Welcome!

Today’s Agenda

• Grad Admissions Process Overview (Jim, Suzan)
• Sponsored Student Info (Gabi)
• Visa Regulations Overview (Theresa)
• Communication Tips and Resources (Beth)
Who is an international student?

- Primary purpose in US is to study *full-time*
- F and J type visas
- Does not include permanent residents, asylees, refugees, etc.
- Over half of our applicants; about ¼ of enrolled students
Who IS here?

Students at the Twin Cities Campus

International
5,878
10%

Non-International
52,021
90%

Data from U of M – Twin Cities Campus, International Student and Scholar Services, 2013 Annual Statistical Report, 13/14 Edition
Percentages of total enrollment

Graduate and Professional School Students

- 16,672 (85%)
- 2,849 (15%)

Data from U of M – Twin Cities Campus, International Student and Scholar Services, 2013 Annual Statistical Report, 13/14 Edition
Become an international student in 5 easy steps

1. Get admitted
2. Get a visa document
3. Apply for entry visa
4. Enter the US
5. Register full-time

Grad Admissions → → → → → → → → ISSS
← ← ← ← ← ← ← ← Program → → → → → → → →
Admissions Office Role

• Review international credentials and ESL test scores
• Collect, review/verify financial info
• Prepare visa documents for F-1
• Provide information and advice during pre-arrival stage
Step 1: Get Admitted

• Admission requirements apply to all; irrespective of visa status
• Once admitted, int’l students must prove ability to pay for 1 year of expenses
• Admit Letter for int’l students includes info and link to *International Financial Certification* form. (FC)
My Application(s)

Application for Admission

APPLICATION STATUS: SUBMITTED
Submitted Date: 3/5/2014 3:39:00 PM EST
DECISION MADE

RECOMMENDATION PROVIDERS:
Dean Tsantil: Notified, 12/2/2013 1:30:52 PM EST

DECISION STATUS: AVAILABLE BEGINNING 2/1/2014

Your application decision is now available online

International Financial Certification Form

APPLICATION STATUS: NOT SUBMITTED

Checking Your Status - please allow one business day to view your decision once your status on this page has been updated to Decision Made.

Have you checked your program requirements? It is very important to check with your program of interest about any additional application requirements. Click here for a list of program websites.
Step 2: Get a Visa Document

- Student submits FC (F-1 only)
- Grad Admissions Reviews/Approves:
  - Enrollment Form submitted?
  - English language proficiency?
  - Funding
    - *Estimate* of tuition/fees/living expenses
    - Sources of support (documentation req.)
    - Support ≥ Expenses
Reminders about money

• Even 50% GAs have education expenses! Fees, health insurance and books ~ $3100
• Students must provide proof of U of M/sponsorship funding (uploaded to FC)
• Proof of personal and family funds is not required by admissions, but are necessary for the visa application process
Step 2: Get a Visa Document

- ~ 2 week turn-around for I-20s
- Mailing options:
  - Express Mail at student expense
  - Regular mail
  - Jim sends thru DHL at reduced rate; charged to departmental p-card (arrange with Jim)
- Email has pre-arrival info (link)
Step 3: Apply for a Visa

• Student-led process
  – Pay SEVIS fee ($200)
  – Schedule Visa interview appointment
    • Interview availability/wait-times vary greatly

• Security clearance checks for many STEM fields…will cause delays
Step 4: Enter the US

Arrival: 30 days prior to I-20 start date

July

August
Reminders about start-dates

• Can’t be changed.
• GAs must be physically present in US on 8/25/14 to receive full tuition benefits and pay.
• Arrival after start-date requires approval; contact Grad Admissions
• Transportation and Housing Dates
Step 5: Register Full-Time

- Document Check (ISSS)
  - Required before registration

- Optional/required activities that don’t impact registration
  Grad school orientation
  ISOP
  Program orientation
Document Check

- Verify student arrival
- Review immigration documents
- Next steps: clear holds, register…
- Social Security & Payroll (TA/RA)
Social Security & Payroll

• Social Security sessions: Aug. 5, 7, 14 & 21 (proposed)
• Register for classes before visiting SSA
• Obtain “Verification of On-campus Job” letter
• Average of 10 days for Immigration to record Port of Entry info—wait if time permits
• Obtain Receipt or “Rejection Letter”
• Go to Payroll
• If student receives rejection letter, must return to SSA
• After receive SS#, submit to payroll
International Student Orientation

- Introduction to ISSS & services
- Explain legal status & requirements
- Living & studying in US
- Introduce campus resources
Some Definitions/Roles

• **Sponsored students:**
  - Individuals selected by a sponsor to receive funding to complete a specific program of study/training at an educational institution
  - On the graduate level, sponsored students are mostly degree seeking, with few exceptions
  - The admissions process for most sponsored students is the same as for “regular” grad students
  - Can be on F-1 or J-1 visas, depending on sponsor’s rules
  - Often J-1 students are on visa documents that are not issued by the University (Fulbright, USAID, etc.)
Sponsors

– Provide primary funding and/or management for students in training/education settings
– Have the $$$
– They make the rules (in addition to University rules, immigration rules)
Categories of Sponsors

– Governments
  • US
  • Foreign Governments (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Malaysia, China)

– International Organizations
  • FAO, WHO, World Bank, OAS, IMF

– Companies
  • Exxon Mobile, Aramco Services, Sabic, Petronas,
US Government Sponsorship—Fulbright Programs example

- US Congress allocates $ to US Department of State
- US DoS contracts with programming organization to administer grants:
  - LASPAU: Latin America and Caribbean
  - AMIDEAST: North Africa, Middle East (except Israel)
  - IIE: Anywhere else, including Israel and South America
Programming Organizations:

