

**WCU**  
**WEST CHESTER**  
**UNIVERSITY**



# Center for International PROGRAMS

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[www.wcupa.edu/international](http://www.wcupa.edu/international)



## About Us

The Center for International Programs (CIP) was established in 1973. The CIP provides essential support services for international students, visiting scholars, education abroad, and the National Student Exchange. The CIP seeks to develop, serve and support international education at West Chester University as a way of building understanding and peaceful cooperation between peoples, cultures and nations. The CIP exists to assist international students gain entry to WCU, to serve these students once enrolled and to educate U.S. students globally by fostering opportunities for education abroad and exchange programs.

*WCU international students at the the US Capitol*



## MISSION STATEMENT



The Center for International Programs is dedicated to supporting comprehensive internationalization initiatives at West Chester University with a focus on serving faculty, staff, students, and administration and the West Chester University community.

# International Programs and Services

The experienced international advising staff assists students during their transition to U.S. higher education and life at WCU. WCU is currently authorized to issue F and J visa documents. The CIP can provide basic information and assistance with a variety of other visa classifications. A full description and listing of detailed regulations for each category are available at the CIP. Advisors connect new and current international students and help them make a comfortable transition to the University. The staff provides continuous immigration guidance and support throughout the duration of the international student's academic program.

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"The multicultural programs I have attended expanded my relationships with people from diverse cultures."

— **Mohammed Albalawi**, *Saudi Arabia*  
*Respiratory Care*

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## VALUES STATEMENT

In accordance with the University's values statement, the Center for International Programs supports the unique talents and contributions of each member of our community.

Through its sponsorship of international educational opportunities, the Center for International Programs advocates for a broader world view that provides a richer understanding of other cultures and a more tolerant understanding of differences.

CIP engages in the education of all students through international exchange and promotion of international understanding and cross-cultural learning.

In support of the University's strategic plan, *Building on Excellence*, and the objectives outlined therein, the Center for International Programs will:

- Prepare students to be global citizens.
- Recruit and retain international students.
- Collaborate with campus constituents to enhance education opportunities, to provide services for international students, and to assist faculty, staff, and administrative international projects.
- Establish partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions and organizations.
- Promote and support Visiting Scholars at WCU and support WCU faculty research and scholarship.
- Support the University's English as a Second Language Program



Support services provided by the CIP include:

- ✓ Processing all F and J visa documents and keeps records updated in the Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).
- ✓ Pre-arrival advising
- ✓ International student orientation for new students
- ✓ Guidance on academic success strategies
- ✓ Continued immigration advising and related support
- ✓ Intercultural programming
- ✓ Off campus excursions
- ✓ Facilitation of appropriate immigration benefits such as work authorization related to field of study
- ✓ Referrals to state and government agencies as appropriate (Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Security Administration, etc.)

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“WCU has made me strong and confident.”

— *Esha Emidi, India, Computer Science*

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## Language Training



WCU has partnered with ELS to provide intensive English training to enable international students to study at WCU. ELS Philadelphia – West Chester, PA Center is located on the campus of WCU. ELS students are offered conditional admission to those who are academically admissible based on their academic record and other

university and/or departmental and program requirements, but have not yet demonstrated English proficiency. The admission is “conditional” based upon satisfying English proficiency through completion of ELS English for Academic Purposes program and other specific requirements prior to full admission. In addition to language training, ELS students receive pre-arrival, upon arrival, and ongoing support services throughout the ELS student life cycle.

## Exchange Visitor Program

The CIP encourages faculty, staff, and administrators to participate in our Exchange Visitor Program by inviting scholars to apply to visit our campus for an extended period of time in order to engage in collaborative scholarly

endeavors. Visiting scholars provide opportunities for the university community to benefit from collaborative research opportunities and cross-cultural interactions. Visiting scholars may deliver guest lectures, co-teach when appropriate, and make formal presentations.

## Education Abroad

At West Chester University, we are sending over 500 students abroad per year. Students are participating in a variety of different types of experiences throughout the course of the year and this number has steadily increased over the last 5 years. WCU is committed to providing students with these types of opportunities in order to graduate successful and skilled students with international experience.

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“Being in a foreign country opens your eyes and exposes you to so many things that you would otherwise never see or do.”

— **Liz Bishop**, Major: Finance,  
Study Abroad Program in Italy

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“I developed better studying habits and learned about how world languages reflect cross-cultural relationships.”

— **Erica Gerichten**, Major: French,  
Study Abroad Program in Japan

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## Affiliated Partner Organizations

WCU has 9 partner organizations that offer more than 700 programs worldwide, with academic year, semester, summer, and winter term options, often with the option of an internship or service learning component. Our partner organizations were chosen based on their compatibility with WCU and therefore are often an academic fit.

## Faculty and Staff-led Programs



Each year West Chester University offers 25-30 faculty and staff-led programs around the world, in a variety of academic disciplines, including both for-credit and non-credit options during winter, summer, and spring break. These programs offer students the opportunity to live, study,

and travel abroad with their peers and a WCU faculty or staff member to complete WCU coursework towards their degree requirements, engage in service-learning work, and/or participate in cultural immersion experiences. Students pay their regular WCU tuition rates for the coursework completed on faculty/staff led programs.

## Exchange Programs

WCU has direct exchange partnerships with many international institutions as well. Students accepted into exchange programs will pay tuition and fees to WCU for their year or semester-long programs, and the same in-state/out-of-state rules apply. While abroad, students from that institution will be coming to WCU to take their place. Exchange students are responsible for paying their own transportation, housing, meals, insurance, and other personal expenses while abroad. Each course taken abroad will count as transfer credit, which can be utilized to cover degree requirements at WCU.

## International Partnership Development

The Center for International Programs leads and facilitates international institutional partnership development that range from supporting international educational associations such as NAFSA and IIE, promoting international scholarship programs such as Fulbright, bi-lateral memorandums of agreement with universities and governments, as well as consortium projects such as the Pennsylvania Higher Education



Initiative in India. International partnership development is a critical piece of the CIP's mission of comprehensive internationalization, supporting student exchange, faculty exchange and research, and international student recruitment.



## National Student Exchange

The National Student Exchange (NSE) provides opportunities for students to study for a semester or a year at another NSE university in the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. NSE participation expands academic, cultural and personal experiences. NSE is an enhancement of a student's undergraduate program. Students participate in NSE to:

- ✓ Broaden their perspectives
- ✓ Explore new areas of study
- ✓ Learn from different professors
- ✓ Access new courses
- ✓ Experience personal growth
- ✓ Make new friends
- ✓ Live in a different area
- ✓ Investigate graduate schools
- ✓ Seek future employment
- ✓ Become more independent
- ✓ Experience life from a different point of view

 THE *World* IS A BOOK

AND THOSE WHO DO NOT *Travel*

READ ONLY *One Page.* 

— St. Augustine





International Programs and Services:

***[international@wcupa.edu](mailto:international@wcupa.edu)***

Education Abroad:

***[studyabroad@wcupa.edu](mailto:studyabroad@wcupa.edu)***

Exchange Program:

***[jvisa@wcupa.edu](mailto:jvisa@wcupa.edu)***

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