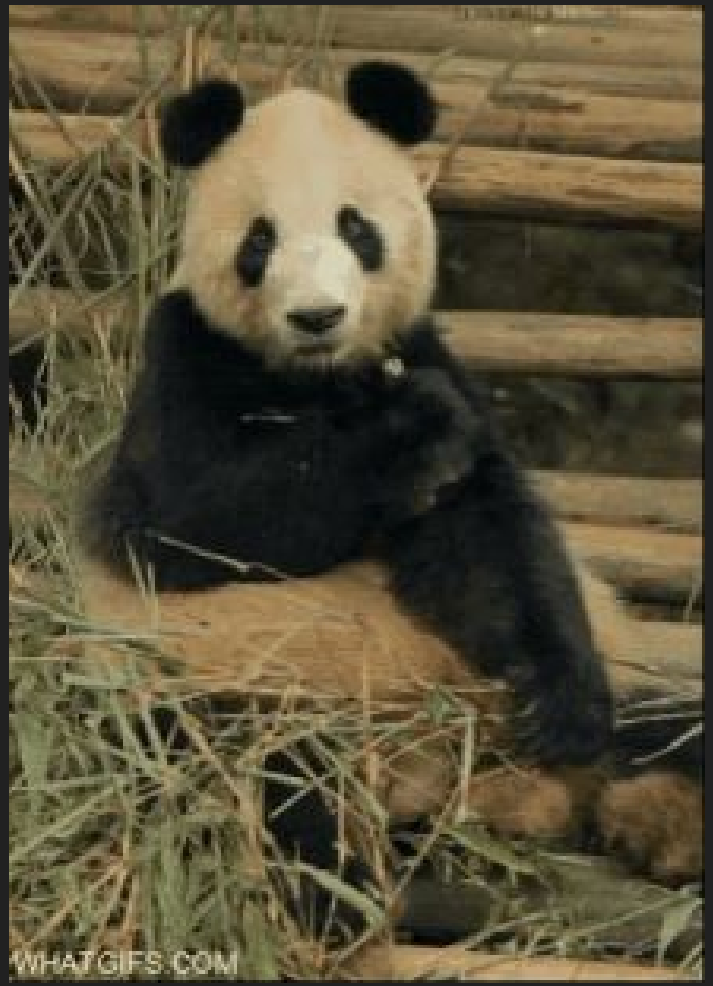
Have Support, Will Travel:

Working with International Students and their Families

Ryan Lovell - The Ohio State University
Meaghan Miller Thul - University of Minnesota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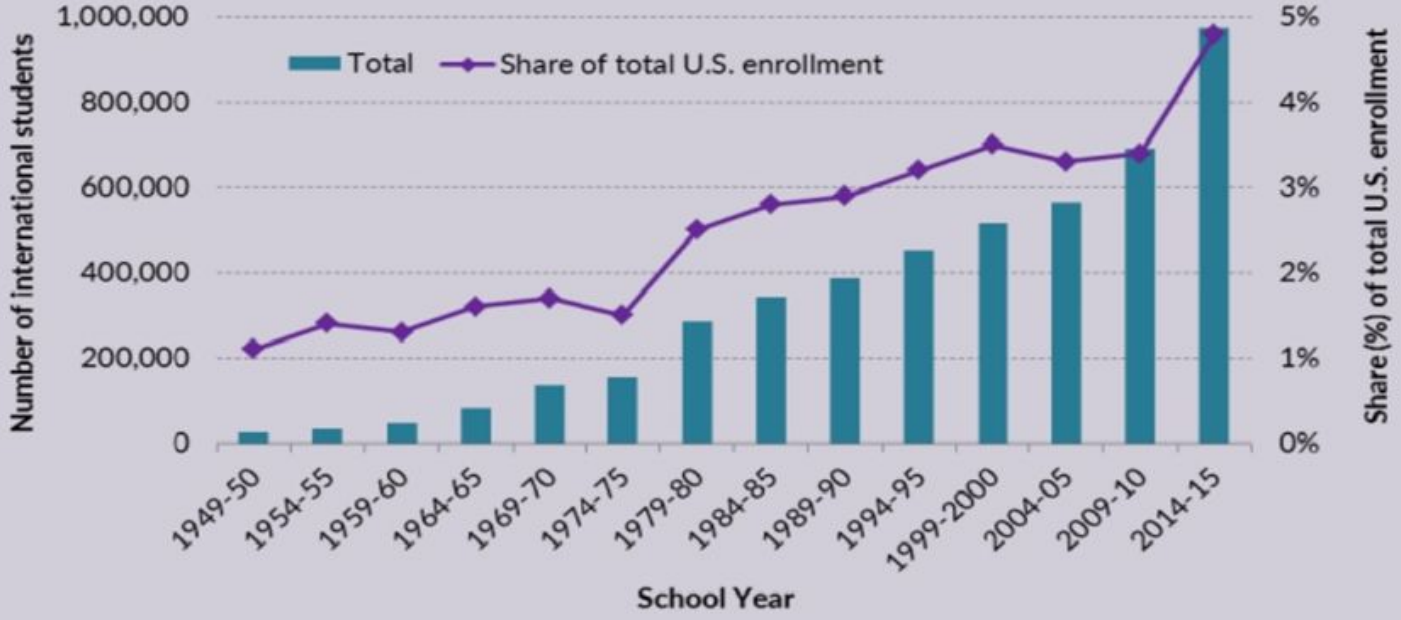
History of International Students in the United States

