OIS Joins UCIS

The Office of International Services is very happy to announce that we are joining the University Center for International Studies! This move is a part of the larger goal to increase the global reach of the University of Pittsburgh. You can read more information about the strategic goals of the university online, but there are some specific goals that benefit from a consolidation of international programs and services. These goals include embracing the world through various partnerships and initiatives as well as strengthening the Pitt community by:

- Reinforcing the value of diversity, inclusion, and global perspective (which we choose to believe is a subtle shoutout to this newsletter — Thanks, Chancellor Gallagher!)
- Strengthening life-long alumni connections
- Ensuring our ability to attract and retain a diverse and talented faculty and staff

You play a vital part in all of these goals, which is one of the reasons that we have joined with UCIS to make sure that we are embracing all of the international relationships and resources available at the university to provide you the best service and experience possible. Throughout the year, you will hear more about these goals and how OIS is working with key partners to help develop programs to serve you and also better advocate for you in the future. We are very excited to meet with our new colleagues to see what enhancements we can make to our practices and learn more about how the different areas of UCIS influence the global focus of the university.

Please take a few minutes to read more about UCIS in the following pages.

NEW STUDENT WALK-IN HOURS

WALK-IN HOURS: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays (1pm—4pm)
What are Walk-Ins Hours?

- Quick, 5 minute Meetings with Student Team Immigration Specialists
- Appropriate for Brief, General Questions

If you have specific, detailed questions and you think that you need more than a few minutes to discuss your situation, please schedule a 20 minute appointment with your Immigration Specialist.
MESSAGE TO STUDENTS: Become a Global Citizen at Pitt

On August 26 at the 2015 Convocation ceremony for new undergraduate students, Chancellor Patrick Gallagher stressed the importance of Pitt students being global citizens.

What does it mean to be a global citizen? If you hop on an airplane and fly around the world to come and study at Pitt, does that make you a global citizen?

Some people would say, “Yes, it does.” You have taken the biggest step of your life by choosing to live and study outside your homeland. Every day you interact with professors, classmates and neighbors who expose you to aspects of another culture. Every day you develop respect for other people and gain a greater ability to think deeper and more critically about what is equitable and just in the world. So every day you change and grow as a global citizen.

But is that enough? Can you do more to develop global citizenship skills and cultural competencies?

Of course you can. The University Center for International Studies (UCIS) is here to help you do it.

UCIS is the one center on campus that concentrates international experts and knowledge about different regions of the world. You have already met the staff at the Office of International Services, which is a part of UCIS. You might know about the Study Abroad Office, where students find academic programs in more than 75 countries. The Study Abroad staff is a part of UCIS. So, too, are the academic advisors at the six area and trans-regional studies centers/programs: African, Asian, European, Global, Latin American and Russian and East European. These international specialists will help you make the most of every moment during your time at Pitt. They will set you on a path to becoming a global citizen.

An international studies academic advisor will help you finesse your schedule to incorporate a Certificate in International or Area Studies, and encourage you to take advantage of all the international opportunities that Pitt has to offer. You will graduate on time with no additional financial cost. The Certificate goes on your academic transcript and is proof to potential employers that you are a global citizen!

The International Studies centers and the Nationality Rooms Program all offer talks, seminars, conferences, festivals and activities that allow you to interact with experts on world regions and global issues, and engage with members of Pittsburgh’s numerous and varied ethnic communities. Pitt makes it easy to become an active and informed global citizen. Come and meet the people at the University Center for International Studies. The Studies Centers/Programs are located on the 4th floor of Posvar Hall. Check them out online at http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/main/programs. The Study Abroad Office is located on the 8th floor of William Pitt Union.

What is a global citizen?

A Global Citizen is someone who:

- Is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen
- Respects and values diversity
- Has an understanding of how the world works
- Is outraged by social injustice
- Participates in the community at a range of levels, from the local to the global
- Is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place
- Takes responsibility for their actions.

