Director’s Message

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to our first international newsletter! The International Affairs Office is on the move! Our office has grown along with the rise of international student enrollment and we are very proud of our enhanced, efficient, and timely services as well as our capability to develop and deploy new programming. One such example is this newsletter! I hope you enjoy it! However, I wanted to also take this opportunity to provide you with a deeper look into the International Affairs Office and our work.

I realize most people associated with Northwest generally understand that International Affairs works to grow international enrollment (and we have recently enjoyed a successful recruitment track record). We have grown from a steady state enrollment pattern that steadily and gently increased international enrollment from about 140 at the beginning of the century to roughly 275 as late as Fall 2012. From Spring 2013 until Spring 2015, however, we grew to over 650 enrolled students with a record established in Fall 2014 of 707 full time students in F-1 student status! We are proud that more people are here to enjoy our awesome academic offerings! That said, our focus isn’t growth for growth’s sake-or even for the bottom line; it is for academic reasons.

We recruit to fulfill a larger goal: an internationalized campus and classroom experience for ALL students. I strongly assert and affirm this goal drives our work daily. We recognize growth of new student populations can expose operational weaknesses not only in our office, but across campus and in classrooms. Growth presents new challenges for all of us, but ultimately our environment is academically enriched with increased diversity. It is not sufficient to graduate students who are unable to place countries in the correct continent let alone be able to respect the presence of other languages or to see the world from multiple lenses! Ethnocentric worldviews and analyses are insufficient to thrive as a citizen in this era. In this vein, I assert internationalized campuses produce a more rigorous academic environment and provide essential interactions that improve social and cultural tools for all graduates as they transition into the work force or higher levels of education. I hope we can work together to foster and produce an internationally knowledgeable and interculturally competent learning environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Foot, Ed.D.
Director, International Affairs and ESL Program

International Coffee Hour

- 2:30-4:00 PM in the Student Engagement Center
- March 4, 18 and April 1, 15, 29
- Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend
Importance of Diversity

Diversity enriches educational experiences, by allowing different views, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives to be shared. It promotes personal growth by challenging stereotypes, encouraging critical thinking, and teaches effective communication. In addition, it strengthens the community and workplace by fostering an environment of respect and mutual teamwork. For these reasons, Northwest is committed to engaging students, faculty, and staff in developing partnerships, and providing learning opportunities on campus and abroad, as well as integrating an international emphasis in curriculum.

International Affairs works directly to improve international students’ experience, but we also work tirelessly to assist and advocate for expanding campus international knowledge and increasing strategic partnerships in order to positively advance the university’s strategic goal of increased intercultural competence of our students, faculty and staff.

International Recruitment

We are often asked what type of students we are recruiting and where we are recruiting. Dr. Phil Hull, International Recruiter, conducts an analysis of education trends to determine where there is international mobility. It is important to explore new markets as well as cultivate existing relationships with education agents and colleges around the world. The International Affairs team has participated in college fairs and conducted school visits in London, Sweden, India, Nepal, and Mexico in the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Hull will also be visiting Colombia, Peru, and Chile in the upcoming months.
**Demographics**

The current population of international students come from 31 countries and speak 24 different languages.

- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Canada
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Saudi Arabia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Togo
- United Kingdom
- Zimbabwe

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**Maintaining F-1 Status**

It is extremely important for a nonimmigrant to maintain his or her status while in the United States. Failure to maintain the terms and conditions of nonimmigrant status is a ground for removal from the United States (deportation) under INA § 237(a)(1)(C)(i).

- Report to the DSO to have his or her SEVIS record Registered in SEVIS in a timely fashion. DSOs must Register the student in SEVIS no later than 30 days after the Program start date (new students in Initial SEVIS status), and each semester thereafter, no later than 30 days after the Next session start date (continuing students).
- For the first entry for initial school attendance, the school listed on the visa and on the I-20 must be the same, and that is the school the student must intend to attend.
- Pursue a "full course of study" at the school listed on the currently valid Form I-20 during every academic session or semester except during official school breaks, or unless approved under a specific exception, in advance, by the DSO.
- Make normal progress towards completing the course of study, by completing studies before the expiration of the program completion date on Form I-20.
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for extension of stay.
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for change in educational levels or programs of study.
- Keep Form I-20 valid by following proper procedures for transfer of schools.
- Abide by the F-1 grace period rules.
- Report a change of address to the DSO within 10 days of the change, so that SEVIS can be updated.
- Abide by rules requiring disclosure of information and prohibition on criminal activity.
- Abide by any special requirements, such as Special Registration requirements.
- Not work, either on or off-campus, unless specifically authorized under the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f)(9) or § 214.2(f)(10)-(12).
- Abide by the aggregate unemployment rules while on post-completion OPT.
- A student should also keep his or her passport valid.

(Information provided by NAFSA Adviser’s Manual)
Friends of International Students

FIS is a community-based organization established to match interested area individuals and families (friends) with international students at Northwest. The program goals are to provide support to the students as they become adjusted to their new home and to promote friendship and understanding between people of different nationalities.

Who is involved?

FIS matches two groups of people. The first is Northwest Missouri State University international students. Many international students are drawn to the opportunity to have a ‘home away from home’, make friendships, and experience American culture through family and community events. As students become more familiar with the community they also become more active citizens. Friends are interested community members. Single people, families, retirees, etc. can all become Friends to international students.

What do Friends and students do?

Friends and students are asked to make contact once a month during their year-long commitment to the program. Contact can take many forms. Family dinners, attending sporting events, going through a Halloween haunted house, raking leaves together, a quick phone call or text.

Friends and students can spend as much or as little time together as their schedules allow. This allows each relationship to be individual and special. From the feedback received from Friends and students alike, this program is both enriching and enjoyable.

For more information, or to sign up for the fall 2015 academic year, visit our website at [http://www.nwmissouri.edu/iic/international/friends/index.htm](http://www.nwmissouri.edu/iic/international/friends/index.htm).

Passport Photo Service

Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

2 Passport-style photos for $7.50-charged to your University account

Located in the Student Engagement Center

Lunchbox Series

Bring your lunch to the Student Engagement Center and learn about other University offices, organizations, and events.

Lunches take place at noon.

- **March 12** Wellness Center will discuss personal development and counselling services
- **April 9** Coalition Against Violence will speak for Enough is Enough Week
- **April 23** International Affairs, Intercultural Affairs, and Study Abroad will provide travel I-20 signatures

Contact Us

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International Affairs comprises three full-time staff (Director, Coordinator, and Recruiter) and is supported by shared secretarial and graduate assistant positions. We are located in the J.W. Jones Student Union within the newly formed Student Engagement Center that houses a variety of Student Affairs programs as well as the Study Abroad Office, an Academic unit. International Affairs is an Academic Affairs unit as well and enjoys supervision by the Vice Provost, Dr. Gregory Haddock.