

New opportunities for AUS

We are an Academic Consortium Member of Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE): <http://www.ciee.org/study-abroad/advisors/academic-consortium/board/> and this means lots of new benefits for faculty and students! Contact ixo@aus.edu for more information

Opportunities for faculty include:



Academic Consortium Board

A faculty member can serve on the Academic Consortium Board, which is responsible for developing, approving and evaluating all CIEE study abroad programs (<http://www.ciee.org>) - whenever a position on the Board becomes available.

Site Evaluation and Development Team

Faculty and staff can serve on a CIEE-funded annual site evaluation team and/or advise on innovative study abroad program development.

Faculty Fellows Program

Exemplary faculty can serve two year terms as Faculty Fellows to advise on innovative study abroad program development (to be implemented soon).

Professional Development Funding

Faculty can receive \$2,000 annually in International Faculty Development Seminar Grants to be awarded by IXO to facilitate faculty development. We are guaranteed one grant every year. You can learn more about these programs here: www.ciee.org/ifds. Many of the seminars are offered year after

year. Deadlines to notify us of your interest to participate in the seminar can be found here: <http://www.ciee.org/international-faculty-development-seminars/funding/discounts/>. The grant money is only applicable toward first time IFDS participants. Faculty must apply through IXO to participate in the seminar.

Faculty Summit

Top faculty can participate in annual faculty summits (held by CIEE) designed to develop cutting-edge study abroad programs in select academic areas. About 1-2 summits per year are available worth \$2,000. A schedule of faculty summits will be announced soon. After applying to participate, all expenses related to participating in the summit will be paid for. Interested faculty and staff should email us with details of the programs they are interested in, and the specific academic fields/subjects that would be appropriate.

Opportunities for students include:



Annual AC Member Student Grant

We are guaranteed an annual grant of \$1,000 for a student to attend one of the CIEE study abroad destinations (located outside of the US). Deadline to apply to study abroad at CIEE for Spring 2015 is August 1. The \$1K student grant can be applied to any semester program and is a deduction off the bill.

Scholarship Programs

Students can access a variety of student academic scholarships and grant programs through CIEE, totaling more than \$3 million each year. This scholarship is for CIEE programs only. Deadline to apply is August 1.

Alumni Interns and Ambassadors

If a student does study abroad through a CIEE program, another benefit would be an opportunity to serve as an alumni intern and/or ambassador (this would be a competitive program), and students could potentially be awarded a paid CIEE Summer Internship in Portland, Maine, USA. Or they could serve as a CIEE Ambassador, which is a volunteer leadership position here at AUS (ISEP Ambassador program).

Free info, US jobs and visas

This is useful information for AUS faculty and students who want to obtain an H1B visa which is the primary visa/permit program for foreign students to live and work in the US.

To get issued an H1B visa, the process requires obtaining an H1B job with an H1B sponsor company, to obtain an H1B Sponsorship Employment Offer. After this, the US sponsor company then files and applies for the H1B visa which is processed and issued by the US immigration bureau.

Below are the results of a search for "H1-B" on My World Abroad (www.myworldabroad.com). These sources provide "free" H1B listings, and a guide to finding employment in the US as a foreign national.

- University of South Carolina: Job Search for International Students: <http://goo.gl/u9p62m>
- H-1B Visa Jobs and Sponsorship Portal: <http://www.h1bvisajobs.com/>
- MyVisaJobs.com: <http://www.myvisajobs.com/>

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) WOW scholarships

Looking for study abroad scholarship opportunities? Over 600 scholarships from nearly 150 universities from around the world on www.qswow.com. Explore the opportunities available to you!

Opportunity for AUS filmmakers

Here is a great opportunity for AUS faculty and students who are talented in the art of film-making to take part in.

Dixie State University-DOCUTAH, the Southern Utah International Film Festival is an annual five-day event from September 2-6.

In 2013, DOCUTAH was nominated as one of the "25 coolest festivals in the world" by the international industry trade publication *Movie Maker Magazine*.

Out of the 354 submissions coming from 39 countries, 50 professional and 12 student films were chosen to be screened during DOCUTAH 2013. About 66 filmmakers attended this festival. Compared to 2012 with an attendance of 5500, the number of attendees for 2013 doubled with an attendance of 11000.

They received national and statewide media exposure, including media recognition in San Francisco and in *USA Today*. More than 31 media reps attended and covered the festival and local media groups conducted live radio interviews with DOCUTAH film makers.