Source: IDEAS for global citizenship
CENTERS AND OFFICES OF UCIS

UCIS includes a number of international centers and offices across campus. Here are a list and brief summary of those departments.

**African Studies Program**
African Studies promotes the study and research of Africa, providing student with opportunities to expand and widen their knowledge of Africa and foster a greater understanding of the diverse continent.

**Asian Studies Center (ASC)**
ASC promotes an enhanced understanding of East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The center is also home to an award-winning Confucius Institute that promotes Chinese language and culture study.

**Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)**
The mission of CLAS is to expand and enrich academic resources relating to Latin America and the Caribbean at the University of Pittsburgh. These resources allow students and faculty to pursue research, enhance their expertise, and disseminate knowledge on the region.

**Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES)**
REES focuses on central and eastern Europe and the successor states of the Soviet Union. Research areas include: contemporary Russian culture, politics, and economics; societies in transition; international relations; southeastern European studies; and Slovak studies.

**European Studies Center (ESC)**
ESC promotes the study of Europe from a linguistic, literary, artistic, historical, economic, political, sociological, legal, and public policy perspective. The center has been designated a Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence, promoting the study and knowledge of the European Union, including its institutions and policies.

**Global Studies Center (GSC)**
GSC promotes cross-cultural learning and research in six areas: changing identities in a global world; communication, technology, and society; conflict and conflict resolution; global economy and global governance; global health; and sustainable development.

**Nationality Rooms Program**
The Nationality Rooms are located on the first and third floors of the University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning. The rooms were designed to represent the culture of various ethnic groups that settled in Allegheny County and are supported by these cultural groups and governments. Tours are conducted year round. The public is invited to experience their ethnic identity and ancestral roots. The rooms are also in use as University classrooms.

**Study Abroad Office**
Founded in 1981, Pitt Study Abroad develops programs and facilitates educational experiences in over 75 countries. Students can study abroad during the summer term, fall semester, spring semester, or during a full academic year.
MEET THE OIS STAFF

Genevieve Cook (Director)
I am originally from Connecticut but I grew up in Pittsburgh and I've lived here most of my life. I'm a Pitt alum – bachelor's in anthropology – and several members of my family, including my husband and sister, are too. I love to travel with my family – usually to places near the ocean. One of the things I enjoy doing on my vacations is scuba diving, which I have been doing for a few years. I'm a certified rescue diver and I'm working on my master scuba diver certification. When I am not at work, my other hobbies/interests include: hiking, reading, movies, and enjoying good food.

Katy Gongaware (Office Assistant)
I graduated from Allegheny College in 2011 with a degree in Spanish and a minor in History. While I was an undergrad, I was very involved with my school's International Club and had several close friends from other countries, so coming to OIS felt completely natural. In my free time, I like crocheting, watching hockey, running, going to museums and art shows, people-watching in the city, and outdoor activities like camping and hiking. Once I'm more settled in at Pitt, I want to learn how to rock climb, hopefully without breaking any bones.

Jessica Hartman (Immigration Specialist, Employment Team)
Even though I grew up on a farm in a very small town, I have lived in different cities for the last eleven years. I have spent a lot of time at the University of Pittsburgh completing both my undergraduate and graduate degrees here, so I know the campus well (I know all the best places for a nap!). I love to travel, and have had the opportunity to study and work abroad, but I always end up coming back to Pittsburgh!—I love this city!

Sara Jones (Senior Immigration Specialist, Student Team)
I have been a part of the University of Pittsburgh community in some capacity since 1997! I attended undergraduate and graduate school here, and have worked in OIS since 2005. I adore Oakland (especially its restaurants!), and enjoy visiting the Carnegie museums and library frequently. My favorite part of the world is the Adirondack Mountains in New York State, where I have vacationed for over 20 years. Although I've traveled to many parts of Europe, some places I'd like to see in the future are Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Alaska.
When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, watching my kids grow into their personalities. (Sara is the Senior Immigration Specialist for the Swanson School of Engineering.)