Figure 1. Number of International Students in U.S. Colleges and Universities and their Share (%) of Total U.S. Enrollment, School Year (SY) 1949-50 to SY 2014-15



Source: Institute of International Education (IIE), "International Student Enrollment Trends, 1948/49-2014/15," *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* (Washington, DC: IIE, 2015), available online.

A record high of more than 1 million international students came to America for higher education in the 2015-2016 academic year.

(1,044,000 students)

In the last decade, the number of undergraduate international students at American Universities has skyrocketed.

*University of Minnesota has increased from 500 to more than 2,800.

From Where do International Students Come?

SY 1949-50		
Country	Number	Share (%)
Total	**26,400**	**100.0**
Canada	4,400	16.5
Taiwan	3,600	13.8
India	1,400	5.1
United Kingdom	800	3.1
Mexico	800	3.1
Cuba	700	2.8
Philippines	700	2.7
Germany	700	2.5
Colombia	600	2.2
Iran	600	2.2
Other countries	12,100	46.0

SY 1979-80		
Country	Number	Share (%)
Total	**286,000**	**100.0**
Iran	51,000	17.9
Taiwan	18,000	6.1
Nigeria	16,000	5.7
Canada	15,000	5.3
Japan	12,000	4.3
Hong Kong	10,000	3.5
Venezuela	10,000	3.4
Saudi Arabia	10,000	3.3
India	9,000	3.1
Thailand	7,000	2.3
Other countries	129,000	45.1

SY 2014-15		
Country	Number	Share (%)
Total	**975,000**	**100.0**
China	304,000	31.2
India	133,000	13.6
South Korea	64,000	6.5
Saudi Arabia	60,000	6.1
Canada	27,000	2.8
Brazil	24,000	2.4
Taiwan	21,000	2.2
Japan	19,000	2.0
Vietnam	19,000	1.9
Mexico	17,000	1.7
Other countries	288,000	29.5

Source: Data for SY 1949-50 and 1979-80 are from Institute of International Education (IIE), "All Places of Origin of International Students, Selected Years: 1949/50-1999/00," *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* (Washington, DC: IIE, 2009). Data for SY 2014-15 are from Institute of International Education (IIE), "International Student Totals by Place of Origin, 2013/14- 2014/15," *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* (Washington, DC: IIE, 2015), **available online**.

2007

1. Korea – 355 students
2. India - 128 student
3. Indonesia - 83 students
4. China - 55 students

2017

1. China – 2854 students
2. Malaysia – 252 students
3. Korea – 128 students
4. India – 124 students

International vs. Non-Resident Student Fees

International student expenses (per academic year)	
Tuition (includes instructional and general fees)*	$28,910 - $32,623
Health insurance (required)	$2,206 - $2,994

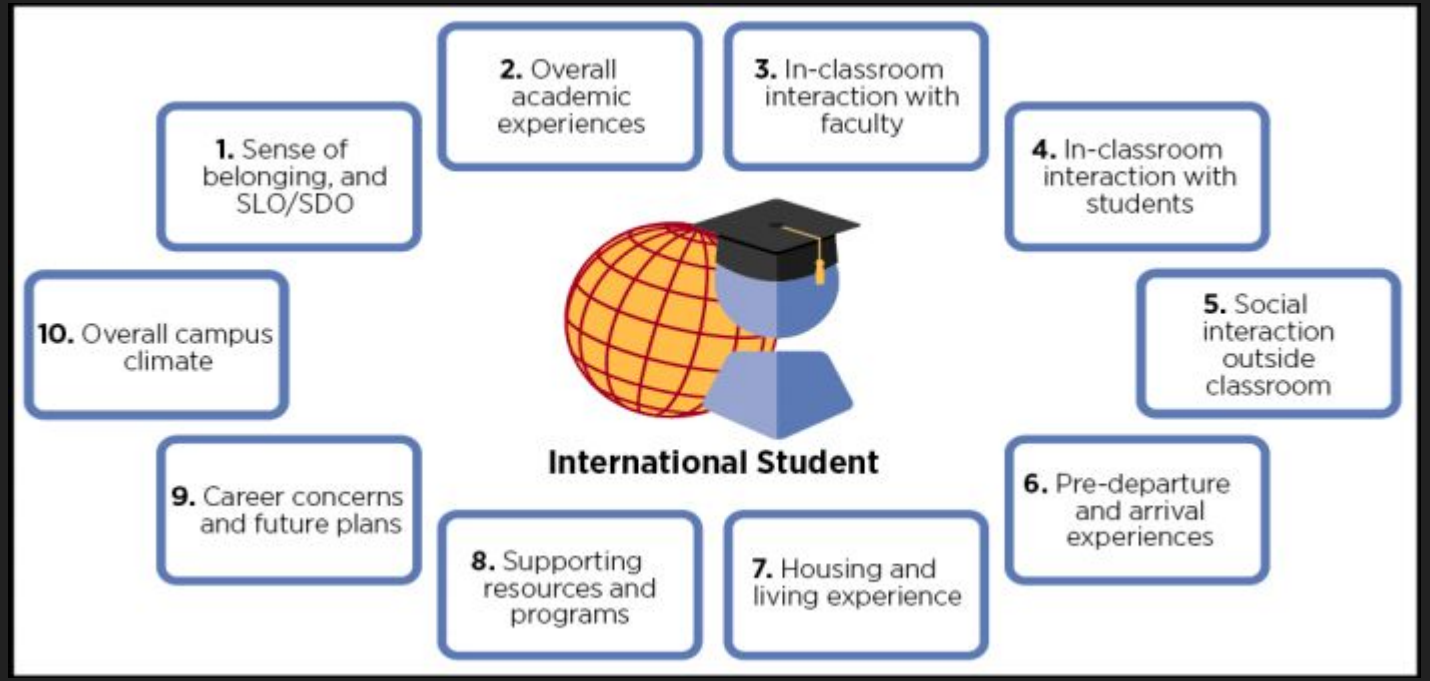
*Institutions charge international student fee(s)

