

Adviser Resource Guide: New Undergraduate International Students

University of Minnesota

Fall 2018

ISSS

International
Student & Scholar
Services

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Dear University of Minnesota Advisers and Colleagues,

We are driven to create an inclusive and engaged international learning community at the University of Minnesota. You play a critical role in creating an environment where international students feel welcomed, thrive and add to the strength of our university.

The goal of this guide is to provide information and resources to advisers that will help you in assisting international students during the first semester.

By creating a smooth transition, international students are more likely to succeed academically and be engaged in their university experience.

Please contact any of the liaisons below to get further information on ways to support our University of Minnesota international students.

International Student College Liaisons

Anny Lin, Carlson School of Management

Zack Gill, College of Biological Sciences

Tracene Marshall, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences

Wanda Loerch, College of Design

Sara Georgeson, College of Education and Human Development

Megan Seltz, College of Continuing and Professional Studies

Kelly Deutschman, College of Science and Engineering

Laila Agily, College of Liberal Arts

Allison Small, College of Liberal Arts

Valerie Bertsch, College of Liberal Arts

Laila Agily, College of Liberal Arts

Therese Djei, College of Liberal Arts

Madhu Bhat, College of Liberal Arts

True Xiong, College of Liberal Arts

International Student Services Liaisons

Beth Isensee, International Student and Scholar Services

Drew Smith, International Student and Scholar Services

Theresa GanglGhassemlouei, International Student and Scholar Services

Jenny Mealey, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Mark Bultmann, Office of Undergraduate Education

Michael Anderson, Minnesota English Language Program

Sharon Dzik, Office for Community Standards

Elizabeth Schwartz, Internationalization of Curriculum and Campus, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance

APPROXIMATELY 12% OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY IS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE DEFINED AS STUDENTS WHO ARE IN THE UNITED STATES ON NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS AND THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR BEING IN THE UNITED STATES IS TO STUDY FULL-TIME.

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International Student Pre-Arrival Information

After admission, all new international students can access pre-arrival information from two main sources.

Pre-Arrival Guide for New International Students

After confirming enrollment to the University, students are mailed a [Pre-Arrival Guide](#) along with their immigration documents. The guide contains general information relevant to all new international students regardless of college. A link to the guide is also available in the [New Student section](#) of the ISSS website.

International Student Preparation Course - **REQUIRED**

The International Student Preparation Course is a tool to help new international students prepare for their arrival at the University by learning about certain expectations and requirements. Students are required to complete the International Student Preparation Course at least 24 hours before their New Student Orientation.

There are five required sections:

1. Introduction videos from President Kaler and ISSS Assistant Dean Barbara Kappler
2. Upon Arrival at the University
3. Immigration Regulations
4. Academics
5. Health Insurance and Campus Safety

There are also several optional sections in the International Student Preparation Course, such as “Housing” and “Diversity at UMN.”

We invite you to view the International Student Preparation Course by visiting iss.s.umn.edu/new/online.html to access the Moodle link and enrollment key.

International Student Arrival Information

International Arrival Date and Immigration Check-In

International Student Arrival Date

All new undergraduate students beginning Fall 2018, both freshman and transfer, are required to arrive by Monday, August 20. New international students are only allowed to enter the U.S. within 30 days of their program start date. This means that the majority of students will not be entering the U.S. until August. However, students who are currently in the U.S. and studied at another U.S. institution may arrive on campus throughout the summer.

Immigration Check-In - **REQUIRED**

All new international students are required to attend Immigration Check-In with ISSS prior to temporary removal of the AI (Determine Visa Status) registration hold (see page 6 for a chart of the AI Hold removal process). The purpose of Immigration Check-In is for staff to review new international students' immigration-related documents. This is a requirement mandated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and ISSS has been given this responsibility on behalf of the University of Minnesota.