Juliann Mehall (Administrative Assistant to the Director)
I am a true Pittsbourgher, born and raised in the South Side Slopes area of the city. I love spending time with my family and grandchildren; Dylan, Lucas and Alaina. You may find my husband and I walking around the City visiting various flea markets and yard sales looking for “hidden treasures”! I started my employment at the University of Pittsburgh in 1997 at the GSPH and a few years later joined the OIS staff in 2003. I enjoy talking with our new students and scholars and sharing stories of their travels and interesting foods from their home countries. Welcome to Pittsburgh!
MEET THE OIS STAFF

Claire Mokry (Immigration Specialist, Employment Team)
I am a Midwestern girl: I spent my childhood in Indiana, attended college in Michigan and lived in Chicago where I worked at the French Consulate. As an undergraduate student, I spent a year studying and living with a French family in Nantes, France, which is when I caught the travel bug. Since then, I have been fortunate enough to visit new countries, meet people from around the world and learn about their culture and traditions. My husband and I relocated to Pittsburgh in 2012; we have really enjoyed discovering all the city has to offer! In my free time, I love cooking (and eating) all different kinds of foods, running, playing volleyball, reading and spending time with family and friends.

Deb Prvanovic (Immigration Specialist, Employment and Student Team)
Originally from Northeast Ohio, I came to Pittsburgh five years ago. I have been interacting with international students and scholars for more than 15 years, first as a volunteer with ESL and eventually as a staff member in the international office at Kent State University. Prior to joining OIS, I worked down the street (at CMU) and then took some time off to be with my son. When I'm not playing with him, I spend my time advocating for rescue dogs, keeping in touch with friends and family around the world and reading novels.

Melissa Reinert (Immigration Specialist, Student Team)
I am originally from Northeastern Ohio, but now at Pitt since April 2012 by way of Little Rock, Arkansas, where I lived for five years. My background is in regulatory compliance, working in the pharmaceutical industry before returning to Higher Education which is my true passion. I hope that you will love Pittsburgh as much as I do! In my spare time, I love to cook pasta, fresh baked bread and cookies and I am to learning to make Indian and Chinese inspired dishes! I also enjoy ziplining, hiking, biking, knitting, telling snarky (hilarious!) jokes, and reading. My husband and I welcomed our first child in October 2013, so we are busy chasing around an active toddler! Melissa gave birth to another healthy baby boy in July and will return to OIS in mid-October, Deb will be working with Melissa's schools until her return.

(Richard is the Immigration Specialist for the Graduate School of Public Health, School of Dental Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Services, School of Information Sciences, School of Law, and the School of Medicine)

Richard Sherman (Immigration Specialist, Student Team)
I'm a native New Englander: I spent my childhood in Massachusetts and later attended college in Maine. As an undergraduate student, I travelled to Nicaragua and Cuba and majored in Latin American Studies and Spanish. My wife (a Pitt graduate!) and I relocated to Pittsburgh in 2008 and I've been in love with the city and its friendly people ever since.

(Richard is the Immigration Specialist for the College of Business Administration, all Exchange Students, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Katz Graduate School of Business, School of Education, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and the School of Social Work.)
MEET THE OIS STAFF

Kati Von Lehman (Compliance Coordinator)
I grew up in Pittsburgh and attended Penn State University. Over the past 10 years, I have worked at a number of different colleges and universities across the country. I have travelled to 47 states in the U.S. and my favorite places to go are national parks (such as Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Arches) and quirky towns with lots of history and art. I also love attending arts festivals and seeing the amazing things people make. Here in Pittsburgh, I try to go kayaking on the rivers and find new places to go hiking. Finally, when I am at home I enjoy crocheting and watching my 7 year old daughter play with her 1 year old baby brother.

