

FALL 2021

# OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



## ADVISING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### IN EVERY ISSUE:

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### *Enrollment Requirements*

In March 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released guidance for continuing and new international students within the U.S. that included more flexibility in enrollment requirements. This guidance has been extended through Spring 2022. Pre-pandemic, international students could only enroll in one online course towards their full-time enrollment, and the remainder of their courses needed to be in face-to-face or hybrid format. Currently, continuing international students can enroll in as many online courses as necessary toward their full course of study. New international students who arrive in Spring 2022 must enroll in at least one face-to-face or hybrid course toward their full course of study during their first semester. Exchange students may have different requirements, so please contact International Affairs before advising an exchange student. These new guidelines are subject to change for Summer 2022 or beyond at any time. ISSS will keep international students and the campus community updated should there be a change in guidance before the summer or fall semesters.

### *Social Security Procedures*

International students must obtain a social security number if employed in the United States. Currently, Social Security Administration (SSA) offices are closed, and SSA representatives are meeting with students by appointment only in their Alton office. ISSS is working with the Alton SSA Office to schedule these appointments after students submit SSN application materials to ISSS. SIUE is temporarily permitting international students to start working after ISSS has arranged their appointments. Students are instructed to provide the SSN receipt they receive at their SSN appointment, and their SSN numbers, to their hiring unit as soon as they receive them. More information about international students and SSNs can be found [on our website](#).

# THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## *International Student Coffee Hour*

Virtual International Coffee Hours are held on the last Friday of every month from 11:30am - 1pm. The purpose of these coffee hours is not only to reiterate information provided during International Student Orientation while answering questions students may have about immigration and life at SIUE, but also to provide an opportunity for international students to meet new people, learn about U.S. culture, and celebrate their own cultures and traditions with others. We also invite guest speakers from various departments to speak to the students about services they provide. Please contact John Ampomah, International Student Programming Advisor, at [jampoma@siue.edu](mailto:jampoma@siue.edu) if you are interested in speaking to our international students about programs and services available in your department.

## *Virtual Graduation Celebration*

Save the date for the International Virtual Graduation Celebration, which will be held via Zoom on December 3 from 10 - 11am. Staff and faculty are invited to join and celebrate the accomplishments of our international students. Please register [here](#) to confirm your attendance. The Zoom link will be shared out on the eve of the event.

## VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

### *Dr. Taner Turan* *Turkey*

Meet Dr. Taner Turan, a visiting Research Scholar from Turkey, conducting research in the Department of Economics.

"I am primarily interested in explaining the effects of International Financial Institution programs on recipient countries recently. In principle, these programs could play a vital role for ensuring sustainable economic development, macroeconomic and external stability, and poverty reduction. However, there is an ongoing debate about the implementation and efficacy of these programs. In this context, detecting underlying problems and suggesting some solutions would be important.

"I hold a master's degree and PhD in economics from North Carolina State University and Hacettepe University, respectively. I am an associate professor at Cukurova University. My main research areas are macroeconomics, international economics, monetary economics, and economic growth. I have many articles published in respected international journals such as Journal of International Development, Singapore Economic Review, Portuguese Economic Journal, Prague Economics Papers, and Environmental Economics and Policy Studies.

"I am happy to be at SIUE. SIUE has a large and beautiful campus, providing an excellent atmosphere for academic studies and research."



"I want to be an inspiring professor who has a long-lasting effect on his students' thinking about and approach to economic issues. My aim is to show that a good understanding and application of basic economic principles would be helpful beyond the classroom."





# STUDY ABROAD

## *Programs Resume Fall 2021*

After a year and a half gap caused by the pandemic, SIUE students once again headed out into the world in Fall 2021. We were excited to see a small group of our students pursue opportunities to study, explore, and grow by spending the semester abroad. With international travel slowly opening, study abroad opportunities are being evaluated on a program by program basis based on regional safety, program structure, capacity and availability of local health services to support the program, and availability of international travel and visa services. This spring, we are anticipating both another group of students participating in semester programs through third party providers, as well as the resumption of some faculty-led travel study programs. We encourage interested faculty and students to connect with our office to talk further about the options for study abroad and travel study programs. Ryan Donald, SIUE's Study Abroad Advisor, can be reached at rydonal@siue.edu.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATES

### *Introducing John Ampomah*

The Office of International Affairs is pleased to introduce and welcome our new international program advisor, John Ampomah, to SIUE. John holds a master's degree, specializing in international affairs, and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration, from Middle Tennessee State University. As a former international student from Ghana, John understands the challenges international students face and will use his leadership and experiences to assist international students in meeting their goals. As international student program advisor, John assumes responsibility for new student pre-arrival communication, arrival to SIUE and student success activities for all international students. You can contact John at jampoma@siue.edu.



"I understand the challenges international students go through - from school searching, applying, scheduling a visa interview, traveling, adjusting to a new culture and several other challenges you can think of. I believe I can help students navigate through these challenges using my experience as a former international student."

## Global UGRAD Program Participants at SIUE



**Juan Rayo Romero**  
Nicaragua  
Industrial Engineering



**Anna Dovha**  
Ukraine  
Economics



**Hiep Trong Nguyen**  
Vietnam  
Medicine

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program (Global UGRAD Program) provides one semester scholarships at select U.S. universities to outstanding undergraduate students from around the world. These students engage in non-degree full-time study, pursue community service opportunities, and participate in professional development and cross-cultural activities. SIUE has been hosting Global UGRAD students since 2017, and this semester, we're excited to welcome three participants to campus.

Juan Rayo Romero applied for the UGRAD program to have the opportunity to experience a U.S. college education, meet new people, and gain skills to use in his home country of Nicaragua. Juan is enjoying "how trees and animals coexist with the campus, and the numerous activities about inclusion and celebrating diversity that take place at SIUE."

Hiep Trong Nguyen wants to get the most out of his experience at SIUE, "leveraging all the learning tools and facilities that SIUE provides, doing community service, joining sports clubs and other organizations, making new friends and getting good scores."

It has been Anna Dovha's goal to come to the U.S. since she was 14. After being rejected from a competitive high school exchange program, Anna didn't give up. "I started organizing volunteering events, climate marches, building partnerships with local NGOs, and actively participating in shaping my community. I became a different person: more responsible, well-rounded, and open-minded. When I decided to apply for the Global UGRAD program, I was confident that I can bring real value to the place where I will go."



**International Students  
in Fall 2021**



**Countries  
Represented**



**Students on Optional  
Practical Training (OPT)**



If you have a question for International Affairs or would like us to cover a certain topic in the next newsletter, please let us know at [iss@siue.edu](mailto:iss@siue.edu).