At Immigration Check-In, ISSS staff will:

1. Review documents for accuracy and verify arrival in SEVIS.
2. Temporarily remove the AI (Determine Visa Status) Hold prior to academic adviser meeting. (The hold will remain on the student's record, but it will not block their first-semester registration)
3. Welcome and introduce students to ISSS services.
4. Highlight important immigration regulations and UMN policies.

When does Immigration Check-In occur?

Immigration Check-In for undergraduate students is embedded in the Freshmen/Transfer Orientation.

Freshmen Students

Students attending Freshman Orientation will have their Immigration Check-In from 8:20-10:15 a.m.

Transfer Students

Immigration Check-In is divided into two parts for students attending Transfer Orientation: **Part I** will be from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and **Part II** is from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

The AI hold will be temporarily removed after Part I to allow course registration, but **transfer students are required to attend both Part I & II. Please ensure students return to complete Part II of their Immigration Check-In so that they receive important information about maintaining their immigration status.**

Additional New International Student Requirements

New International Student Seminar - *REQUIRED*

All new freshmen and new transfer international students are required to attend a [New International Student Seminar \(NISS\)](#). The program allows students to have a discussion with their peers on the challenges and successes in/after their first semester at the UMN. NISS also provides an opportunity for students to meet with campus resources.

New transfer students are required to complete the program during their first semester, but freshmen complete the program in their second semester. **Once students complete the program, their AI hold is permanently removed** (see page 6 for more about the AI hold).

ISSS will send an email to all new freshman and transfer students telling them they must register for and attend NISS. Students must attend the entire session; their AI hold will not be removed if they leave early. Students who have class during all of the NISS sessions can contact ISSS to make an alternate arrangement.

Optional New Student Activities

Global Gopher Events (August 20-August 31)

Global Gopher Events are engagement activities for international students to support their cultural transition to the University of Minnesota campus. The activities allow students to connect with each other and provide cultural context regarding the educational system at the University of Minnesota (and the United States). The goals of the program are to increase knowledge of academic and social support resources tailored specifically for undergraduate international students.

The Global Gopher Events schedule and registration will be [posted online](#) by July 14. Please direct questions to Nasreen Mohamed: moha0015@umn.edu, ext. 6-8494.

iSuccess (August 13-18)

iSuccess is a customized pre-academic program that gives new international student an early start at the University of Minnesota. Students have time to experience an American classroom, learn strategies for bridging cultural challenges, and prepare to succeed academically and personally at UMN.

iSuccess is open to all new undergraduate and exchange students, and cost is \$700. Registration and more information is available at iss.umn.edu/programs/iSuccess. iSuccess does not occur before the start of spring semester.

International Buddy Program

The International Buddy Program (IBP) helps ease the transition to the University of Minnesota! In IBP, new international students are paired with a mentor who is a returning undergraduate student with similar interests.

IBP is open to all new undergraduate and exchange students, and groups are started for both the fall and spring semesters. Registration is limited, so students should be encouraged to [apply early](#).

