

Adviser Resource Guide:

New Undergraduate International Students

University of Minnesota

Fall 2019

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

Phuong Geiger, College of Biological Sciences

Wanda Loerch, College of Design

Sara Georgeson, College of Education and Human Development

Alissa Bigelow, College of Continuing and Professional Studies

Kelly Deutschman, College of Science and Engineering

Allison Small, College of Liberal Arts

Valerie Bertsch, College of Liberal Arts

Alison Blomster, College of Liberal Arts

Therese Djei, College of Liberal Arts

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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

Amy Hackett, 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

Alyssa Ruesch Bonnac, Minnesota English Language Program

**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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Summary of Changes and Request for Assistance

ISSS has made several changes to our check-in process for new international students this year. These changes were made to ensure efficiency and the seamless transition for incoming students while supporting UMN departments and International Student and Scholar Services.

While most of these changes only impact how students interact with ISSS, we ask that you review your department's new student communications (websites, handbooks, emails) to ensure they are updated to include the correct information. We have communicated this information to your International Student College Liaison, but we encourage you to review your communications as well.

If you are interested, you can see a list of all of the changes occurring this year at z.umn.edu/issf19changes, but the following items are the most significant items:

- The **Mandatory Arrival Date** for all undergraduate students (freshman and transfer) is **August 19, 2019**.
- There are **three steps** that must be completed for an international student's AI hold to be temporarily removed to allow them to register for their first semester (see page 8 for more about the entire process):
 1. The student **must complete the International Student Preparation Course**.
 2. The student must **upload their documents using the "Document Check" form on MyISSS** (myiss.umn.edu). This must be done after the student arrives in the USA as one of the documents is given to the student when they enter the USA (see page 7 for more information about MyISSS, our new online system for accepting immigration-related requests).
 3. The student must **attend the ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session** (formerly called Immigration Check-In).
- **Transfer Students:** Due to this new process, we have been able to eliminate the need for new transfer students to return in the afternoon for the second part of their check-in with ISSS.

While you can choose how much information to include in your publications, we ask that colleges and departments only link to the New Student section of the ISSS website (iss.umn.edu/new) rather than linking to individual requirements (such as giving a link directly to the International Student Preparation Course) as this will decrease the likelihood of out-of-date information being given to students.

Thank you in advance for supporting our students as they transition to the University.

Please feel free to contact me (moha0015@umn.edu, ext. 6-8494) if you have additional questions.

International Student Pre-Arrival Information

After admission, all new international students can access pre-arrival information from three 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.

The modules include:

1. Introduction videos from ISSS Assistant Dean Barbara Kappler
2. Preparing for Arrival
3. Requirements Upon Arrival
4. Enrollment
5. Academics
6. Employment
7. Travel
8. Cultural Adjustment

We invite you to view the International Student Preparation Course by visiting iss.umn.edu/new/online.html.

ISSS Emails

ISSS regularly sends email to all incoming international students. As Google applications are banned in some countries, ISSS sends these emails to both the student's UMN email address and the personal email in their record. These email include both reminders about what tasks they must do to ensure the removal of their AI hold along with information about ISSS's services and programs.

To streamline communication from incoming international students, ISSS uses the email issnew@umn.edu for all questions from new students. Please direct students to this email account as they prepare for their first semester at the University.

International Student Arrival Information

International Arrival Date and ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session

International Student Arrival Date

All new undergraduate students beginning Fall 2019, both freshman and transfer, are required to arrive by **Monday, August 19**. 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.

MyISSS Document Check - **REQUIRED**

AFTER students arrive in the USA, they must scan and submit their documents to ISSS using the "Document Check" form on MyISSS (myiss.umn.edu). The purpose of the Document Check is to give ISSS staff the opportunity to review all new international students' immigration-related documents and verify their eligibility to study in the United States. 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. A list of the required documents is available on MyISSS for students or on the [ISSS website](#).

Students must complete their Document Check after they arrive in the USA because they will not receive one of the required documents (I-94 entry record) until they enter the country. To avoid complications, students should be encouraged to review the scanned documents to ensure the text is legible and the complete document is shown in the image. The AI hold will be temporarily lifted after the student completes their Document Check, and it has been approved by ISSS.

ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session - *REQUIRED*

All new international students are required to attend an ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session at their New Student Orientation. While they should have uploaded them previously, students should bring their original passport and I-20/DS-2019 to the session, in case ISSS needs to verify information or the student needs assistance completing their online Document Check.

At their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session, students will learn about:

1. The services and programs offered by ISSS
2. The requirements for the permanent removal of the AI registration hold, and information about how to remove the AZ (English Proficiency) hold
3. The relevance of immigration regulations throughout their time in the USA in F-1 or J-1 status

When does a student's ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session occur?

The ISSS Check-In and Welcome Sessions for undergraduate students are embedded in their Freshmen/Transfer Orientation.

Freshmen Students

Students attending Freshman Orientation will have their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session from 8:20–10:15 a.m.

Transfer Students

ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session will be from 8:00–9:15 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: We made changes to the check-in process for new transfer students this year. Since students will upload their documents to MyISSS before their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session (see page 5), they will no longer return in the afternoon to complete their document check. The process will be completed in the morning.

