

IXO's 5th Birthday!

The International Exchange Office (IXO) was founded on January 2, 2010 by our director, Dr. Linda C. Angell. IXO began as a small unit with only seven international study abroad students and a few part-time student workers.



Former IEO Advisor Anna Ray (center) and Spring 2012 Exchange Students

IXO's first advisor was Anna Ray, who worked at IXO from Fall 2010 to Fall 2012. IXO's first student workers were Shahin Hoda, an AUS student who studied abroad before IXO was even born; Khadija Mahmood, who came with Dr. Angell from the School of Business Administration; and IXO's current advisor Osama Mafraji, who was one of the first students to study abroad through IXO.

"Over the past five years, IXO has become an integral part of the university, providing a wide range of opportunities across the entire AUS community. We have developed hundreds of exchange partners around the world," said Dr. Angell.

"I feel very fortunate to work with such a passionate and diverse team that values customer satisfaction and quality service above all else; and to be able to contribute to international educational experiences that hugely impact our varied

customers in so many different ways. The past five years at IXO have been amazing, and I look forward to equally fantastic future developments! Happy Birthday, IXO," Dr. Angell added.

Summer Program

Maastricht University, Netherlands, in coordination with Maastricht School of Management and Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, is offering an exciting summer program that includes challenging and exclusive courses for bachelor's and master's students.

The summer school provides excellent housing and an entertaining social program. For more information, visit: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/summerschool

Winter Break

As the end of 2014 approaches, IXO wishes the AUS community a Happy UAE National Day, Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year!

IXO Calendar

December 18

Winter Break

January 2

IXO's Fifth Birthday

January 5

Fall 2014 Classes Resume

January 6

Farewell Dinner for Fall 2014 Exchange Students returning home

Student Profile

Julian Hedlund-Drumm is a theatre design and production major from Westminster College in Utah, USA, who chose to study abroad here at AUS during the Fall 2014 semester.



Julian Hedlund-Drumm

Why do you think it's important to study abroad? If someone has the opportunity to study abroad, they should do it. It forces you to step out of your comfort zone and into another culture. The time I've spent talking with friends I've made over here—about religion, politics and personal relations—has opened my mind to a whole new way of looking at the world. Studying abroad makes you move away from what is familiar to you and pushes you to see the world differently.

How did you decide to study abroad?

The Middle East is so misunderstood in the West, especially in the US. I knew that all the negative stuff I heard about the people and culture out here couldn't be true, but I had to come here to see it with my own eyes. I remember when I told my mother that I was going to the UAE for school this year, she flipped: "You're going where?!" She wasn't happy about it. I hate that this part of the world has such a negative perception attached to it, where I'm from. I just want to try and change that, if only a little.

Visiting Scholar Profile

One of the visiting scholars AUS is hosting for the Fall 2014 semester is Dr. Kiari Boulama, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC). He is working with Dr. Saad Ahmed from the Department of Mechanical Engineering.



Dr. Kiari Boulama

"I am currently on a sabbatical leave and have decided to spend this time at AUS for a number of reasons. I wanted to be far from my home university. I wanted to be in a place with the infrastructure and all the resources to conduct world-class scientific research, and this is exactly what AUS is providing me with. Also, after having lived in the cold of Canada uninterrupted for 15 years, I thought I am due for some sun, and the UAE just happens to have plenty of that," said Dr. Kiari.

His research deals with the numerical simulation of flows around air vehicles. Applications include unmanned air-vehicles (UAV). The objective is to generate accurate prediction tools for the flight of these vehicles and contribute to the design of aerial vehicles with improved performance (i.e, high lift, reduced drag, improved maneuverability).

IXO Events

Travelogue Sessions



Peer Advisors Ibrahim Salloum (in red) and Solmaz Karimi (extreme right)

IXO recently hosted two travelogue sessions given by AUS students and IXO Peer Advisors: Ibrahim Salloum talked about his semester abroad at Washington State University, and Solmaz Karimi described her study abroad experience at the University of Vermont, USA.

Overnight Desert Safari

The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in collaboration with IXO had an overnight desert safari where the students got to experience camel riding, dune bashing and a beautiful Arabian dance!