Alison Zappa (Immigration Services Coordinator)
I was born right here in Oakland at Magee hospital. I was meant to be at Pitt! Other than at the front desk of OIS, you may find me running around campus or taking classes in the HPA program. I love to cook and bake, but ironically I do not like chocolate! I absolutely love to travel with my husband; I actually got engaged in London! Don’t hesitate to ask me questions, I am here to help!

Alice Zdrale (Immigration Specialist, Student Team)
I am originally from the Czech Republic and have been fortunate to have lived in 6 other countries and traveled to over 25 nations around the world. I moved to Pittsburgh in 2008 to join my husband and have been a proud Pittsburgher since then! I enjoy everything Pittsburgh has to offer! In my free time I love to cook and try new restaurants in Pittsburgh. I am also an animal lover who enjoys rescuing, fostering and helping find homes for rescued dogs. I am very excited to be working with all international students from College of General Studies and Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences!

CONNECT WITH OIS
There are a number of ways to connect with the OIS staff! In addition to meeting us at awesome events like the Experience America Series, you can also:

- Like OIS on Facebook
- Follow OIS on Twitter
- Read the OIS Blog
- Follow OIS on Instagram (NEW!)
CDPA FALL EVENTS

Welcome Home Reception for Returnee Students—Wednesday, September 2nd, WPU 224, 5-6:30pm (This reception is open ONLY to students who’ve studied or interned abroad!)
- Come and have a great time re-connecting back to campus since you’ve been abroad!
- Fun, reflective activities + answering what’s next now that you’re back.
- American fare other yummy treats!

Elevator Pitch Workshop—Tuesday, September 15th, WPU 224, 1-2PM
- Prepare for the Career Fair with your 60 second commercial! Students will be provided with a self-introduction handout and interactive group activities.
- Snacks & refreshments provided! Open to all students!

Career Fair Prep Program—Tuesday, September 15th, WPU 224, 4-5:30pm
- Prepare for the Fall 2015 Career Fair & what to expect plus guest speaker from OIS to discuss OPT/CPT guidelines—FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY!
- Snacks & refreshments provided!

Peace Corps Information and Application Workshop—Wednesday, September 16th, WPU Dining Room B, 3-4pm
- Learn about the Peace Corps and even fill out the application in this workshop!
- Snacks, refreshments, and resources provided! Open to all students!

Study/Intern Abroad: Pre-Departure Bootcamp—Thursday, October 8th, WPU Kurtzmann Room, 6-8p.m.
Rotate in stations to get personalized career assistance including:
- Resume/cover letter reviews
- International internship & study abroad panel
- Using LinkedIn & marketing your skills
- Speed networking session
- Snacks, refreshments and resources provided!

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FROM CDPA

Internship Panel—Tuesday, November 17th, WPU 548, 12noon-1pm
- Domestic & International students discussing their completed internships with either global U.S. companies or abroad. Q/A session to follow. Open to all students!

An American Thanksgiving: Traditions & Etiquette, Tuesday, November 17th, WPU 224, 3-4pm
- Telling the story of the 1st Thanksgiving in the U.S. followed by a discussion on dining etiquette with families and employers (with a handout as a takeaway) and two varieties of pie and drinks will be served! Open to all students!
CDPA FALL EVENTS

Peace Corps Diversity Panel—Wednesday, November 18th, WPU Ballroom, Noon-1pm
- Come learn from a diverse panel of Peace Corps returnees including those who identify as LGBTQIA, married couples, multicultural, and more!

International Student Career Success Day, Friday, November 20th, 10am-2pm, WPU Ballroom
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY!
- OPT/CPT session with Immigration Specialists with Q/A
- How to gain experience as an international student at Pitt
- International student panel with international students who completed internships and/or were hired by an employer in the U.S.
- Employer panel featuring employers who've hired international students for full-time work or internships + a discussion on employer expectations + speed networking session!