New International Student Registration Information

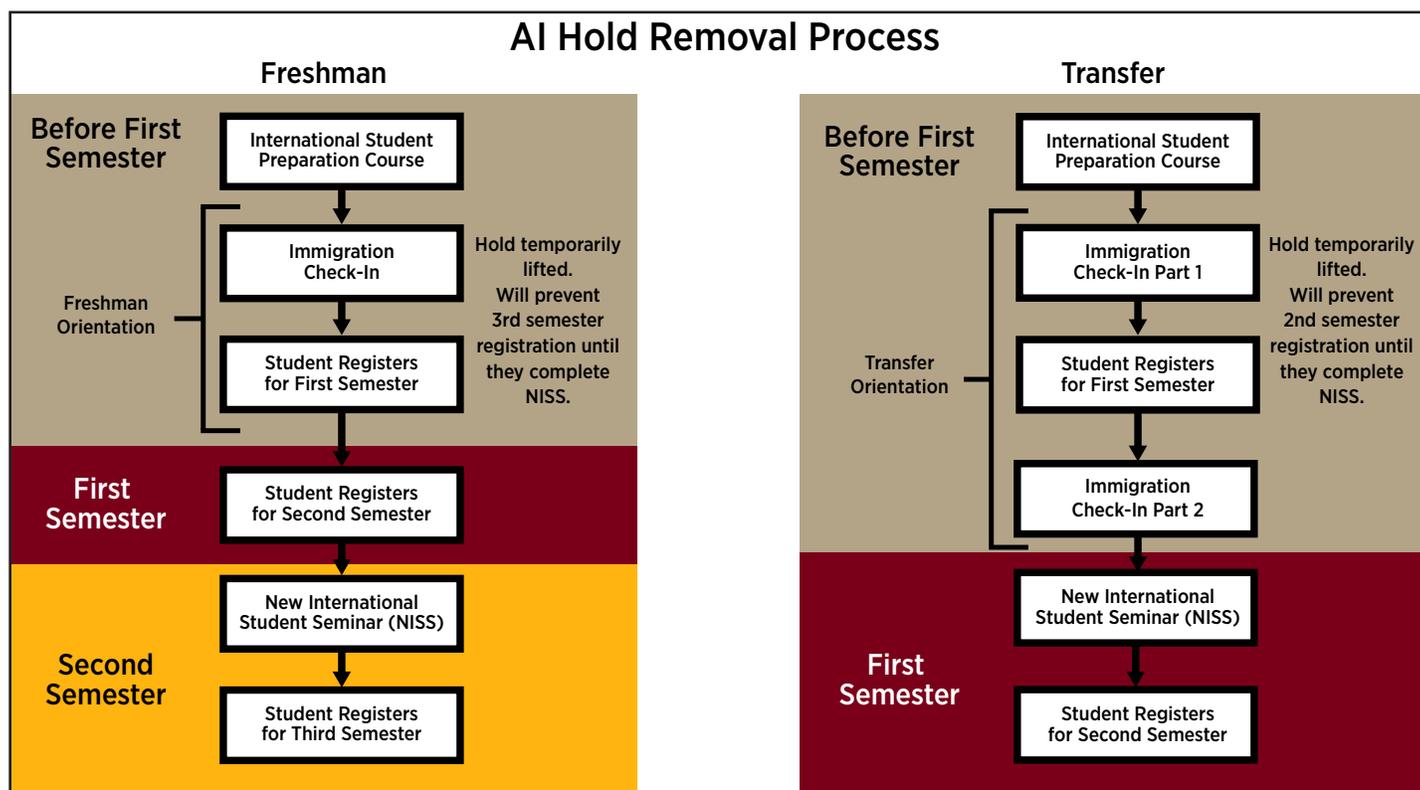
When Can a New International Student Register for Classes?

Most undergraduate international students will be able to register for classes after completing Immigration Check-In at their New Student Orientation. Situations that may delay a student's ability to register include:

- Not bringing the necessary immigration documents¹ to Immigration Check-In
- Not resolving other registration holds²
- Not completing the request for SEVIS transfer (for students whose previous academic term was at another U.S. institution)

All international students should complete the mandatory portions of the International Student Preparation Course prior to attending Immigration Check-In. If a student arrives at Immigration Check-In without completing this requirement, they will be allowed to register for their first semester, but their AI hold will be reinstated to prevent them from registering for future semesters until they have completed all of the steps in the AI Hold Removal Process (shown below).

Please direct questions regarding incoming international students, in addition to questions from students as they prepare for their first semester, to issnew@umn.edu or 612-626-7100.