Fall 2014 Exchange Students at a Desert Safari

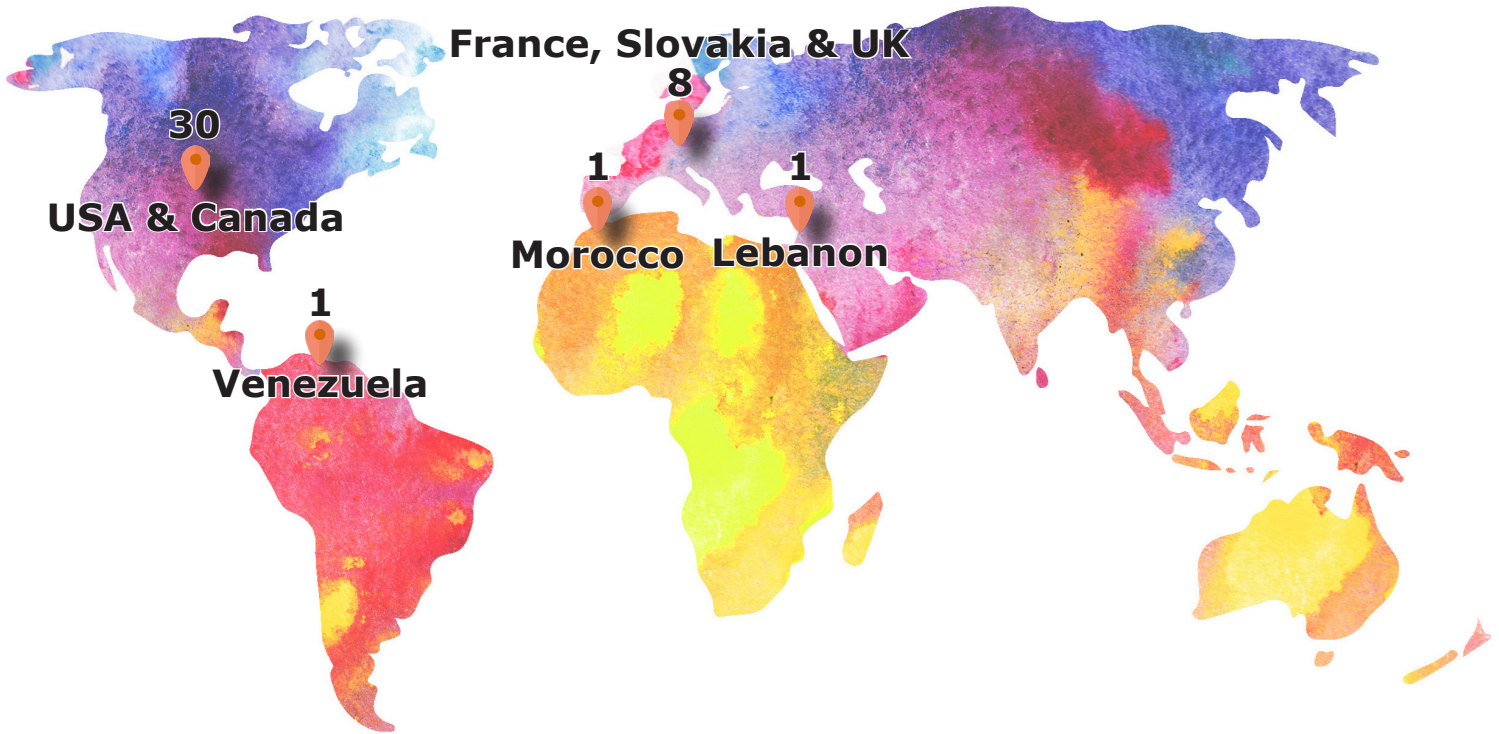
IXO Participation in AUS Play

Many Fall 2014 exchange students took part in the play of *Antony and Cleopatra*. Some of the performing exchange students were Patrick Ford, Ruthie Edd and Hadeiyah Ameen. Stage managers included Sally Alhamad (IXO Peer Advisor), Julian Hedlund-Drumm and Nancy Wang.

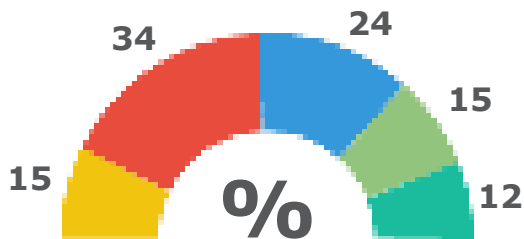


IXO Fall 2014 Demographics

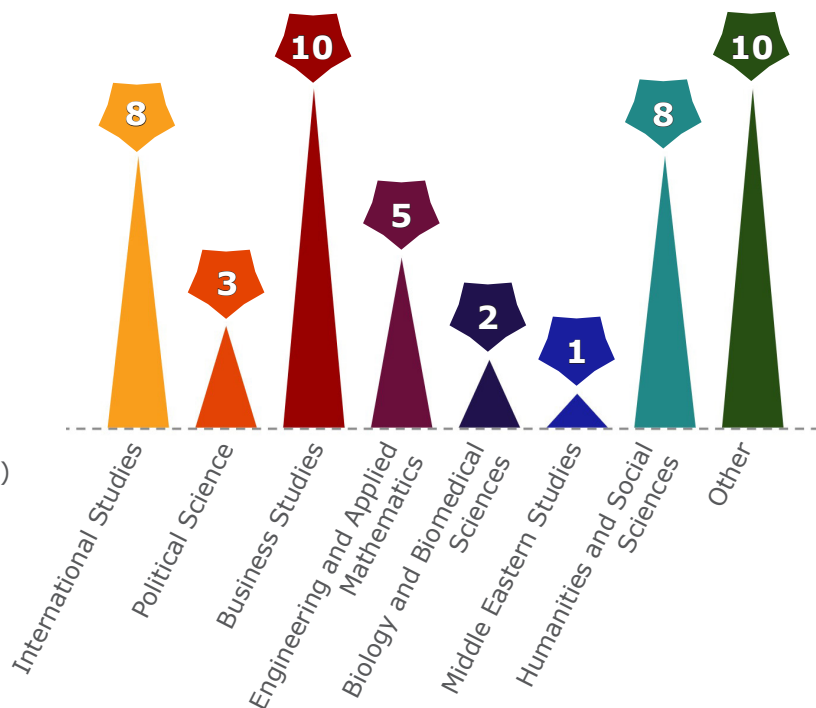
For Fall 2014 IXO hosted 41 incoming students from various parts of the world. Here is a breakdown of the various countries and programs students came through and their fields of study.



Programs



Fields of Study



- ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs)
- API (Academic Programs International)
- CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange)
- Visiting (from other universities)
- Kedge Business School, France