- OSU - $1,464 per semester
- UofM - $346 student fee, $526 student academic services fee, $30 Student Aid fee

Non-resident student expenses (per academic year)	
Tuition (includes instructional and general fees)*	$26,674 - $29,695
University Health insurance (not required)	N/A

*Includes non-resident surcharge fees

2013 OSU and 2015 U of M - Assessments of International Undergraduate Student needs



PDO Outcomes and Goals

Pre-departure Orientation (PDO) has identified four major objectives:

1) Help international students recognize and understand academic expectations.
2) Familiarize international students with the fundamental business processes essential to a successful transition to US.
3) Inform international students about key transitional issues faced by new college students and international students specifically.
4) Educate students and families about the culture and traditions of The Ohio State University.

Timing

- Orientation sessions hosted on weekend dates

- Program is in June
- In country twelve days
- Happens during domestic orientation

- Program is in May
- In country six days
- Happens before domestic orientation

Messaging

- Invite is email and hard copy
- Train student volunteers in advance and on site

- Rolling invite based upon fee payment date
- Both invites are linked to admissions processes
- Specific information about Placement testing
- Invite for parent dinners

- Invitation when Orientation sign up is available
- Sent independently from admissions processes
- Messaging includes scheduling an on-site Orientation date for August

Staffing

- Include partners from across campus
- Staff based in China for on-site assistance
- Use of current student/recent graduate volunteers

- Student Life, International Affairs, Enrollment Service and Academic Advising comprise planning group
- Traveling group is 8 AND in-country staff
- Heavy use of students

- Shared lead by International Student & Scholar Services and Orientation & First-Year Programs
- Includes Student Affairs & Undergraduate Education

Structure

- Targeting incoming undergraduate students (all if possible)
- In country university office and staff available to assist
- Volunteers are current students / very recent graduates
- Family sessions are in Chinese
- Student volunteer dinners hosted by office

- Host multiple events (11 events over trip)
- Student volunteers perform most of translation
- Program booklet and gifts

- Occasional other events are hosted, depending on time
- Local campus site visits
- China Office staff translates
- Gifts & few printed pieces

Schedule

- Day long orientation sessions
- Lunch is provided as are tea breaks
- Student room is focused on relationship building with information
- Family room is focused on information presentation on basic needs
- Panel discussions for both groups

- 9am-6pm
- Lunch and two breaks
- 374 students and 355 parents attended

- 10am- 5pm
- Lunch and one break
- Visa/Customs from US Embassy
- 128 students /119 parents

Follow Up Support

- On campus orientation- for students and families
- Newsletters / social media for families
- On-site get involved event for International students
- Team calls - understand trends for students and families

Balance of Key Players and Priorities

- Who plans?
- Content
- Who attends?
- Senior administrator involvement
- Final authority

Where Do We Go?

- Which countries?
- Which cities?
- Which days of the week?
- Hotel locations
- Hotel types (Western vs. Chinese)

Specific Parent/Family Support or Needs

- How many guests per student?
- Who is translating?
- How will you address language barriers?
  - Timing factors
- What are you printing and where?

General Logistical Challenges

- Technology challenges with any systems you use
- Censorship and blocking of websites
- General translations issues
- Cultural competency training
- Business cards in Chinese
- Factoring in traffic and transportation struggles
- Taking advantage of staff development opportunities
- Real time communication and time zones

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Nope, talk to the paw, bro.

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Contact Information

Ryan Lovell - The Ohio State University

Email - lovell.113@osu.edu

Phone - 614-688-4888

Meaghan Miller Thul - University of Minnesota

Email - mthul@umn.edu

Phone - 612-626-8770