¹ A list is available in the ISSS New Student Section: issss.umn.edu/new

² ISSS has communicated via website and mass emails prior to arrival about the need for students to be aware of their registration holds. Students will receive additional information about the AZ hold (see page 10) as part of their Immigration Check-In information session. For freshmen, Immigration Check-In takes place on Day 1 of the Orientation; therefore, any first-year students who did not know about their AZ hold until Immigration Check-In will have time before they register for classes on Day 2 to visit MELP. Transfer students have a tighter schedule; these students will need to find a time to visit MELP between Immigration Check-In and their registration time. In some cases, it may be possible to resolve the hold over the phone, but this will be at MELP's discretion of MELP.

A MELP staff member will attend select high-volume Freshman and Transfer Orientations in August and the first week of September to help students resolve AZ holds.

Understanding Transfer Credits

For questions about transfer credits for international students, review the **“Important Things To Know About International Transfer Credit”** section of [Transfer Credit](#) webpage on the Office of Admission’s website. Students can also use Transferology (www.transferology.com) to explore what credits will transfer to the UMN.

Limits on Registration for Online Courses

All undergraduate international students (whether in their first semester or not) must register for at least 12 credits every fall and spring semester to maintain their visa status, and at least 9 of those credits need to be in courses that have regular in-person meetings. Any credits over the 9 in-person credits can be online courses.

Communicating with International Students About Timely Graduation

Academic advisers need to inform international students early in their program about the University’s expectations about timely graduation and administrative degree clearance procedures. Students who are double majoring and unaware of these procedures may unexpectedly encounter employment restrictions (Optional Practical Training) if they complete the requirements for one major before the other. To ensure eligibility for Optional Practical Training employment related to both majors, students pursuing multiple programs need to complete the requirements at the same time. Contact an ISSS adviser with any questions.

Course Registration Guidelines: First Semester International Students

Provided below are general guidelines for course registration for **first semester** international students who are non-native English speakers. Evaluation of appropriate course placement relies primarily on individual assessment yet the following chart can serve as a guideline. These guidelines can be used to create balance in the amount of work and the language load first semester as an international student adjusts to studying full time in English.

RECOMMENDED COURSES
<p>English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses See page 9 for a list of Fall 2018 courses or visit ccaps.umn.edu/aep.</p>
<p>ESL 3402: Research Writing (4 credits) This course will help prepare students for WRIT 1301. International students who have a TOEFL iBT writing sub-score below 21 are required to take this course before taking WRIT 1301. It is also open to other students who want to work on their research writing or students you feel would benefit from a full year of writing support.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">rdrake@umn.edu</p>
<p>ESL 3007: English for Physics (1 credit) <i>F 1:25-3:20</i> Students must also be enrolled in an introductory physics course. Sec 001, (1st 7-week session) This course supports students in introductory physics classes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ande1819@umn.edu</p>
<p>Writing 1301 (International and multilingual student sections) (4 credits) These sections of freshman writing taught by instructors trained in supporting the needs of second language writers. For questions about registration, please contact Sheryl Holt at holtx001@umn.edu or 612-624-4524.</p>

COURSES THAT MAY BE LESS LANGUAGE INTENSIVE**Economics****Physical Education****Public Health**

1000-level courses based on lifestyle or campus culture topics (i.e., PUBH 1005: Sleeps, Eats, and Exercises or PUBH 1003: Alcohol and College Life)

COURSES THAT MIGHT BE MORE LANGUAGE INTENSIVE (STUDENTS MAY WANT TO LIMIT IN FIRST SEMESTER)**Art History, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Pop Culture****Literature (i.e., Comparative Literature)****Social Sciences (i.e., Anthropology, History-related, Political Science, Psychology)**

English as a Second Language Courses

Credit Courses Fall 2018

GRAMMAR COURSES

ESL 3102 sec 001 or 301: Grammar for Academic Purposes (4 credits) *001: M-Th 8:00-8:50; Sec 301: Online*
This is the grammar course most incoming international students are ready to take. Course content focuses on improving accuracy and range in English grammar. The course also emphasizes topics that are especially relevant to academic writing, such as conciseness and smooth connections between sentences. It is a good compliment to an academic writing course.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING COURSES

ESL 3502 sec 001/002: Academic Listening and Speaking (5 credits) *TTh 8:00-9:55 and F 8:00-8:50; or TTh 2:30-4:25 and F 3:35-4:25*

The course content includes understanding lectures, producing academic presentations and participating in discussions on subjects of general academic interest, as well as developing strategies for giving and defending opinions. It is a great course for students wanting to build confidence in their listening and speaking skills.

