



International Student Center Newsletter

Students Report Satisfaction

And other Positive Developments at the ISC

With more students and new staff in 2005, the International Student Center strove to better identify student needs and provide more comprehensive services. Highlighted here are some of the recent ISC accomplishments.

Student Satisfaction Surveys

As one of the ISC's Initiative-Promoting Objectives (IPO) identified in spring 2004, student satisfaction questionnaires were developed by staff member Pilar Ellis and Intern Vincent White.

In terms of the ISC service, respondents consistently agreed that the ISC is helpful, provides accurate information, and creates an environment in which students feel comfortable seeking assistance.

International students reported positive experiences on the campus interacting with instructors, and both domestic and international students.

97% of students would recommend Fullerton College to other international students

70% of students interact with American students off-campus

91% of students are satisfied with the services provided by the ISC

Ellis and Field Nguyen, ISC Intern, organized a series of student focus groups to learn more about our students' application and admissions experiences, their process of adjustment and acculturation, and other needs. The feedback from our students

identified the demand for clearer admissions processes, greater housing assistance and on-going cultural adjustment programs.

Outreach & Cultural Training

In an effort to increase campus awareness of the ISC and international students, Jessie Blank, Director, visited several division meetings and student groups. While explaining immigration policies to faculty, Blank highlighted how the ISC and international students can serve as a cultural resource on campus.

Foreign Film Festival

In celebration of International Education Week November 15-19, 2004, Nahrin Hinaro, International Counselor, organized the third annual foreign film festival. Featuring films from Iran, Japan, France, Korea, Spain, and Taiwan, the festival drew students, staff, and community members. Several faculty offered extra credit to students for attending the festival.

On-Line Improvements

Making Fullerton College information more accessible to students and parents, the ISC home page now features translations in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.

By May, <http://isc.fullcoll.edu> will feature a gallery of hundreds of pictures from 2001 forward. Providing a greater sense of community, it will appeal to prospective students and allow current students to view and order prints of their favorite FC memories.

Spring Break at Big Bear Lake

International Club and ISC Host Successful Cultural Excursion

Take a three-bedroom mountain cabin, fill it with 17 international students and three American staff, and you get a unique spring break experience.

For the first time, the International Club and ISC coordinated an overnight trip. Located less than two hours away from Fullerton, Big Bear Lake sits atop the snowy San Bernardino mountains near the popular southern California ski resorts Big Bear Mountain and Snow Summit.

Students enjoyed a variety of activities including alpine sledding, horseback riding, cooking, singing karaoke, and playing board games.

Both staff and students enjoyed the "weekender" and are looking forward to planning the next trip. Sights are set on camping in Central California or taking the train to San Francisco.



Jenna and Jay (Korea) enjoy snow on the cabin's deck.

F-1 Status Made Simple

Avoid status violations and make the most of your F-1 visa benefits

✓ **Enroll in 12 units by the SEVIS deadline**

Each fall and spring semester, you must register and pay for a minimum of 12 units by the SEVIS registration deadline. The SEVIS deadline is one month (30 days) after the semester begins. For example, the fall 2005 semester begins August 22. Therefore, all F-1 students must enroll in 12 units by September 22 so that the ISC staff can confirm their full-time student status in SEVIS. To meet this requirement, we suggest the following steps:

- **Meet with Nahrin each semester** before your registration appointment to select your courses and alternatives.
- **Purchase health insurance early** so that you can enroll in your classes in a timely manner.
- **Secure your funds for tuition early** so that you can pay within 72 hours of registration and avoid being dropped for non-payment.

✓ **Complete 12 units each semester**

F-1 students are required to earn a grade (A, B, C, D, F, or CR, NC) in 12 units each fall and spring semester. If you receive a “W” for withdrawing from a class, the units do not count towards your 12 unit minimum. In order to avoid poor grades and violating your status for receiving a W, we suggest the following steps:

- **Check your course progress.** Instructors submit Progress Reports to the ISC six weeks into the semester. If you're not doing well, Nahrin can refer you to services to help improve your grade or help you select a second session class.
- **Enroll in a Second Session course.** If you and Nahrin decide it is best to withdraw from a class, you can select a class that starts in late March or October. You can add this class to replace the units from the class you dropped.

✓ **Make degree progress in accordance with the college's “Scholastic Dismissal” policy**

The 2004-05 Catalog states that “A student who has been placed on academic probation and earned a cumulative grade point average 1.75 or lower in two consecutive semesters will be subject to scholastic dismissal.”

