International Cultural Service Program

University of Oregon

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Academic Year 2023-24
International Cultural Service Program brings together a selected group of University of Oregon international students to provide Eugene, Springfield and surrounding communities with valuable global education and cross-cultural exchange opportunities. Participants provide cultural and educational services to the community in return for scholarship assistance. Services typically include in-person or virtual presentations about aspects of their home culture on campus and to community groups such as K-12 schools, elder care settings and other community organizations.

The program was created by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education in 1982, and is currently funded by the University of Oregon with internal fee remission resources provided by the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, and administered by the International Student and Scholar Services unit in the Division of Global Engagement.

Yu Zhang
ICSP Program Manager
Senior International Student Advisor

Warren Oo
ICSP Member
ICSP Program Assistant
“I have been inviting ICSP students to my course on intercultural competence for several years. Every ICSP student I’ve worked with has been a highly trained professional skilled at serving as a cultural ambassador. ICSP class visits have consistently been a highlight of my courses that students remember long after having graduated. My students have benefitted greatly from interacting with peers from other cultural settings who are actively interested in bridging divides. Thanks ICSP!”

Dr. Lesley Jo Weaver
Associate Professor, University of Oregon
REQUEST A STUDENT VISIT
IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL
Submit a request at least two weeks in advance of requested date.

HOW IT WORKS
ICSP students are multi-talented, enthusiastic and eager to share their cultures and stories with U.S. audiences. All students are trained to make powerful public presentations to diverse audiences.

BEFORE THE VISIT
Communicate: An ICSP student will contact you once your request is assigned to them. Communicate with the student in a timely manner to outline your expectations and avoid surprises during the visit. Confirm arrangements again as the visit gets closer.

Arrange Transportation: For in-person visits, requesters are responsible for arranging transportation for the visiting student. For virtual presentations, set up a Zoom link and send it to the student at least two days before the presentation. (More transportation details on page 9.)

Prepare: Encourage your students or group members to prepare questions for the ICSP student about their country and culture. Make sure that basic technical support is in place.

DURING THE VISIT
Introductions: Introduce the ICSP student to your students, teachers, administrators and organizational leaders.

Prepare Equipment: Provide an appropriate setting for the presentation. Have the necessary equipment ready if the student is going to show slides or play music.

Engagement: While the student is presenting, give your full attention and encourage your students or group members to do the same. In a school setting, teachers are expected to remain in their classrooms the entirety of the presentation to maintain order and assist in facilitating questions.

AFTER THE VISIT
Provide Feedback: The ICSP coordinating team will send a link to an online feedback form. We value your comments and they help us for future visits.

Share Your Experience: Spread the word and encourage others to invite an ICSP student to their class or organization. You can also make multiple presentation requests throughout the year.

Learn more about the program by visiting isss.uoregon.edu/icsp.
“A big shout out to the ICSP program at UO! I have now worked with the amazing staff and students at ICSP for several years, and every time I come away more energized about the program! The students come from all over the globe with a fascinating story to share, and the reactions from our students and families inevitably match my own excitement. In learning about other people and cultures, I learn more about myself. My belief that diversity makes us stronger is repeatedly reinforced through these experiences.”

Dave Hulbert
Principal, Edison Elementary School
TRANSPORTATION DETAILS

For in-person events, requesters are responsible for arranging transportation for the visiting student. We recommend finding a volunteer driver who will pick up and return the student to the University of Oregon campus. The designated pick up and drop-off location is on East 15th Ave. and Kincaid St., by the brick archway.
ICSP is excited to announce that we are bringing back the collaboration with the University of Oregon Campus Radio (UOKWVA). Two of our ICSP members, Nikhar and Favour, will be working with UOKWVA to host ICSP students weekly to talk about their background, country, culture, and music.

RADIO SHOW DETAILS
Every Wednesday
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Channel: KWVA 88.1 FM
Enoch Nkongolo Mulunda Elumba  
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chiba, Japan  

Major: Computer Science  
Languages: Japanese, Kiswahili and English  
Interests: Basketball, cooking, foreign languages, and playing instruments.

Erick Munene Njue  
Kirinyaga County, Kenya  

Major: Ph.D. in Special Education  
Languages: Kikuyu (native), Kiembu, Kiswahili, Sheng and English  
Interests: Linguistics, education, culture, sports, movies, and music.