ESL 3551 sec 001: English Pronunciation (4 credits) *MW 4:40-6:35*

The course content and activities center around improving the production and perception of the sounds of the English language: individual sounds, rhythm, intonation, word and sentence stress, and linking phenomena in fast speech.

ESL 3602 sec 001: Speaking for Academic Purposes (4 credits) *TTh 4:40-6:35*

The course activities focus on academic interactions such as lectures, presentations, seminar-style discussions, and informal exchanges. Students will learn to present themselves professionally/socially in collegiate settings. It is a great course for students wanting to build confidence for speaking for class presentations and group work.

WRITING COURSES

ESL 3202: Academic Reading and Composition (5 credits) *Sec 001/002, MW 12:20-2:15 and F 12:20-1:10; Sec 003/004, TTh 8:00-9:55 and F 8:00-8:50; Sec 005/006, MW 4:40-6:35 and F 4:40-5:30*

The course activities include reading material on a variety of topics from many sources, identifying main ideas and details, analyzing and critiquing support, and responding with your own ideas in writing and discussion.

ESL 3302 sec 002: Academic Writing (4 credits) *Most seats are reserved for graduate students, TTh 8:00-9:55*

The course content emphasizes the writing process - developing ideas, drafting, revising, and editing. Students practice different genres of academic writing, work on refining their ability to incorporate source material into writing, critiquing writing, and matching writing to audience and purpose.

ESL 3402: Research Writing for the University (4 credits) *Sec 001, MW 8:00-9:55; Sec 002, MW 4:40-6:35; Sec 004, TTh 4:40-6:35*

Students develop the methods of citation, conventions of style and organization, and critical thinking skills necessary for writing college-level research papers. Students select topics derived from a contemporary academic theme provided by the instructor and, applying a process approach, produce a research paper.

OTHER COURSES

ESL 3001 sec 001: Integrated Skills for Academic English (2 credits) *MW 4:40-6:35 (2nd 7-week session)*

The course content focuses on polishing English skills to succeed in university-level classes, specifically in relation to small group discussions, interactions with instructors/peers, editing academic writing, working with grammar in course papers, and vocabulary building.

ESL 3006 sec 001: English for Business Interactions (2 credits) *M 4:40-6:35, F 2:30-3:20*

The course content is designed for high-intermediate to advanced non-native speakers of English who are currently business majors or in a closely related major. The course emphasizes writing for business communication, self-editing skills, communication styles, presentations, telephone communication.

ESL 3007 sec 001: English for Physics (1 credit) *F 1:25-3:20 (1st 7-week session)*

Students must also be enrolled in an introductory physics course. Students will gain more support and practice with the conventions of writing scientific lab reports, applying the concepts of academic integrity, interacting and participating in lab discussions, interpreting authentic texts, and understanding the cultural norms for seeking additional academic/social support.

ESL 3008, sec 001: English for Chemistry (1 credit) *Time/day TBD. (1st 7-week session)*

NEW Students must be concurrently enrolled in an introductory chemistry class. Students will gain support and practice with the conventions of writing chemistry lab reports, interacting and participating in lab discussions, interpreting authentic texts, and understanding the cultural norms for seeking additional academic/social support.

English Language Requirements and Support

Supporting Non-native English Speaking International Students at UMN

Students Who Have NOT Met the Minimum English Requirement = AZ Hold

What is an AZ hold and how does a student clear that hold?