If you are scholastically dismissed from the college, you must file a “Petition for Re-admission” to Admissions and Records Office. If your petition for re-admission is denied, you are not eligible to continue attending Fullerton College. If you are dismissed and do not transfer or leave the US within 60 days of the last date you attended, the ISC will terminate your I-20 and F-1 status.

✓ **Apply for Optional Practical Training**

International students who have been in F-1 status for two semesters are eligible to apply for one year of off-campus employment in their field of study. This is called Optional Practical Training (OPT). To take advantage of this employment benefit, take the following steps:

- **Meet with Nahrin** to confirm the date you will complete your Associate Degree or certificate.
- **Meet with Jessie in September or February** to complete the OPT application. It takes US Immigration at least 90 days to process an OPT application, so apply early. Applications must be submitted to US Immigration before the last day of your degree or certificate coursework.

✓ **Prepare each time you travel outside the US**

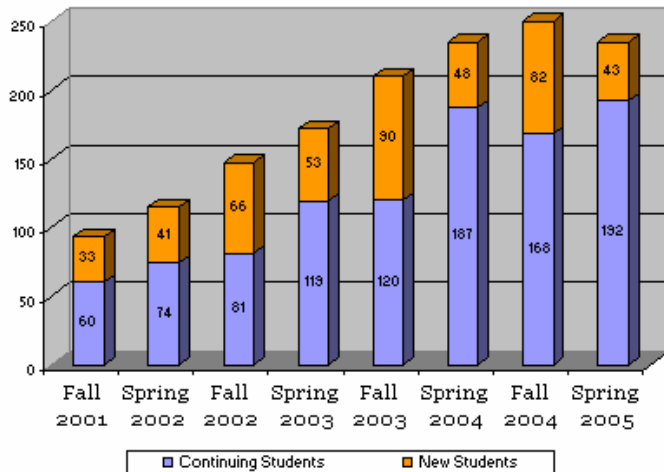
When you travel outside the US and re-enter, you must have several documents in your possession. This includes a valid F-1 visa; a passport with at least 6 months validity; a valid I-20 form with travel authorization signature from Jessie or Pilar; and a valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) if you are on OPT. To prepare for legal travel, you should do the following:

- **Bring your I-20 to the ISC two weeks before you travel.** We will not sign I-20s for travel until after the *last day to withdraw from classes.*
- **Confirm your passport is valid** If you need to extend your passport, contact your country's embassy or consulate here in the US.
- **Confirm your visa is valid** It is okay for your visa to expire during your legal stay in the US, but it must be valid when you re-enter the US. If you need to apply for a new visa, contact the ISC about the application procedure.
- **Transfer:** If you are leaving the US and will attend a different school when you return, you must re-enter the US with the new school's I-20. Request that the ISC transfer your I-20 before you leave or ask your new school to mail your new I-20 to you outside the US.
- **Mexico:** Your F-1 visa alone does not allow you travel to Mexico. You must receive travel authorization on your I-20 and may need a Mexican tourist visa or tourist card, depending on your passport. Contact the Mexican Consulate to obtain the necessary documents to legally enter Mexico.
- **Special Registration:** If you were previously registered, you must depart through a designated port and visit the US Border and Customs Patrol office.

Spring 2005 Snapshot:

International Student Enrollment Trends at Fullerton College

International Student Enrollment



In 2004, US international student enrollment decreased by 2.3% nationally and by 10% in Associate degree institutions—the steepest decline in undergraduate enrollments. Fullerton College international enrollment increased 19% from fall 2003 to fall 2004 while spring 2005 enrollment matched spring 2004 enrollment.

The diversity of the international student population has remained consistent over the past few semesters with slight increases in African, European, and Latin American students in spring 2005.

