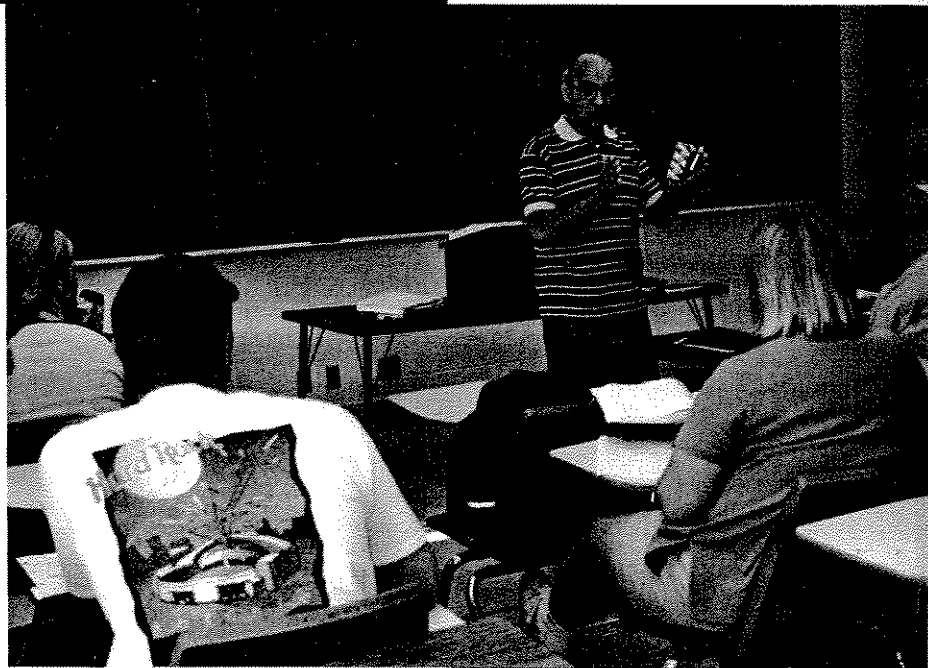


Office of

International Affairs

'The world is one big family. Time and distance have been annihilated. National isolation is a thing of the past.'

-Woodbridge N. Ferris



Office of International Affairs

Ferris State University recognizes the value of international educational exchange, and since 1953, has been authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant international students. Since then, thousands of students from other nations have attended FSU.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) has four major areas of responsibility:

- OIA is responsible for the recruiting and admission of all international students;
- OIA provides study abroad opportunities for FSU students;
- OIA provides advising, orientation and visa assistance to international students;
- OIA offers an intensive English program for students who have not yet achieved the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score needed for regular admission to an U.S. college or university.

The OIA assists agency-sponsored students, coordinates FSU international exchange programs, and sets up programs for short-term training as well.

A student from another country should apply for admission at least six months in advance of the planned arrival at Ferris State University. In addition to regular admission procedures, an international student must follow these procedures:

1. Include an official copy of the scores of the TOEFL, which is administered worldwide about four times a year. Students with a score of 500 or more on the paper-based TOEFL, or 173 or more on the computer-based TOEFL and who meet FSU admission requirements may be admitted directly to University programs. Students with a score of less than 500 are directed to the Ferris intensive English program; once they earn 500 or more on the TOEFL, they may reapply for admission to Ferris. (See Intensive English Program.)
2. The applicant must provide proof of adequate financial resources. A letter of intent from a private sponsor indicating the amount of funds and the length of availability of those funds (or a similar letter from a government sponsor) plus a letter from a bank guaranteeing the sponsor's ability to pay are required. All letters should be on official stationery and should be notarized.

More information is available on the Office of International Affairs website at www.ferris.edu/international.

International Student Advisor/ Immigration Specialist

The International Student Advisor/Immigration Specialist (ISA/IS) supports international education on campus, promotes international understanding, and serves as a resource for international matters for the University. The ISA/IS ensures that international students gain maximum possible benefit during their experience abroad, and also that the university gains as much as possible from having the international student on its campus. The contributions of international students—to both FSU and the State of Michigan—are recognized and appreciated.

International students and scholars come from all over the world, and are represented in every college on campus. The ISA/IS advises 300 students from 57 countries, visiting scholars, and hiring departments.