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 7 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

iSuccess: Global Gopher Academy (August 12–17)

The Global Gopher Academy 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.

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

Global Gopher Events (August 19–August 27, Spring Date To Be Announced)

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.

We encourage you to advertise the events when you send out a communication to international students. Registration is recommended but not required. The Global Gopher Events schedule and registration will be [posted online](#) by May 17. Please direct questions to Nasreen Mohamed: moha0015@umn.edu, ext. 6-8494.

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 buddies can start in either the fall or spring semesters. Registration is limited, so students should be encouraged to [apply early](#).

In addition to buddies, IBP recruits domestic and international students who have been studying at the University of Minnesota at least 1 semester to mentor new students. For Fall, the deadline to apply to be a mentor is early July; for Spring, the deadline is mid-January. Please share this information with your students, and refer them to the [ISSS website](#).

Introduction to MyISSS

ISSS is in the process of moving our visa-related processes online to MyISSS (myiss.umn.edu). This new system (launched in 2018) allows international students and scholars to submit requests online, receive email updates and monitor the status of requests, and provide ISSS staff the information we need to process requests efficiently and accurately. We will be moving our forms to this new system in several stages.

This system also sends an email directly to academic advisers when one of their international advisees submits a request needing their review and/or approval. The email will include information about what you need to do to log into MyISSS.

New International Student Registration Information

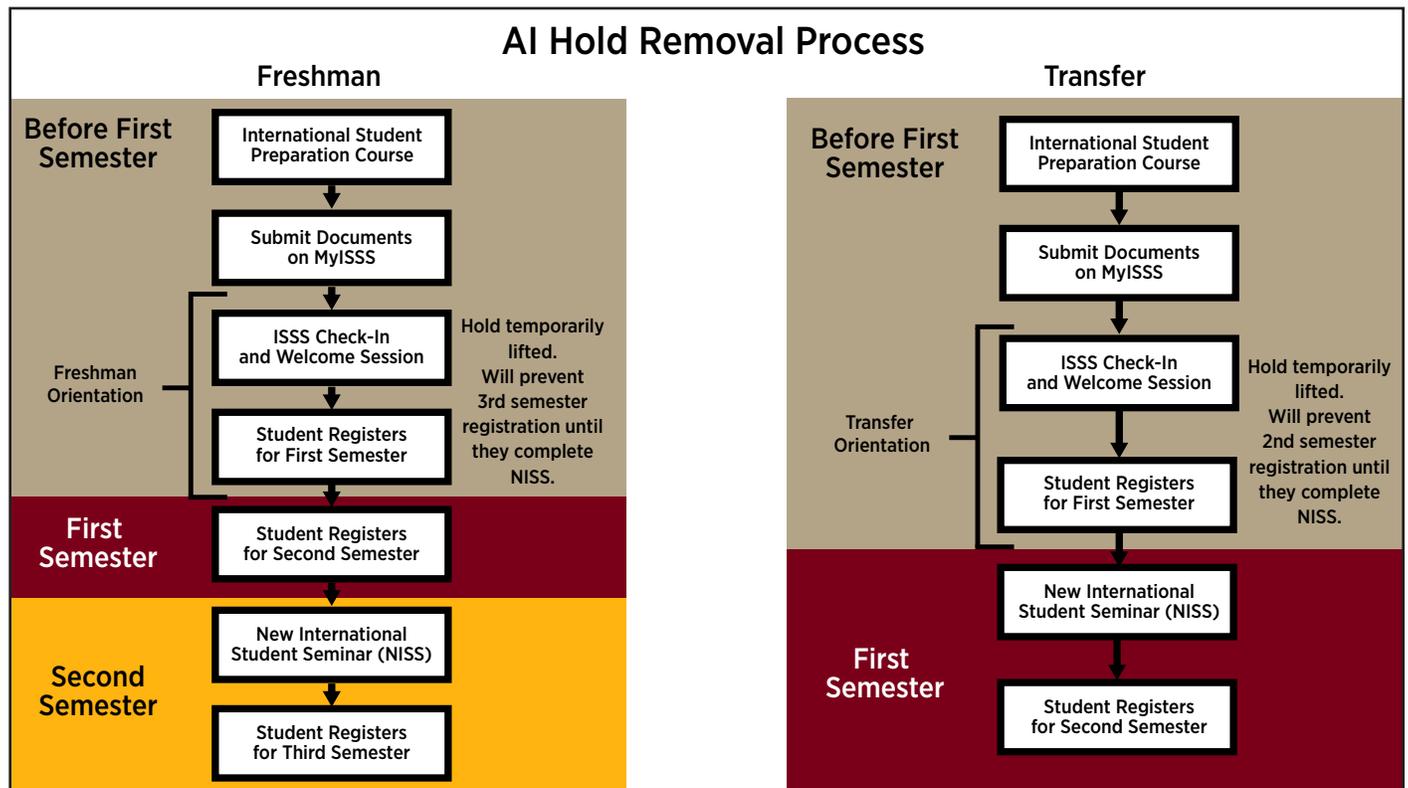
When Can a New International Student Register for Classes?