Chiagoziem Chinaza Adindu  
Lorji, Aboh Mbaise, Imo State, Nigeria  

Major: Business Law  
Languages: Igbo, Hausa, French and English  
Interests: Creating recipes, blogging, YouTubing, traveling and volunteering.

Aurélien Kossi Daglo-Agbodo  
Lomé, Togo  

Major: Business Administration and Management  
Languages: Ewe, French and English  
Interests: Writing and reading French poetry, watching anime and docu-series, learning more about history and philosophy, watching sport contents, basketball, soccer, football, and painting.
Derrick Onyiego  
Nairobi, Kenya

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant  
Major: Communication  
Languages: English and Kiswahili  
Interests: Bike riding, watching, playing soccer and basketball.

Favour Fatmata Foday  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Major: Biochemistry  
Languages: Mende, Krio, and English  
Interests: Poetry, Global issues, soccer/football, comedy, inductive arguments, music, cooking and celestial bodies.

Nikhar Ramlakhan  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Major: Computer Science  
Languages: English  
Interests: Soccer, cooking, mixology, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and trading.
Anna (Annita) De Sanctis
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Major: Business Administration
Languages: Spanish and English
Interests: Working out, cooking, baking, reading, and dancing.

Sebastian Ibanez Sanhueza
Chillan, Chile
Major: Biology
Languages: Spanish and English
Interests: Contemporary dance, yoga, music, reading, and hiking.

Mariana (Bee) Arredondo Durán
León, Guanajuato, Mexico
Major: Art & Technology
Languages: Spanish and English
Interests: Art, film, politics, Mexican history, languages, storytelling, and human rights.

Giancarlo Penalba
Managua, Nicaragua
Major: Art & Technology
Languages: Spanish and English
Interests: Art, anime, video games, reading manga, and keeping a dream journal.

Nathan Hannon
Penticton, Canada
Major: Business Administration
Languages: English
Interests: Hockey, golf, biking, watching Netflix, photography.

Maria Soto Cuesta
Caracas, Venezuela
Major: Biochemistry
Languages: Spanish and English
Interests: Reading, baking, skateboarding, playing golf and volleyball, and science.
Yinglong Zong
Heilongjiang Harbin, China

Major: Communication Disorders and Science
Languages: Mandarin and English
Interests: Playing games, fixing things, music, and language

Gayatri Misra
Roorkee, India

Major: Architecture
Languages: Hindi and English
Interests: Playing guitar and keyboard, sketching, painting, dancing, singing, experimenting with gadgets, and creating layouts for different varieties of indoor and outdoor settings.

Tenzin Tseten
Nainital, India and Lhasa, Tibet

Major: Human Physiology
Languages: Hindi, Tibetan, and English
Interests: Music, Tibetan Buddhism, karaoke, fashion, and human rights issues in Tibet.

Waku Komiya
Tokyo, Japan

Major: Media Studies
Languages: Japanese and English
Interests: Sports, language, and cultures.

Batjargal (Chris) Batgerel
Mongolia and Russia

Major: Computer Science
Languages: Mongolian, Russian, and English
Interests: Basketball and physical training.

Naing Naing (Warren) Oo
Mandalay, Myanmar

Major: Finance, Business Administration
Languages: Burmese, Mandarin, and English
Interests: Basketball, cooking, playing guitar, and exploring new things about the world.
Suk (Suko) Bahadur Gurung
Gorkha, Kathmandu, Nepal

Major: Computer and Information Science
Languages: Nepali, Hindi, and English
Interests: Backpacking, hiking, photography, and filmmaking.

Bibi Halima
Attock, Pakistan

Major: Language Teaching Studies and Linguistics
Languages: Punjabi, Urdu/Hindi, Arabic and English
Interests: Multilingualism, language revitalization, World Englishes, postcolonial literature, volunteering, writing, storytelling, handicrafts.

Yeo Jin Kim
Gwangju, Republic of Korea

Major: International Studies, Spanish
Languages: Korean, Spanish, and English
Interests: Languages, reading, international studies, and storytelling.

Chi En Roger Cheng
Taipei, Taiwan

Major: Business, Data Science
Languages: Chinese, Taiwanese, and English
Interests: Sports, language, and cultures.

Junqi Li
Guangzhou, China

Major: Business Administration
Languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, and English
Interests: Traveling, exploring different cuisines and food, watching movies and documentation, and exercising.