We hope you filmmakers out there will consider submitting something in the future. Contact Ian Crowe at crowe@dixie.edu to learn more. For more information visit www.docutah.com.

ISEP blog

Sarah Hamza, a student from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, studied abroad at AUS in Fall 2012 and went beyond preconceived notions of what life in the Middle East is like by exploring the culture through photography. Read her story on the ISEP (International Student Exchange Programs)blog:

<http://goo.gl/bCoZb2>

Returning AUS student

Ibrahim Salloum, an AUS student majoring in Civil engineering, studied abroad during Spring 2014 at Washington State University, USA.



"During my stay in the US, I visited Seattle, flew from there to California and stayed three nights in Hollywood with my friends. I took a bus tour in LA and also visited Disneyland and Universal Studios. My friends and I rented a car and drove to Las Vegas where we stayed for four nights. On the first of these four days we took a tour of the Grand Canyon, and we enjoyed the sleepless city of Vegas the rest of the days."

How did you decide to study abroad?

I chose to go to Washington State University because the university lies in a town (Pullman), where 90 percent of its residents are students or people who are involved with the university. This is a completely different experience from AUS and the usual city life.

Why do you think it's important to study abroad? I think studying abroad is important because it allows you to discover new societies and mingle with people of different nationalities who come from different

backgrounds and have different beliefs. Studying abroad gives you a glimpse of what the future is going to be like. It teaches you how to face difficulties alone and become an independent person.

Profile of Visiting Scholar

AUS hosts a wide range of visiting scholars from around the world. One of our current scholars who was previously a visiting student, is Smita Sen, from Columbia University, USA. Smita is working with Mariam Mahmood, the Outreach Manager of the College of Engineering.



While the UAE and AUS are not foreign to Smita, she came here to experience the international and intercultural experiences of the UAE. She admires the many cultures of the Middle East as well as the way both AUS and the UAE encourage the exploration of the intellectual, artistic, historical and scientific intersections of Western and Arab cultures.

She is currently working on the outreach brochure for the College of Engineering. "As a design student who aspires to be an art director, this is a really exciting opportunity to learn about the marketing and advertising practices specific to this region. Not only do I get to understand about the sensitivities and cultural expectations of visual communication in the region, but I also get to learn about the engineering school itself and the exciting projects undertaken here at AUS."

IXO summer outings

For the summer semester, IXO has arranged different outings for the 25 incoming exchange students from the West to experience various parts and different events within the United Arab Emirates.

Our students have visited the Sharjah Heritage Area, the Arabian Wildlife Centre and Qanat Al Qasba within Sharjah. They visited the Dubai Museum, the Dubai Mall and saw the iconic architecture and famous Dubai skyline of Sheikh Zayed Road. They also got to visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and drive along Saadiyat and Yas Islands.



Sharjah Corniche



Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding

IXO graduation congratulations!

Congratulations to former IXO peer advisors, Shamsu Shahid, Noshin Khan and Ambreen Mehdi on graduating from AUS!



Dinner for IXO peer advisor graduates

Shamsu Shahid (center row, middle), graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, worked at IXO for a year, from Spring 2013 to 2014.

Ambreen Mehdi (center row, right), with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a concentration in Advertising, worked at IXO from Summer 2013 to Spring 2014.

Noshin Khan (center row, left), with a Bachelor of Architecture, also worked at IXO for a year, from Spring 2013 to Spring 2014.

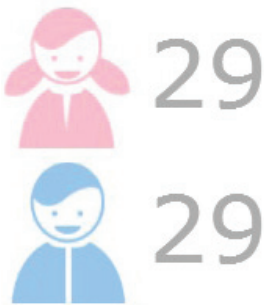
IXO wishes Shamsu, Ambreen and Noshin, the best of luck for their next adventures!

IXO's summer hours

IXO summer office hours are from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Please be reminded of the upcoming deadline, August 1, 2014 to submit your ISEP application. Visit us at our office to discuss your options with an IXO Advisor located in the Main Building, Ground Floor, MG43 or MG45.

IXO Summer 2014 demographics

Summer 2014 at IXO has a total of 58 incoming students from various parts of the world.



A breakdown of the various programs that students have applied through to study at AUS this summer. Of these students 34% have registered for the Summer Intensive Arabic Language Program i.e. 20 students. This number has grown from a mere 7 students last year.

