

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FACULTY IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. WE HAVE CONSOLIDATED STUDENT FEEDBACK INTO FOUR BROAD CATEGORIES: LEGAL ISSUES, ACADEMIC NORMS, BUILDING COMMUNITY, AND FUNDING SUPPORT. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO REACH OUT TO.

WHAT HAVE STUDENTS REPORTED EXPERIENCING?



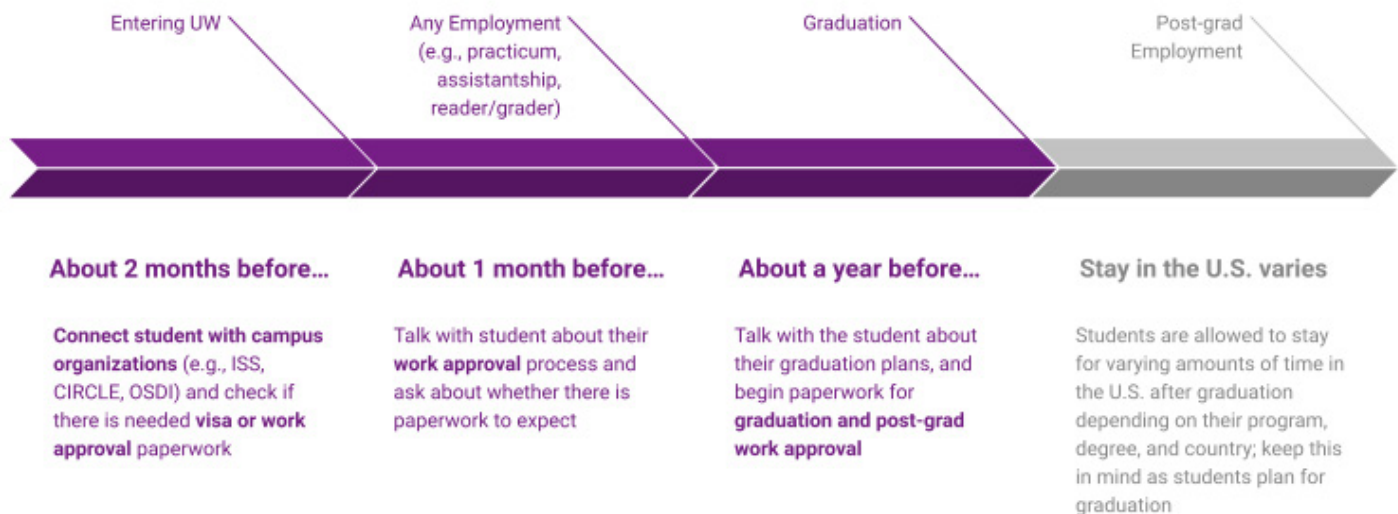
- Stress around handling legal documents and ensuring their U.S. legal status.
- Limited funding resources, particularly for students who are supporting children, families, and dependents.
- Lack of support for academic reading and writing.
- Feeling that they do not fit in or deserve to be at the University. Receiving academic training that is a) new and drastically different from their prior education, b) provided in an academic English language, and c) centered on U.S. issues and news.
- Microaggressions around accents, name pronunciation, and cultural differences.
- Mental distress around news from their international community or home country.
- Little support for research with a comparative or international lens. Course materials rarely speak to an international context and there are few opportunities to connect with scholars internationally.
- Homesickness and separation from loved ones, partners, children, and families. Many students are moving to a new country by themselves. Experiencing isolation from their linguistic and cultural community.
- Heavy course loads for undergraduate students who could not transfer their credits, usually leading to limited time to build community.
- Abuse and unpaid labor by faculty who threaten students' legal rights.

SUGGESTIONS AROUND LEGAL TOPICS



International students' legal statuses are at the intersection of immigration and temporary stay, so planning ahead of time is essential. Each student's process varies by program, degree, visa, and country.

- **Always complete necessary paperwork as quickly as possible.**
- For incoming students, **schedule meetings** to discuss the work approval process face-to-face.
- Be aware that –
 - **The International Student Services (ISS)** is an administrative department that processes all international student legal paperwork. ISS is short-staffed, so processing paperwork ahead of time is important.
 - **For queer and questioning students**, staying in the U.S. might be imperative for their survival and wellbeing.
 - Most students are **barred from working off-campus** during the academic year, which limits professional and funding opportunities.
 - **Some employers refuse to employ international students** and process their work approval.
 - **Failing to meet required work approvals could result in deportation.**
 - **Students might have to leave the U.S. from time to time** to apply for their visas and other paperwork.
- **Check-in with students on their travel plans annually** and how that might impact their funding sources.