Muhammad Sohaib
Mansehra, Pakistan

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
Major: English Literature and Applied Linguistics
Languages: Urdu, English, Hindkoh, Punjabi, Pashto
Interests: ELT, traveling, sports, blind cricket, hiking, trekking, outdoor activities, social work.
Grigorii Malakhov  
Kaluga, Russia and Warsaw, Poland  
Major: Theater Arts  
Languages: English, Italian, and Russian  
Interests: Performing arts, musical theatre, museum education, and cultural exchange.

Jess Simpson  
Manchester, United Kingdom  
Major: Media Studies and Cinema Studies  
Languages: English  
Interests: Sports, rock climbing, playing music, and playing video games.

Murtazaw Mengis  
Baku, Azerbaijan  
Major: Computer and Information Science  
Languages: Azerbaijani, Turkish, Russian, and English  
Interests: Future technology and humanity, life on Mars, different cultures, politics, diplomacy, and world history.

Mert Yapucuoglu  
Istanbul, Turkey  
Major: Computer and Information Science  
Languages: English and Turkish  
Interests: Istanbul, Turkish language, education system, food, theatre, community involvement, and American high school in Turkey.
Esma Masca
Ankara, Turkey

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
Major: Foreign Language Education
Languages: English and Turkish
Interests: Languages, cooking, painting, writing, traveling, scuba diving, volunteering, meditation.

Inês Catarino
Lisbon, Portugal

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
Major: Language Teaching Studies
Languages: Portuguese, English and Spanish
Interests: Traveling, learning new skills, listening to music and podcasts, watching series and films, reading.

Lilian Liang
Stuttgart, Germany

Major: Psychology
Languages: German, English, French and Mandarin
Interests: Gymnastics, traveling and exploring new places, going on outdoor adventures, skiing, spending quality time with friends, learning more about psychology, journaling.
Donia Abuelfetouh  
Cairo, Egypt  
Major: Architecture  
Languages: English and Arabic  
Interests: Languages, women in ancient Egypt, feminism, Mediterranean cultures, music, and traveling

Amira Ghazy  
Alexandria, Egypt  
Major: Language Teaching Studies  
Languages: Arabic, Hindi, Turkish and English  
Interests: Literature, theatre, teaching, public speaking, reading, traveling, cooking.

Kerlos Rizk  
Alexandria, Egypt  
Major: Business Administration, Finance  
Languages: Arabic and English  
Interests: Entrepreneurship, economics, business, reading books, music, exercising, trying new foods, networking, cultural exchange, and watching movies

Kesma Elzanaty  
Giza, Egypt  
Fulbright Foreign Language Assistant  
Major: English language and literature  
Languages: Arabic and English  
Interests: Music, sports, fashion.
“I am privileged to have presented to different groups in Eugene-Springfield Community. Through this Iam conscious of the sense of belonging to my culture because of the appreciation and joy that my audience showed. I never appreciated culture more than I did the past one year. My best moments were having people join me for Múgiithi (train) dance at different events I presented. I cannot count how many people said how good it was!”

Erick Njue
ICSP honorable member from Kenya, Spring 2023
I began my career in education 25 years ago as a student teacher at North Eugene High School. My cooperating teacher left me a textbook, a few ideas for assignments and contact information for ICSP at the University of Oregon. I was so inspired by the idea of literally bringing the world into my classroom, I designed a unit for my global studies curriculum around the ICSP students. A quarter of a century later, thousands of students from North Eugene High School have spent part of their freshman year learning about the world through the eyes of ICSP students. As former students strolled the halls, they all poked their head into my classroom and demanded to know if I still did “the cool project with the international students” because it had inspired in them a profound curiosity about the world.

My students begin the unit sifting through sources, working to understand the geography, culture and history of their assigned country. They dutifully complete assignments and occasionally call me over to share some interesting idea or picture, but they remain relatively uninspired overall… Until the day the ICSP students arrive and they get to ask their thousands of questions, see artifacts from the country, laugh at shared stories and understand the shared human experience of this world. I can’t imagine trying to teach my students about the world without ICSP. Thank you!

Clair K. Wiles
Social Studies Department Chair, North Eugene High School
Our goal is to have a valuable and positive experience for all students and requesters. If at any time in the process you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ICSP coordinating team.

icsp@uoregon.edu 541-346-3206