The AZ service indicator is placed on a student's record by the Admissions Office if the student is admitted before submitting evidence of having met the minimum English proficiency requirement of the University (550 pbt, 79 iBT, 6.5 IELTS, 80 MELAB, 75 MN Battery) or a low writing subscore.

Upon arrival, students have three options:

1. Submit official test scores that meet the requirement,
2. Take the MN Battery Test offered through the Minnesota English Language Program and achieve the minimum score required, or
3. Register for and pass the appropriate ESL credit courses.

Can students with an AZ hold register for WRIT 1301?

No. Students must complete any required ESL courses before they register for WRIT 1301.

What if students do not comply with the AZ hold requirement?

If a student drops their required ESL classes, both the student and their college advisor will receive an email notification that the student is in non-compliance. In this case, the student will be required to submit official TOEFL scores before the AZ hold will be lifted and thus will not be able to register for future terms.

What is the AZ hold removal process?

1. Students go to the Minnesota English Language Program (MELP) office for initial AZ advising. During this time:
 - a. The ESL Requirement Policy is explained to students.
 - b. Students register for the MN Battery, if desired (and AZ hold is temporarily removed).
 - c. If the student chooses not to take MN Battery, the student is given a permission number(s) for required ESL course(s) (and AZ hold is temporarily removed).
2. The student meets with his/her college advisor and discusses required ESL class(s)
 - a. Students and advisors decide on how to work the required ESL class into their schedule .
 - b. Advisors or students contact MELP for any additional permission number(s): 612-624-1503.
 - c. The AZ hold can be pushed out to allow for full-year registration for incoming freshman. Advisors can contact the MELP office if this is needed.
3. Students register for classes.
4. MELP contacts any students (and their advisors) who haven't registered for their ESL classes. Students must take required ESL classes during their first term on campus.
5. The AZ hold is permanently removed after students pass all of their required ESL classes or meet MN Battery test score minimum.

Is there additional English support for new students?

Undergraduate international students can meet with an ESL consultant to get individualized language support on a variety of language issues. Students can sign up for consultations at the **Student English Language Support** (SELS) website: www.ccaps.umn.edu/eslhelp.

Students Who HAVE Met the Minimum English Requirement

What if I have an international student advisee with no AZ hold who I think could benefit from more English support?

It is important to keep in mind that a test score is an indication of proficiency, but some students with high test scores might still benefit from language support, especially during their first year on campus. While these students are not required to take ESL classes, some will benefit from support in certain aspects of language. Course listings are found on the Minnesota English Language Program [website](#) (and pages 8-9 of this guide).

Please call MELP (612-624-1503) if you have questions about a student's English proficiency score or ask the student.

Below are some guidelines for interpreting TOEFL and IELTS scores (contact the MELP office for other test score interpretation):

If the student has a score of:	Recommendation
79 to 83 TOEFL or 6.5 IELTS	1 ESL course strongly recommended
84 to 86 TOEFL or 7.0 IELTS	1 ESL course recommended, especially if a sub score is considerably lower than the other scores
87 or above TOEFL or 7.5 or above IELTS	ESL courses recommended on a case by case basis for students wishing to really polish a specific English language skill (e.g., pronunciation, presentation skills, or writing)

What can TOEFL iBT or IELTS sub scores tell me about a student's abilities?

Undergraduate students with a writing sub score lower than 21 on TOEFL or 6.5 on IELTS are required to take an ESL writing class to support them in their transition into the university. Students with sub scores lower than 20 in other areas may benefit from a supportive language class while they transition into the university. Most students will know their sub scores.