Most undergraduate international students will be able to register for classes after completing their Document Check and attending the ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session. Situations that may delay a student's ability to register include:

- Not uploading legible copies of all of the necessary documents to MyISSS prior to their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session¹ (a list is available at iss.umn.edu/new/docs.html).
- Not resolving other registration holds²
- Not completing the request for SEVIS transfer (for students whose previous academic term was at another U.S. institution who must transfer their immigration record to the UMN—this requirement includes students transferring from any of the UMN system campuses or the Minnesota English Language Program in CCAPS)

¹ While students should be encouraged to upload their documents prior to the ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session, students will have the opportunity to scan any missing documents at the session.

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 ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session information session. For freshmen, ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session takes place on Day 1 of the Orientation; therefore, any first-year students who did not know about their AZ hold until ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session 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 ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session 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. A MELP staff member will attend select high-volume Freshman and Transfer Orientations in August to help students resolve AZ holds.



All international students should complete the mandatory portions of the International Student Preparation Course prior to attending ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session. If a student arrives at their ISSS Check-In and Welcome Session 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 above).

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.

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. This website, however, only includes courses taken domestically.

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 multilingual and English is not their first language. 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.

There are also resources available about talking to students about the benefits of multilingualism and continuing to develop discipline-specific language while in a degree program. Further development of linguistic skills can help students in their future job searches and careers. For additional information go to: esl.umn.edu (Resources for Faculty and Staff).

RECOMMENDED COURSES
<p>English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses See page 10 for a list of Fall 2019 courses or visit ccaps.umn.edu/aep.</p>
<p>ESL 3001: Integrated Skills for Academic English (2 credits) (2nd 7-week session) <i>MW 4:40–6:35</i> This is a second seven-week session language and academic success course. Students may want to add this course if they find that they need some more assistance with English at mid-semester.</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>Engl 1001W, sec 007 Introduction to Literature for Non-native Speakers (3 credits) These special sections are geared toward multilingual students. Contact Rachel Drake at 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>ESL 3008: English for Chemistry (1 credit) <i>F 11:15–1:10</i> Students must also be enrolled in an introductory chemistry course. Sec 001, (1st 7-week session) This course supports students in introductory chemistry classes, especially in writing lab reports.</p>
<p>UC 1005: Global Perspectives on Higher Education (2 credits) Students examine and process the values, contexts, and goals of the American higher educational system as it compares to their previous experiences. Questions? Contact Mike Anderson at 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>
<p>LEAD 1961W: Personal Leadership in the University (3 credits) This is an introductory course in the leadership minor series. There are reserved seats available for international students in each section.</p>
COURSES THAT MAY BE LESS LANGUAGE INTENSIVE
Economics
Hard Sciences
Physical Education
Math
<p>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)</p>

COURSES THAT MIGHT BE MORE LANGUAGE INTENSIVE (STUDENTS MAY WANT TO LIMIT IN FIRST SEMESTER)**Art History, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Pop Culture****Communication Courses****Religion Studies Courses****Social Sciences (i.e., Anthropology, History-related, Political Science, Psychology)****Writing Intensive courses****English as a Second Language Courses**

Credit Courses Fall 2019

GRAMMAR COURSES**ESL 3102 sec 001 or 301: Grammar for Academic Purposes** (4 credits) *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 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, 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 3402: Research Writing for the University (4 credits) *Sec 001, MW 8:00–9:55; Sec 002, 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) *F 11:15-1:10 (1st 7-week session)*

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 Multilingual 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 with a TOEFL score that is slightly lower than the language requirement and will require some support while transitioning into academic life at the University (scores below 79 iBT, 6.5 IELTS, 75 MN Battery, 180 CAE C1 Advanced, 59 PTE Academic,) or a low writing subscore.

Upon arrival, students have three options:

1. Submit official test scores that exceed 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.

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.

In addition, some quick help resources are available for students at esl.umn.edu. The website has self-study materials, practice quizzes, tips, videos, and links to provide English language practice with speaking, vocabulary, reading, American culture, and more!

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.

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. All students continue to develop their language skills while in a degree program. 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 below...	20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	20 TOEFL or 6.0 IELTS	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

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:

- [Office of Student Affairs \(OSA\) Care Program](#) (612-625-2517)
- [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) or the OSA Care Program. 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 or the OSA Care Program, 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 advisers from the ISSS Crisis and Counseling Team:

Barbara Pilling	pilli003@umn.edu	612-624-9519
Charles Dania	cdania@umn.edu	612-625-8351
Chirayu Dongre (Especially LGBTQIA+ international students)	dongr044@umn.edu	612-626-4797
Gabriele Schmiegel (Especially government sponsored international students)	schm0535@umn.edu	612-626-7428
Drew Smith	smit2039@umn.edu	612-625-7965
Alisa Eland	eland@umn.edu	612-626-7100 or 612-626-7445

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)

[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

[Resources for Multilingual Learners](#)

Online resources for enhancing English skills and information about other resources on campus

[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](#)

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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 services 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 at the start of each semester. 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.