- Perform specific technical and/or administrative tasks and/or student services related to an educational/training program
- Needs Assessment, program design
- Promotion and recruitment of Participants
- Interview, evaluation, selection of participants
- Placement of participants in language and academic programs
- Issue immigration documents
- Pre-departure, arrival and reentry orientations
- Monitoring of program participants throughout their studies
- Pay the bills
Sponsored Student Programs
Role in ISSS

• Partner to both University departments and program managing organizations
• Facilitate specialized billing
• Monitor cost share awards
• Understand the different needs of sponsored students
• Issue J-1 documents
• Facilitate recruitment of sponsored students
• Counseling and advising
• Understand the different rules for sponsored students
• Personal counseling and advising
Becoming a Fulbright at the U of MN

Apply for Fulbright

• 1 year or longer before application process starts with U of MN
• Thorough vetting of credentials
• Fulbright Finalist until approval through Fulbright Board, US DoS

Placement Office

• Placement office submits Application for admission to several universities in the US
• Placement office handles credential evaluation, communication with University
• Placement office can make student available for interview if required

Admissions Decision

• Placement office requests cost share from ISSS
• ISSS negotiates with Academic Department and placement office
• Admission is communicated to placement office
• US DoS is informed of placement recommendation
• US DoS makes final placement decision
• Student is informed of admission, placement, receives terms of appointment

Terms of Appointment

• Programming Organization issues DS-2019 form for student
• University receives signed Terms of Appointment, has now permission to communicate directly with the student
• Student enters the US for preacademic program/orientation
Some Things to Consider

• Communication Flow
  – For many US Government grants, the student is the last to know

• Registration Requirements
  – Some sponsors do not allow students to reduce their course load even if allowable under US immigration regulations

• Cost Share
  – Contact ISSS if department cannot provide cost share
• FERPA/HIPAA
  – Comprehensive signed release in ISSS
• Emergencies
  – Contact Gabi
• Anything else???
  – Contact Gabi
Who is ISSS?
(I-triple S)

VISION

An inclusive and engaged international learning community
We are **international educators committed** to the U of M’s efforts to be a world class university and to develop global citizens.

We **advocate** for the importance of the international population in achieving the University’s goals.

We **serve** all international students, researchers, faculty, and staff and collaborate campus-wide to enable all to succeed.
Immigration Advising

- Help students & scholars stay in legal status while in U.S.
- Visa Questions
- Document Support
  - I-20 & DS-2019 (after arrival) & H-1b
- US Custom & Immigration Services Liaison
Personal & Academic Counseling

- Family crisis at home
- Culture shock & adjusting to life in U.S.
- Mental health & crisis interventions
- Navigating U.S. academia
- Difficulty with academic adviser/instructor
- Referrals to campus resources
Student Engagement & Leadership Programs

Inspiring cross-cultural leadership development and engagement for all UMN students

Small World Coffee Hour
Cross-Cultural Discussion Groups
Culture Corps
International Student Ambassadors
Cross-Cultural Leadership Retreat
Career Services

www.isss.umn.edu/programs
Decoding Academic Program’s Role in Immigration

- Collaborative arrangement
- Rely on you for verification of academic information
- Information you convey is not sent directly to SEVIS—provides ISSS with justification for actions we take
When advising international students, keep in mind:

1. Sound academic advice can conflict with US immigration regulations and
2. Maintaining legal status can be confusing
   - “W” vs. “F”
   - Definition of program completion
   - Delaying graduation
   - Sponsoring agencies’ requirements

Consultation with ISSS advisers is recommended!
Full Course Load

- Require prior approval to register or drop below full-time (Grad = 6, Professional Schools vary)
- Acceptable reasons for Reduced Course Load (F-1/J-1)
  - (F-1) 1 distance learning course, maximum 3 credits per semester counts toward F-T requirement
- Coursework Only & Plan C Programs:
  - Final semester must be registered at least one in-person course
  - Courses taken final semester must be completed that semester
- Electronic RCL process beginning April 7
Employment

- On-campus 20 hours per week during semester
- On-campus 40 hours during summer and breaks (including spring break)
- Off-campus work requires authorization
  - Practical Training—Curricular & Optional (F-1 only)
  - Academic Training (J-1 only)
Tips: Working with International Students

• Provide context: Explain why you are asking questions/giving information that may seem unrelated to their issue
• Explain your role
• Explain when/why to contact you or return
• Be aware that assumptions about your role, relationship, how to get things done, etc., might be different
• Slow down, pause, rephrase if language difficulties
• Let students have 30 to 60 seconds for processing
• Point to information on maps, schedules or program descriptions
• Avoid or explain idioms, jargon, slang and culturally bound references
• Summarize main points, next steps and write them down
• Learn from your international colleagues and students
Resources

• **Staff Resource Guide**: Working with New Graduate & Professional International Students

• **Future Professional Development**
  – Sponsored Students
  – How to Communicate Effectively with International Students
  – ICC Conference

• **Graduate Admissions Toolkit**

• **ISSS Home Page**: Advisers Link
2014 Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus Conference

Friday, April 11, 2014
8:30-5:00 p.m.

Coffman Memorial Union

Register now for the conference and conference workshops!

global.umn.edu/icc/conference

Conference Workshops:

Thursday, April 10
4:30-7:00 p.m.
Creating High-Impact Instructor-led Study Abroad Experiences

Friday, April 11
8:00-10:20 a.m.
Engaging International Students in Collaborative Learning Experiences