Some guidelines on appropriate elective courses for students with lower sub scores:

	Writing	Reading	Speaking	Listening
If sub score is...	18-20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	15-20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	16-20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	16-20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS
An appropriate class would be:	ESL 3102, ESL 3202, ESL 3402	ESL 3202	ESL 3502, ESL 3551, ESL 3602	ESL 3502
	Writing	Reading	Speaking	Listening
If a sub score is...	< 18 TOEFL or < 6.0 IELTS	<15 TOEFL or < 6.0 IELTS	< 16 TOEFL or < 6.0 IELTS	< 16 TOEFL or < 6.0 IELTS
An appropriate class would be:	ESL 3101, ESL 3201 or ESL 3202, ESL 3102	ESL 3201 or ESL 3202	ESL 3501, ESL 3502, ESL 3551	ESL 3501 or ESL 3502

What if the student took the MN Battery?

Students will typically receive recommended elective ESL courses even if they meet the minimum required score on the MN Battery when they get their test results. If you would like to know about a student's sub scores on the test, contact the Minnesota English Language Program at 612-624-1503.

I have a student who appeared to have strong language skills, but it is now several weeks into the term and the student is struggling. Is it too late to get support?

No. ESL 3001 (2 credits) is offered during the last 7 weeks of the term. This course is designed to support students in developing a variety of skills for success at the University.

Students Experiencing Personal Difficulties or Mental Health Issues

If you work with an international student who is demonstrating unusual behavior or is experiencing personal difficulties or mental health issues, the following campus resources can offer assistance. Because of the stigma that some students attach to “counseling,” it may help the student be more comfortable if you tell him/her that these offices have staff who help students deal with a variety of difficulties. You can also contact a counselor from one of these offices directly to consult with you about the student. The counselor can help you determine if a referral or other resources are needed.

The following campus offices offer counseling to international students:

- [Student Counseling Services](#) (612-624-3323)
- [Boynton Mental Health Clinic](#) (612-624-1444)
- [International Student and Scholar Services](#) (612-626-7100)

For more information about mental health resources, go to www.mentalhealth.umn.edu.

International Students in Crisis

If you are concerned about an international student’s wellbeing or disruptive behavior, please contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). ISSS has an experienced crisis team whose members work with international students who are in crisis or exhibit behavior that is disruptive and/or possibly indicative of more serious problems. Possible behavioral indicators of more serious problems include international students who (a) do not consistently attend class, (b) are missing from normal activities, (c) exhibit disruptive behavior, or (d) appear to not be functioning well. ISSS staff can usually find a way to contact an international student and check on his/her welfare.

The earlier ISSS receives reports about an international student’s wellbeing or disruptive behavior, the more effective interventions can be. If further assistance is needed to stabilize the student, ISSS staff can accompany the student to a medical provider or the hospital. ISSS staff work closely with SCS, Boynton Mental Health Clinic, and Fairview University Medical Center. In addition, ISSS is represented on the University Behavioral Consultation Team and the University Community Response Team. Referrals from the academic advising community and collaboration with advisers are instrumental in assisting international students.

If you are concerned about an international student, please contact one of these ISSS advisers:

Mingzhi Li	lix0887@umn.edu	612-626-7100
Barbara Pilling	pilli003@umn.edu	612-624-9519
Duane Rohovit	rohov002@umn.edu	612-626-4797
Gabriele Schmiegel (Especially government sponsored international students)	schm0535@umn.edu	612-626-7428
Alisa Eland	eland@umn.edu	612-626-7100 or 612-626-7445
Drew Smith	smit2039@umn.edu	612-625-7965

International Student Articles and Resources

University of Minnesota

[Data and Research Regarding International Undergraduate Students at the University of Minnesota](#)

[Resources for Supporting Multilingual Learners](#)

[ISSS Tips for Native English Speakers: Speaking with Non-Native English Speakers](#)

NACADA Clearinghouse: International Student Resources

[International Student Related Resource Links](#) (additional articles besides those listed below)

[East Meets West- Bridging the Advising Divide](#)

[Advising First Year International Students](#)

NAFSA: Association for International Educators

[Bridging the Gap: Recruitment and Retention to Improve International Student Experiences](#)

[Retaining International Students](#)

Journal of International Students (additional articles besides those listed below are at jistudents.org)