The International Student Advisor/Immigration Specialist helps new students adjust to life in the United States and at Ferris State University. The ISA/IS is dedicated to helping students make the most of their education and begins the year with an orientation for international students that familiarizes them with the campus and community. The orientation includes certain procedures such as registration, the US academic system, banking, and health care. There are also sessions to help the international student understand the local community and American lifestyle. And legal matters such as visas and work permits are reviewed.

Throughout the year the ISA/IS provides programs to continue the orientation process with in-depth sessions on topics such as US income tax requirements, buying a car, and culture shock. The ISA/IS advises individual students who find themselves in difficulty beyond their control, personal concerns such as housing and campus resources, and maintaining immigration status. An electronic newsletter is sent regularly to all international students and is accessible at the Ferris State University website at www.ferris.edu/international.

One of the primary functions of the International Student Advisor/Immigration Specialist is to assist international students and scholars at Ferris State University in maintaining their non-immigrant status. The office issues non-immigrant documents required by the US government for persons with certain types of visas: F-1 and J-1. Documents for travel, dependent travel, change of degree program, transfer of schools, extension of stay, and employment options are also available. Please note, however, that the ISA/IS office is not an office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The International Student Advisor/Immigration Specialist is advisor to the International Student Organization (ISO). The ISO sponsors activities such as sporting events, social gatherings, and recreational activities. The ISO provides opportunities to socialize, ask practical questions, and learn more about our cultures. Every international student is invited to be a member of the International Student Organization. Members also come from faculty, staff, and the domestic student population. A highlight of the year is the International Festival of Cultures held each April. The community is invited to visit exhibit booths from many countries, taste ethnic food, and enjoy traditional entertainment.

Intensive English Program

The Intensive English Program (IEP) prepares international students to study in university programs and also provides English language training to professional and business people who want to improve their English for careers or personal use.

Students spend five hours a day, five days a week in small classes studying grammar, reading, speaking and listening, and practicing in the audio/video language laboratory. Intensive English Program courses are listed in the "Course Descriptions" section of this catalog (see IEPG).

In addition to classroom work, students can take advantage of many extra-curricular activities such as field trips, receptions, annual international festival, the Conversation Partners Program, and exchanges with FSU classes. The IEP also organizes special orientation and cultural awareness workshops for the students especially designed for the audience with limited English proficiency.

Students should have the equivalent of a high school degree or be at least 17 years old in order to be accepted into the program. No minimum English language proficiency is required. Students who begin at the first level may need a full calendar year or more to reach levels of proficiency sufficient to begin academic work. Students are tested during orientation and placed in a study level based on their English proficiency. The number of levels varies between three and six depending on the total number of students in the program. Levels A1 and A2 are beginning levels, levels B1 and B2 are intermediate levels, and levels C1 and C2 are advanced.

Student placement and advancement is based on the results obtained on one of the standardized tests administered in the IEP: institutional TOEFL and composition tests (offered six times a year), Michigan Test Battery and MELAB (given upon request), oral interviews, and teacher recommendations. At the end of the semester, students receive progress reports, including grades, TOEFL scores, and teachers' comments. Students' grades are issued through the registrar's office on Ferris transcripts.

The Intensive English Program offers assistance to all limited English proficiency students with problems related to survival and adaptation to living in the USA including advising in finding assistance with legal matters and consumer complaints, information related to insurance, academic advising to IEP students as well as initial assis-

tance for the students who have matriculated from the IEP and are ready to choose their major and take academic classes. The IEP facilitates contacts with translators and interpreters if such need arises. In addition, students can obtain help with comprehension and interpretation of documents or letters related to studying at Ferris or campus living that they have problems understanding due to the language barrier.

The Intensive English Program is accredited by the American Association of Intensive English Programs (AAIEP) and by University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP).

For additional information and an application form, write to Ferris State University, Office of International Affairs, 1349 Cramer Circle, 303 Bishop Hall, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307-2737, call (231) 591-2405, fax (231) 591-2400, or visit our web site at: www.ferris.edu/international.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Study abroad has become one of the most important training grounds for US students in a global economy. In order to meet the challenges of the 21st century, the study abroad office and resource center offers FSU students access to many academic overseas programs and opportunities. These opportunities assist Ferris students in developing skills to successfully compete in a culturally diverse and globally interdependent world. In addition to programs sponsored through FSU, Ferris offers over 80 approved programs in 38 countries that are sponsored by other universities and organizations. Almost all of the courses are taught in English. Financial aid is available to eligible students.

