

International Student Programs (ISP) serves the educational, regulatory, and personal development needs of Macalester's international students through helping them integrate, participate, and apply their learning to their own lives and cultural contexts.



BEFORE ARRIVING

ISP helps you with all things that make international students international. It starts before you arrive on campus, as ISP will work actively with you on immigration and visa issues from the time you choose (deposit to) Macalester until you are alumni. For a high percentage of students, ISP is an active part of Macalester international students' lives.

FALL

You will arrive on campus for a comprehensive Pre-Orientation, known as PO4IS. During PO4IS, and as the fall semester begins, ISP coordinates a mentor program, which will help you adjust to academics, culture, US laws, and social issues at Macalester. As the mentor program winds down, one of our professional staff engages in one-hour one-on-one meetings with each first-year international student to discuss social, academic and cultural adjustment, emergency contacts, career planning, regulations and anything else important to you. Mentors also do weekend and evening programming about career development and cultural adjustment. We believe these one-on-one meetings are among the most important things we do. These meetings set the foundation for you to have a relationship with ISP when you need our services or if unforeseen events happen in your life.

SPRING

ISP coordinates a robust, nonresident tax assistance program, ensuring that you are compliant with US tax law. We also help sophomores, juniors, seniors, and recent alumni with work authorizations.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors can do off-campus internships related to their majors with Curricular Practical Training (CPT) work authorizations. ISP facilitates each work authorization. Most international students work actively with us for five to seven years. This is because all international students may work for one year through Optional Practical Training (OPT) in a field directly related to their majors. STEM students can work two additional years through an OPT STEM Extension. STEM majors at Macalester include biology, chemistry, computer science, geography, economics, environmental studies, math, physics and psychology. During an alum's OPT, the alumni are legally required to update ISP for a variety of reasons.

We embrace the regulatory requirements for students and alumni as an opportunity to build a stronger relationship between you, ISP, and Macalester. You can also meet with ISP for help with traveling, changing majors, social security issues, driver's license/state IDs, and nonresident tax issues.

During meetings with ISP staff, you can discuss academics, majors, cultural adjustment, personal issues, campus resources, career development, post-graduation plans and any issue important to you.



CONNECT WITH US:

Website: macalester.edu/isp

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OTHER PROGRAMS

▶ AMERICA (EDUCATIONAL, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT)

America began in 2010 with the purpose of promoting dialogue, intercultural sensitivity, and friendship between first year domestic and international students. America is an ISP program that is facilitated by a small, diverse group of returning students who also serve as ISP mentors. The format changes every year but always includes weekly conversations and activities in the Twin Cities and beyond.

▶ WORK AUTHORIZATION WORKSHOPS (REGULATORY, EDUCATIONAL)

ISP offers numerous workshops about off-campus work options for international students throughout the year. F-1 visa regulations are incredibly nuanced and often complicated. The workshops about Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) work authorizations helps students to understand how they can effectively use these benefits of F-1 visas compliantly in a way that puts them in a good position for their careers.

▶ COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT (EDUCATIONAL)

Country Spotlight is an opportunity for international students to share their home country traditions with the Macalester community. On a variety of topics, international students prepare engaging presentations about their culture, customs, food, politics, religion, or sports. If you want to participate during the fall of 2020 or beyond, let us know by emailing isp@macalester.edu. For more information, go to macalester.edu/isp/countryspotlight.

▶ TALK AND TEA (TNT) (EDUCATIONAL, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Join us at ISP every Friday from 2:30–4:30 p.m. for Talk and Tea, an informal, fun gathering after classes for both domestic and international students. Weekly, TNT has themes related to campus resources. Grab a snack and some tea, talk to friends, meet new people, and ask professional staff questions about the regulations and any other issue. Events will likely be held remotely during Module 1.