INTRODUCING U.S. ACADEMIC NORMS



- **Actively invite students to join conversations** and reach out through email. Academic norms are specific in the U.S. and students might be unsure if speaking with or emailing professors is appropriate.
- **Specify whether readings are required or optional**; this is helpful for students who are adjusting to U.S. academic norms and academic English.
- **Provide or connect students to writing support** (e.g., weekly writing groups, sources for feedback on assignments and other writing projects, the Odegaard Writing and Research Center, the Career Center)
- **Continue to encourage research interests** both within the U.S. and internationally and introduce students to opportunities that interest them
- **Encourage experiences from different countries** and be mindful of the labor needed to describe and transfer experiences from different contexts
- **Incorporate international perspectives into courses.** For example, invite guest speakers with an international perspective or mention how different countries and cultures might approach the topic at hand differently.

SUGGESTIONS AROUND COMMUNITY



While many international students might be racialized as people of color in the U.S., their experiences and awareness of race might be drastically different from those of domestic students of color.

- **Share insights about racism in the U.S.** International students often hear about U.S. racism from abroad, but have little understanding of what they might face.
- **Connect students with international student communities**
 - Connect international students with **other students you know from the same country.**
 - The Center for International Relations & Cultural Leadership Exchange (**CIRCLE**) and the Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (**FIUTS**) host weekly activities promoted on their websites. These organizations also offer resources on funding, learning about the U.S. legal and medical system, and transitioning into living in the U.S.
 - **Student Legal Services (SLS)** offers free 40 minute consultations for students to discuss issues surrounding immigration.
 - **The CoE Office of Student Diversity & Inclusion (OSDI)** holds regular activities, office hours, and includes international student Diversity Ambassadors who can share their experiences.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FUNDING



- **Be explicit** about what is usually paid for in U.S. universities (e.g., doctoral students typically receive tuition and stipend)
- **Share resources around the cost of living in Seattle.** Connect students to organizations and communities recommended in the last section so students can figure out where to live, costs of transportation and groceries, etc.
- **Share funding opportunities open to non-domestic students.** For example, the Community Partners Fellowship is open to international students.
- **Share small emergency funding sources** to accommodate emergencies since international students cannot get employed at a moment's notice. For example <https://www.washington.edu/emergencyaid/>



RESOURCES

- UW CIRCLE
 - <https://www.washington.edu/circle/>
 - International Pride <https://www.washington.edu/circle/international-pride/>
- UW FIUTS
 - <https://www.fiuts.org/>
- CoE Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion (OSDI)
 - <https://education.uw.edu/admissions/osdi>
 - Diversity Ambassadors <https://education.uw.edu/admissions/osdi/ambassadors>
- UW International Student Services (ISS)
 - <https://iss.washington.edu/>
 - Statistics on international students (e.g., country of legal residence, degrees, programs) <https://iss.washington.edu/about-iss/statistics/>
- SUNY-Albany compiled a list of resources here
 - 1. Recognizing and Addressing Cultural Variations in the Classroom: <http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/resources/PublicationsArchives/InternalReports/culturalvariations.pdf>
 - 2. Strategies for Working with International Students: <http://cte.virginia.edu/resources/teaching-a-diverse-student-body-practical-strategies-for-enhancing-our-students-learning/international-students/strategies-for-teaching-international-students/>
 - 3. A Different Place: The Intercultural Classroom (Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xquMVmuNM5c>
 - 4. Working with International Student Writers: <https://www.du.edu/writing/eventsnews/newsletters/14second-language-writers.html>
 - 5. Strategies for Communicating Effectively with International Students: <http://www.bu.edu/isso/files/pdf/Tips-Successfull-Communication-Intl-Students.pdf>
 - 6. Tips for Communicating with International Students: <https://www.missouristate.edu/advising/international/160440.htm>
 - 7. Helping International Students Navigate Career Options: https://www.nafsa.org/_File/_/ie_mayjun15_fsa.pdf
 - 8. Using Appreciative Advising with International Students: <https://dus.psu.edu/mentor/old/articles/090909ep.htm>
 - 9. Innovations in Faculty Support for International Students: <http://globaled.us/internationalization/faculty-support-for-international-students.asp>
 - 10. Internationalization of the Higher Education Classroom: Strategies to Facilitate Intercultural Learning and Academic Success: <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ946165.pdf>
- Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) compiled some Facts & Figures on supporting international students in the pandemic
 - <https://www.aacu.org/article/recognizing-and-supporting-diverse-international-students>
- NASPA Foundation on “Five Things Student Affairs Professionals Can Do to Support International Students”
 - https://www.naspa.org/images/uploads/main/5Things_INTERNATIONAL_R4.pdf