



**Office of International Programs
100 Winslow Hall
207-581-2905**



Faculty Guide TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS

Faculty Guide to International Student Success

International Student Overview

Though many students on UMaine's campus have international backgrounds, the only students that are categorized as "international" are those who hold non-immigrant visas such as F-1, J-1 or H-4. These students must meet UMaine's academic standards for admission and must provide proof of English ability at the university level (generally by taking the TOEFL test). Of the roughly 500 international students at UMaine, only a small number are here for a year or less as exchange students. The majority of international students are seeking undergraduate or graduate degrees.

The Office of International Programs (OIP) is committed to the internationalization of the University of Maine by providing appropriate services and support to international clientele and various University departments and offices. OIP seeks to enhance the academic, cultural, and social pursuits of students and scholars from abroad through knowledge and expertise in immigration, advising, and cross-cultural programming.

OIP is located at 100 Winslow Hall, 581-2905.
<http://www.umaine.edu/international/>

The Office of Multicultural Student Life (OMSL) is committed to planning, developing, and implementing programs and services on cultural themes for all students as an integral component of the educational process. OMSL provides services to all students of UMaine and is a resource for faculty and staff of the University and the wider community.

OMSL is located at 312 Memorial Union, 581-1428
<http://umaine.edu/multicultural/>

Other areas of support for International Students

Writing Support

The Writing Center offers excellent support to all students at UMaine, as well as additional support to international students and students for whom English is a second language. International and ESL students may schedule appointments with an ESL specialist at the Writing Center.

The Writing Center is located in 402 Neville Hall.
<http://umaine.edu/wcenter/>

Language Support

The Intensive English Institute (IEI) International students have had their language ability tested prior to admission to UMaine. We know that sometimes students' ability to perform well can be inhibited by their English skills. International students may take courses to improve their skills at the University of Maine's Intensive English Institute. Because IEI classes do not count towards graduation, many are reluctant to enroll in them. However it is important to emphasize that taking time to improve one's command of the English language will lead to better grades and successful completion of the degree.

Students are encouraged to live with English speaking roommates or join a Conversation Partner program to work on their speaking skills and to use the Writing Center to work on their written skills. There are currently no other methods of support for students struggling with English at UMaine.

The Intensive English Institute is located in Hannibal Hamlin Hall and is happy to advise anyone having English language or cross cultural concerns. 581-3821
<http://www.umaine.edu/iei/>

Academic Support

The Tutor Program provides small group tutoring for UMaine students who need academic assistance in 100 and 200 level, non-web-based courses. Peer tutors work with small groups of student who meet twice a week throughout the semester. By working together students learn how to process course material as well as sharpen reason and questioning skills. International students often find they are more comfortable asking questions and learning material in this environment. If a student is reluctant to visit the Tutor Program, contact the student's advisor and ask that the student be encouraged or required to meet regularly with a tutor. The Tutor Program also is a great place to find out about other academic support offered by departments.

The Tutor Program is in 104 Dunn Hall.
<http://umaine.edu/tutorprogram/>



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Suggestions for Success in the Classroom:

Notes on Blackboard — If appropriate, international students appreciate having the lecture notes or outline prior to class. This helps them to follow the lecture and course material.

Organized Study Groups — International students frequently seek each other out to study together. International students don't always know how to best approach domestic students to either begin or join a study group. Having faculty facilitate some sort of study group is helpful to international students and takes the pressure off them.

Office Hours — International students are encouraged at orientation to visit each faculty member at least once a semester during office hours. Most international students do not come from an academic background where faculty are available for questions, discussions, or clarifications. Many professors find that international students open up and have questions focusing on difficulties with money, cultural transitions, locating grocery stores, etc. If you have a student with questions that you either do not know the answer to, or feel that the questions are not appropriate to be addressed to you, please feel free to refer them to the OIP in 100 Winslow Hall.

List of professional journals and organizations — International students are probably familiar with international professional journals and organizations, but they can benefit from knowing the national, regional, and local resources available to students in any particular major. If that information is available in the syllabus or course web site, international students will use it. Frequently, they look outside of the course for information on acceptable styles, vocabulary, and definitions, as well as trends in the field, conferences, and career opportunities.



Citations — In many countries, practices concerning the idea of intellectual property are incredibly different from those in the United States. This often leads to difficulty for international students, especially in correctly citing sources. Plagiarism and intellectual property are topics covered during the mandatory international student orientation. However, the information during orientation is presented during most students' first week in the United States, and while the students have been exposed to the ideas, they probably have many questions and concerns that require follow up. It is helpful if faculty indicate in their syllabi which method of citation (APA, MLA, etc.) is preferred and if some class time is spent discussing the disciplinary expectations regarding when and how to cite information from other writers. Additionally, it is helpful to direct students to purchase the appropriate style guide and to encourage students to use the Writing Center.

Writing Samples — If appropriate, it is helpful to international students to see an example of an assignment with quality feedback from the professor. Many times, international students turn to each other for assistance, and submit papers or assignments that would be appropriate in their home country, but miss the mark in our system. An example may help them to change their approach from the start and lead to a much more positive experience.

Encourage participation in academic focused

student organizations — Most faculty encourage all students to join academic organizations. This is particularly helpful for international students who are transitioning to U.S. culture. It offers a way to meet domestic students, potential friends, and certainly classmates. They also have the same opportunities as domestic students to serve in leadership roles within student organizations. The disadvantage for international students is that many come from academic environments that did not include such a vast array of student organizations, so they may not even know that they exist

Other Suggestions:

- Organize review sections
- Give frequent quizzes
- Develop study guides

