number of international and multicultural student groups. Our organization is dedicated to bridging gaps between international and domestic students on campus. Our programming focuses on highlighting cultures from across the globe, addressing issues that the international and multicultural community faces, and connecting students to valuable resources on campus. We strive to build a community that embraces its differences.

Email: misa@umn.edu

Minnesota Student Association (509)

As the undergraduate student government at the University of Minnesota we work to ensure student voices are heard and that student interests are met. We advocate for students through helping to shape University policy, working with University administrators and the Board of Regents, engaging legislators at every level of government, and more.

Email: msa@umn.edu

Psychology International Student Association (PISA) (3151)

I am an incoming Secretary of PISA (Psychology International Student Association) that is to help psychology students at UMN.

Email: pisa@umn.edu

Sexual Health Awareness and Disease Education (SHADE) (336)

SHADE (Sexual Health Awareness and Disease Education) is a student-led group from Boynton Health Services that aims to promote a campus environment that supports skills and behaviors that foster healthy sexuality and the normalization of condom use among sexually active students. We are comprised of trained peer educators and volunteers that provide support for all students whether they are sexually active or not through giving out informational presentations, tabling at events, and providing medically-accurate sexual health information and resources.

Email: safensex@umn.edu

Student Legal Service Board of Directors (1978)

The SLS Board provides policy guidance to SLS, and ensures that SLS is responsive to the current needs and wishes of the students at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. The SLS Board of Directors is a student-run board composed of representatives of the University and legal communities, and includes students, faculty, administrators, various representatives from student government, and practicing lawyers. The SLS Board is very active in legal education, programming, and advocacy on our campus.

Email: uslsbod@umn.edu

Tesla Works (2626)

TESLA WORKS is a project-based community of makers that brings together passionate and goal-oriented students from around the university to turn conceptual ideas into reality. By providing funding, lab space, online tools, and an environment for collaboration, Tesla Works fosters unbridled creativity to build the skills to solve 21st-century problems.

During Welcome Week, we host a new student pizza and projectiles event for students to come and get pizza and build some sort of projectile launcher or protector.

Email: tesla@umn.edu

Religious Groups

Bridges International (2355)

Bridges International is a Christian student organization made up of students from many cultural backgrounds. It is our goal to help International students make new friends, learn about different cultures, have a lot of fun, and ultimately find our spiritual purpose in life. We want to be a home away from home for International students here on campus. Follow us on Facebook @ U of M Bridges International for updates on our events!

Email: bridgint@umn.edu

Prepare Ministries (855)

Prepare is a Christian organization offering students the opportunity to grow in relationships, community, and spirituality. Students of any faith background are welcome. Our weekly meetings include a time of teaching or study followed by small group discussion, snacks, and social time. We are a culturally diverse and close-knit community and love to spend time together through spontaneous social events outside of weekly meetings. Our other main activities include three weekend overnight retreats per academic year, various community service activities, and a four-day summer camp.

Email: prepare@umn.edu