IMPORTANT DATES:
September 3—Student Employment Fair, WPU
September 14-18—Career Fair Prep Week
September 21—Sr. Career Bootcamp
Thursday, September 24—Fall Career Fair, Peterson Events Center, 11am-4pm
Wednesday, October 7—Majors & Minors Expo, 11-3pm, WPU
October 12-16—Internship Week
October 14—WestPACs Fall Job & Internship Fair
Saturday, October 17—Pitt Make a Difference Day
October 19—Sr. Career Bootcamp
Wednesday, October 28—Law & Graduate School Fair, 11-3pm, WPU (tentative!)
November 11—National Career Development Day
Saturday, November 14—Lessons from Abroad Three Rivers Re-Entry Conference hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, O’Hara Student Center, 8-5pm—for students who studied or interned abroad!
November 16—Sr. Career Series
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015
EXPERIENCE AMERICA KICKOFF PARTY

You and your family are invited to join OIS for an American barbeque!

Take a break from your research or studying to join OIS for a traditional American barbeque. Learn about University of Pittsburgh sports teams, play games, and enjoy some free food.

Experience AMERICA

Hosted by
THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
University of Pittsburgh
www.ois.pitt.edu
EXPERIENCE AMERICA—FALL EVENT SCHEDULE

Join the Office of International Services (OIS) for Experience America, an extended orientation program offered to graduate students, research scholars, and their families to help them better understand and feel more comfortable participating in American Culture.

OCTOBER: TRIP TO TRAX FARMS
Enjoy a day at the farm! Trax Farm’s traditional fall festival office family hayrides, kid’s activities, corn mazes, a petting zoo and pumpkin picking. Transportation to and from Trax Farms will be provided.

NOVEMBER 5TH: GLOBAL PITTSBURGH HAPPY HOUR
Join OIS to attend Global Pittsburgh's First Thursdays Happy Hour for Globally-Minded People at Roland's Seafood Grill in the Strip District. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about Global Pittsburgh, meet new people, and get connected with the Pittsburgh community.

NOVEMBER 18TH: LUNCH & LEARN-WINTER TOPICS
Learn our best recommendations for surviving the winter months in Pittsburgh — you won’t want to miss it! We will discuss how to dress, staying healthy, and fun things to do during the Pittsburgh winter. Lunch will be provided.

DECEMBER: HOLIDAY EVENT
Celebrate the holiday season with OIS! We will enjoy some traditional cookies and hot cocoa together, and attend a holiday themed event on Pitt’s campus. More details to come!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:
- Visit to the Carnegie Museums
- Gallery Crawl in the Cultural District
- Venture Outdoor Festival
- Pirate’s Baseball Game

Learn more about these events at www.ois.pitt.edu/new-here/experience-america/
# Calendar of Events — September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 — 19</td>
<td><em>Educating Rita</em> by Willy Russell, PICT Classic Theatre (Discounted tickets through Pitt Arts!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Festival of Combustion, Carrie Furnaces</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Labor Day, University is Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 — 14</td>
<td>Britsburgh! A Festival of Britain in Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>UCIS Event — <em>Mental (Seishin) Screening</em>, Frick Fine Arts Building</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Add/Drop Deadline for Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Student Insurance Attestation Deadline</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student Compliance Quiz is Available in My OIS!</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Priority OPT Information Session, 4 — 5:30 PM. Register here!</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Experience America: Kickoff Event!</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 — 19</td>
<td><em>Come Out &amp; Play Festival</em>, Schenley Plaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 — 20</td>
<td><em>Trifonov Plays Trifonov</em>, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (Discounted tickets through Pitt Arts!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Priority OPT Information Session, 2 — 3:30 PM. Register here!</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>India in Focus</em>, Pittsburgh Cultural District</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><em>Pittsburgh Great Race</em> (5k and 10k)</td>
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### October

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 — 4</td>
<td><em>University of Pittsburgh Family Weekend</em> (Even if your family can’t come, there are some great events and you can always send your family pictures!)</td>
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**Office of International Services**

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Monday to Friday,  
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

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