

Overview: The mission of your department.

International Student Services Mission

The International Student Services Office (ISSO) at Fort Hays State University fosters the education and development of non-immigrant students and scholars to enable them to achieve their academic and professional goals and objectives. ISSO provides advice, counseling, and advocacy regarding immigration, cross-cultural, and personal matters to ensure institutional compliance with U.S. immigration regulations that govern their visa status. ISSO supports an environment conducive to international education and intercultural awareness via educational, social, and cross cultural programs.

The International Student Services Office (ISSO) offers orientation, immigration, and academic support for students studying at FHSU from other countries. ISSO will support the international community by collaborating with university and community partners to develop as well as promote activities and services to build a foundation of cultural understanding for our university and community.

Points of Pride: 2022-2023

- ❖ Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) – Successful Recertification of our Fort Hays State University I-17 SEVIS F-1 & J-1 programs for another two (2) years
- ❖ Hosted nine (9) Sprintax Workshops with 37 students attending and more students “dropping in” to the office for assistance. As a result an increased number of students utilized Sprintax to complete their 2022 NR tax return.
- ❖ Largest number of diverse countries represented on-campus.
 - 37 countries fall 2022 and 40 countries spring 2023
- ❖ Successful move and relocation from Sheridan 204 to the Memorial Union 014.
- ❖ New Study Abroad Programs/Partnerships
 - WorldStrides Customized Faculty-Led program to Florence & Prague. Faculty partnered with WorldStrides for a custom designed faculty-led program to Florence, Italy and Prague, Czech Republic. This is the first collaboration between the College of Education and Study Abroad Office.
 - Erasmus+ Partnership through the European Commission (Sp’23). In collaboration with Global Affairs and in partnership with the European Commission we sent two (2) FHSU students to RISEBA university in Latvia. We also received one (1) Latvian exchange student through this

partnership in Spring 2023. Students received approximately \$6000 USD in grant money from the European Commission for their student exchange.

- Two (2) staff members from RISEBA visited campus in April, 2023 and four (4) FHSU staff members will travel to Latvia to visit RISEBA in June, 2023.
- ❖ New Faculty-Led Study Abroad initiatives
 - New Mentoring and Development program
 - New application process on Tiger Travel
 - New handbook
 - New website
 - New job aids
 - New workflows
- ❖ Collaborated with Student Engagement on International and student organizations on the Food & Festival and Lunar New Year Celebration

Focus Areas for 2023-2024: (goals for next academic year)

- ❖ Reimagining Intercultural Integration/Recruitment position
- ❖ Review of current ISS job descriptions and responsibilities
- ❖ Development of an online international viewbook and study abroad viewbook
- ❖ Development of a New Scholarship Model to distribute Study Abroad scholarships funds
- ❖ Update forms and develop video workshops for Optional Practical Training - OPT and Curricular Practical Training - CPT to place on International Blackboard

By the Numbers: (data from current academic year)

- ❖ NSE (National Student Exchange) participants: 12 for 2022-2023
- ❖ International Direct Enroll/Exchange programs
 - Fall 2022: 1 outbound
 - Spring 2023: 4 outbound, 1 inbound
 - Summer 2023: 7 outbound applications accepted
 - Fall 2023: 2 outbound applications accepted
 - AY 2023-24: 1 outbound application accepted
- ❖ Faculty-Led Programs
 - Spring Break programs (x3 Denmark, Spain & Portugal, Poland)
 - Total travelers=47
 - Summer 2023 programs (x5 Alnwick Castle, Costa Rica, Cuba, Florence & Prague, France & Netherlands)
 - Estimated total travelers=114-125
- ❖ Study Abroad/International Travel Scholarships Allocated
 - Fall 2022: \$10,500
 - Spring 2023: \$13,000
 - Faculty -Led Student Travelers

- Spring Break & Summer 2023 - Committed \$500 per student traveler for an estimated total disbursement of \$50,000
- ❖ Increased participation and activities during International Education Week
 - Proclamation signing & ISS/GA Open House - approximately 50
 - International Food and Fashion - 10 food tables (China, Ghana, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, U.S.A., Venezuela, Myanmar, and Nepal). 98 + attended
 - Tourism & Hospitality Management Panel - "Across Cultures" - approximately 40
 - Tiger Tots presentation - attendance 23
 - "You Are Welcome Here" - video, signs and banner promotion
 - Movie night - McMIndes Hall
- ❖ International programming
 - New international student orientation & UNIV 199
 - Fall 2022 - 61 students - 37 Countries
 - UNIV 199 - two (2) sections - 51 students
 - Spring 2023 - 19 - 40 Countries
 - UNIV 199 - one (1) section - 22 students
 - Homecoming parade - over 25 students and staff participated
 - ISS Tailgate - over 20 students and staff participated
 - Wichita Asian Festival - 29 students attended
 - Winter break activities - Collaborated with: Intramurals for games and activities; Psychology Club - provided "goodie" bags for international students during winter break - 20+ bags were provided
 - Lunar New Year - Collaborated with the CSA, Student Engagement, Global Affairs - 187 attended
 - Topeka Capital and Brown vs. Board of Ed - 13 attended
 - Ramadan Presentation - Collaborated with Muslim Student Association - over 80 attended
 - End of the Year Celebration/Recognition - over 30 attended
- ❖ Retention Initiatives:
 - New Program - Owning My Grades (OMG) - dedicated study time for international students to study, ask questions and get help. Held bi-weekly at McMIndes 2nd floor community area. Over 30 students attended
 - Fall and Spring email to all FHSU faculty at week 5 for international students - received an average of 8-10 emails from faculty with concerns each semester.
 - Fall '22 and Spring '23 Midterm Grade - follow-up with students with D's & U's
 - Fall 37 emails sent to students Spring 18 emails sent to students