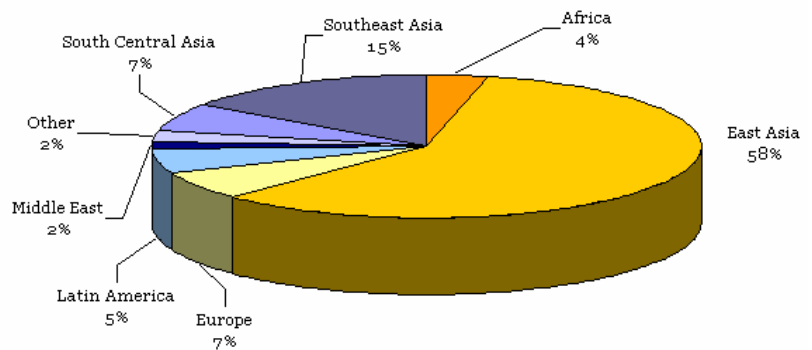
Inquiries and applications for the spring and fall 2005 semesters indicate interest from countries not traditionally represented in Fullerton College’s international student population, including Ireland, Italy, Romania, and Russia.

Source: Institute of International Education "Open Doors 2004"

Top 5 Majors of International Students

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Business Majors | 33% |
| 2. Natural Sciences | 14% |
| 3. Social Sciences | 11% |
| 4. Computer Science | 10% |
| 5. Liberal Studies | 9% |

Student Population by Region of Citizenship



Spring 2005 End of the Year Awards

Thursday, May 5, 2005, 4 to 6 pm, Faculty Dining Room

The ISC will celebrate the end of the semester and honor the Spring 2005 International Graduates, Mentors, Officers, President’s and Dean’s Honor Roll members.



Hyun wears graduation sash with Korean flag

All international students, as well as friends and family of the honorees, are invited to attend. Come enjoy dessert and refreshments, watch the spring 2005 slideshow, and play Cultural Jeopardy to win prizes.

Each graduate will receive a gift from the International Student Center, a sash that symbolizes their home country to be worn at the Commencement Ceremony. Other achievements will be recognized with Certificates of Achievement.



Mai (Japan) receives Certificate of Achievement from Jessie and Nahrin

May 5 is also *Cinco De Mayo*, a Mexican Holiday. We will celebrate with traditional food and decorations. For more information visit: <http://isc.fullcoll.edu/awards.htm>

Application Goes High-Tech

The manual international application process will soon be a thing of the past—at least for Fullerton College applicants.

To keep up with technologically-savvy international applicants, Fullerton College and four other California community colleges will pilot the new on-line International Application this spring.

Similar to the current CCC-Apply application, the international application is a common on-line application, that can be customized by each college.

“XAP has designed an amazing Application Manager based on the needs of international admissions offices and international applicants,” says Jessie Blank, ISC Director and CCC-Apply Task Force member.



Emergency Contact Procedure

(Continued from page 3)

In case of emergency, students may need to contact the ISC Director or other staff. Please read the information below and save these procedures for use in the future.

What is considered an emergency?

1. Health/Accident: If you become seriously ill or injured, you should first seek appropriate medical treatment then notify the ISC.
2. Immigration: If you experience difficulty when re-entering the US, you may need ISC Staff to speak to US Immigration officials to verify your status.
3. Personal: Family emergencies or life-threatening situations for which you need support.

Academic concerns and application, admissions, and minor immigration questions are not emergencies and should be handled during regular ISC office hours.

Who do you call?

When the campus is OPEN

1. Call the International Student Center directly at **714-992-7580**.
2. Call the Operator at **714-992-7000** who can help you locate the appropriate staff.
3. Call the Campus Safety Office at **714-992-7341** who can help you locate the appropriate staff.

When the campus is CLOSED

1. Call Campus Safety's 24-hour emergency line at **714-992-7343**.
2. Explain your emergency and leave the number where you can be reached.
3. If Campus Safety feels it is necessary, they will contact the ISC staff for you. An ISC staff member will call you back.

"The power of the international application is mind-boggling. It will allow this office to automate almost all of our application, admissions, and post-admissions processes, while greatly improving communication with our students."

Applicants will be able to log-on to CCC-Apply and check the real-time status of their application. They can upload their documents and be notified throughout the application process when items are received and stages are completed.

"We're excited to use the application and make the admissions process easier and more clear for our students," says Blank. "No more expensive international calls or confusion. Just a faster, easier way to study in the US and at Fullerton College."

Save time & apply on-line:

<http://isc.fullcoll.edu>



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phone 714.992.7580 fax 714.992.7308

<http://isc.fullcoll.edu>

International Student Center Mission Statement

Provided that we offer clear admissions advising to maximize access to a Fullerton College education...

The mission of the ISC is to prepare students for lifelong learning and personal development. We provide comprehensive academic, personal, social and cultural support to assist students in becoming successful participants in the local and global community. (Created March 2005)

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