Volume Six includes:

[Delaying Academic Tasks? Predictors of Academic Procrastination among Asian International Students in American Universities](#)

[Unfulfilled Expectations: Influence of Chinese International Students' Roommate Relationships on Sense of Belonging](#)

Other Journal Based

[Using Formal and Informal Curricula to Improve Interactions Between Home and International Students](#)

[Bridging the Gap in Expectations Between International Students and Academic Staff](#)

Other Resources

[The Transition In: Setting International Students Up for Academic Success](#)

[The American Educational Administrator: Examining Some Assumptions](#)

[Recognizing and Addressing Cultural Variations in the Classroom](#)

University of Minnesota International Student Specific Resources

[Academic Resources for UMN International Students \(z.umn.edu/internationalstudents\)](http://z.umn.edu/internationalstudents)

This is a comprehensive guide that will help advisers and student the navigate resources at the UMN. It is broken into sections for 1. adjusting to U.S. culture, 2. making American friends, 3. English language skills, 4. writing a paper, 5. citing sources, 6. giving presentations, 7. participating in class, 8. test taking, 9. working in groups, 10. choosing a major, 11. managing stress, 12. time management, and 13. working as a Teaching Assistant

[Writing Resources for Non-native Speakers of English through the Center for Writing](#)

[Understanding the University of Minnesota Library System: A Guide for International Students](#)

Created by UMN library staff and available to students in English, [Chinese](#) and [Korean](#) languages

[ISSS International Student Support Programs](#)

International Buddy Program, Cross-Cultural Discussion Groups, Small World Coffee Hour and Leadership Programs

[CLA Tandem Plus](#): Language Conversation Partners

Contact Information

International Student and Scholar Services

190 Humphrey School

iss.umn.edu

iss@umn.edu

612-626-7100

Calli Thompson

For questions about Immigration Check-In

issnew@umn.edu

612-626-8414

Theresa GanglGhassemlouei

For general advising and immigration based questions.

t-gang@umn.edu

612-624-5225

Deanne Silvera

For questions about short-term exchange students

silve025@umn.edu

612-624-9512

Gabi Schmiegel

For questions about students who are sponsored financially by a government, company or agency

schm0535@umn.edu

612-626-7428

Duane Rohovit

For questions about GLBT international student support

rohov002@umn.edu

612-626-4797

Minnesota English Language Program

20 Nicholson Hall

ccaps.umn.edu/esl

612-624-1503

Hal Nevels

Student Services Specialist

For permission numbers, questions about classes

esl@umn.edu

612-624-1503 or 612-626-8426 (direct)

Sara Schroth

MELP International Student Adviser

Works with students in Intensive English Program

schro861@umn.edu

612-625-7888

Emeline Rogers

Student Services and Program Coordinator

For questions about AZ holds and permission numbers

etrogers@umn.edu

612-625-2162

Mike Anderson

Director, English Language Programs

ande1819@umn.edu

612-624-1183

For More Information

The ISSS Website (iss.umn.edu) has a wide variety of information for students, scholars, and departments about visa regulations and ISSS's service and programs. A page with information for academic advisers is at iss.umn.edu/Departments/aadviser.

ISSS emails a Weekly Update that contains announcements about important deadlines, visa requirements, events for international students, ISSS services, and more. All international students are automatically signed up for this email. If you would like to subscribe or read past issues, go to iss.umn.edu/weeklyupdate.

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) offers an "Introduction to International Student Advising" training session twice a year for academic advisers (iss.umn.edu/training/advising.html). ISSS also has a variety of training options for UMN colleges, departments and staff who wish to work effectively with international students, scholars, and colleagues. We offer these sessions for all UMN staff periodically throughout the semester, and we will also work with departments to create personalized training tailored to their unique needs. Our trainings range from sessions focusing on specific visa regulations to intercultural skills development and suggestions for advising international students. For more information, see iss.umn.edu/training.