The Study Abroad Office and Resource Center provides students with counseling and advising services in order to help students choose the appropriate study abroad program which meet their financial, personal and academic needs. Eligibility to participate in study abroad varies from program to program, however in general, most programs require 2.5 or better cumulative grade point average. In order to participate in a study abroad program interested students are required to contact The Office of International Affairs/Study Abroad located in Bishop Hall for approval and for completing the necessary forms.

Study abroad is one aspect of education that involves direct cross-cultural interaction while providing an enriching educational experience that is unavailable on the home campus. By studying in another country and culture a student will benefit academically, intellectually and personally. Study abroad also contributes to the student's professional career development and provides a marketable competitive edge towards employment in any chosen field.

FSU Sponsored Programs

Ferris also sponsors programs led by FSU faculty members. The following list describes some of these programs:

Martinique/French Language and Humanities

The Martinique program is offered at the beginning of summer semester on this beautiful tropical island in the Caribbean. Students can obtain academic credit in French, French for Travel and Business, French Literature and Films, or one of several other courses in the Humanities. In order to enhance the academic experience, students also become participants in a French/English Conversation Partner Program with Martiniquan students from the local university. Included in the program are excursions to a tropical rain forest, museums, churches, exotic gardens, beaches and historic ruins.

European Art History

For a few weeks each summer this successful faculty-led program offers students the opportunity to study great works of art at locations around the world. In Italy, the program includes visits to major monuments of classical, medieval and Renaissance art on site in Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Venice, and Pisa. This program will also be offered in London, Paris, and other exciting destinations.

Israel As The Holy Land

This program is offered for a few weeks during summer semester. In this program students will receive Humanities credit while visiting ancient villages, bustling metropolitan cities and the religious sites of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Bahai faiths. Some of the sites visited include: a tour of Ceasarea, the cities of Karmel and Haifa, Bahai Temple and Gardens, Druze village of Osifiya, tour of Acco and the Arab Marketplace, the Holy City of Tzfat, Galilee, Tiberias, Baram Talmudic synagogue and village, Nazareth Church of the Annunciation, Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, The Dome of the Rock, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

Affiliation and Exchange Agreements

FSU also maintains affiliation and exchange agreements at several international locations including:

Aachen Germany

Fachhochschule Aachen is located in Germany at the meeting point of the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium. Aachen is an historic, beautiful German university town. The exchange is designed for students in technology and may incorporate an internship component. Knowledge of German is important for participation in the exchange.

Stralsund Germany

Fachhochschule (University of Applied Sciences) Stralsund is located in Northeastern Germany on the coast of the Baltic Sea. The University, founded in 1991, has excellent facilities and courses available to Ferris students interested in studying in Germany. Students can either study in German or study in English while learning German. The program is designed for majors in business and technology, but other majors may be eligible for the exchange based on course availability.

Denmark International Study

The Denmark International Study (DIS) program is also available to Ferris students. Students can apply to study for a summer, a semester or a full year. DIS offers programs in humanities and social sciences, international business, marine biology and ecology, environmental studies, medical practice and policy, engineering, and architecture and design. All courses are taught by Danish faculty in English at the University of Copenhagen. Housing options include living with a Danish Host Family or in university student housing. Need-based scholarships are available through DIS. There are a number of study tours offered through each program at DIS at the following locations: Stockholm, Estonia, Moscow, Berlin, Prague, Brussels, Luxembourg, Finland, Poland, and the Vestmanna Islands.

Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU)

Ferris is also a member of JCMU which offers Ferris students opportunities to study for a summer, a semester or a year in Michigan's sister state, The Shiga Prefecture in Japan. Scholarships through JCMU are available.

National Student Exchange (NSE)

Ferris State University is a member of the National Student Exchange. The NSE is an association of over 160 colleges and universities that have joined together to provide exchange opportunities for their students. Included among the member institutions are 11 historically black colleges and universities, thirty institutions among the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (five of which are located in Puerto Rico), the University of Guam, and The University of the Virgin Islands. Ferris students have the opportunity to study at another university in the United States while paying Ferris tuition at most of the out-of-state campuses. NSE provides students access to the combined resources of over 160 campuses, the availability to explore other areas of the country, a wide range of multicultural opportunities, and the chance to grow educationally, culturally and socially.