



Approaches to Supporting International Students At US-Based Institutions

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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Pre-Arrival Support
- Orientations
- In-Program Resources
- Q&A and Group Discussion

Poll #1 – Before Students Get To Campus

- **How soon do YOU communicate with your incoming international students?**
 - 1: Upon Deposit
 - 2: Post-Spring Semester
 - 3: Mid-Summer
 - 4: August/Pre-Orientation
- **HOW do you approach communication with incoming international students?**
 - A: Email Only
 - B: Virtual Sessions
 - C: Social Media
 - D: Leveraging Student Ambassadors
 - E: Combination of Options Above

Pre-Arrival Support

- **Key Takeaway:** Pre-arrival resources and relationship building are crucial... and pairing them with early-semester structured transition programs and coaching supports belonging, persistence, and academic confidence.
- **Building contact patterns outside of admissions formalities**
 - Visa appointment timing, checking in advance for documentation requests
 - Minimize "melt" with continued connection
- **Supporting search for funding**
 - Recognize full scope of I-20 and visa approval processes, and have a working knowledge/referrals ready to institutional resources
 - Supporting, up to your program's discretion, supplementary support paperwork
 - Clarify processes for GA, student labor, and other campus opportunities
 - Determine what flexibility, if any, your institution has for first year student experiences (ties to CPT, covered later)

Poll #2 – Orientations

- **Does your institution even host F1/J1 specific sessions for incoming students?**
 - **A: Yes**
 - **B: No**
 - **C: Maybe...?**
 - **D: Unsure**

Orientations and Expectation Setting:

Passport to Pepperdine

- **Passport to Pepperdine's Pre-Arrival Support Guide**

- Comprehensive **International Student Arrival Guide** provided before travel, covering visas, airport arrival, housing, transportation, banking, health care, dining, mobile-phone setup, and cultural norms.
- Dedicated **Office of International Student Services (OISS)** advising on visa compliance, travel signatures, CPT/OPT, and U.S. study regulations; mandatory **Arrival Report** completed upon landing.
- Grad & school-specific orientation sessions introduce academic expectations, campus resources, and community belonging.

- **School of Public Policy (SPP) Enhancements**

- Two F-1-specific sessions during New Student Orientation focusing on expectations on MPP students and academic culture, advising, wellness, and student life.
- Peer and staff support channels: student ambassadors, ongoing coaching, and student services advising.
- Coming Fall 2026 to SPP: Six modules over eight weeks focused on F1 student success during their first semester of enrollment

Orientations and Expectation Setting: Jump-starting the NYU Wagner Classroom Experience

- Launched in Fall 2024
- Week-long non-credit course offered to all incoming students to jump-start their academic journey.
- Required of all students who did not complete their bachelor's degree at a four-year institution in the U.S.
- Topics include:
 - Norms of the American classroom
 - Introduction to US governance, political institutions, and policy
 - Overview of the US nonprofit sector
 - Value of teamwork + team-based project
 - Communication skills
 - Student and alumni AMA panel

Poll #3 – Supporting Students in Progress

- **What kind of continuous resources do you provide to your international students?**
 - **A: Academic Advising**
 - **B: Immigration Advising**
 - **C: Social & Community Events**
 - **D: Health and Wellness Support**
 - **E: Combo of Options Above**

In-Program Resources for International Students

- **Academic and Immigration Advising**

- Navigating centralized and decentralized international student advising
- Academic advising by faculty and staff advisors in the student's academic department
- Office of International Services (OIS) advisors will advise on remaining in compliance with immigration regulations
- Collaboration between academic departments and OIS is crucial to the success of international graduate students

- **Current Student Portal for International Student Resources**

- Dedicated webpage for current international students as a one-stop-shop for international student resources
- Introduction of International Student Services Coordinator Graduate Assistant
- Student led programming
- Links to on and off campus resources
- Information on campus events to promote engagement

Poll #4 – Career Opportunities Mid-Program

- **What kind of career resources do you provide to your international students?**
 - A: 1-on-1 Coaching
 - B: CPT/OPT Workshops
 - C: International Student-Specific Alumni Mentoring Programs
 - D: CV to Resume Conversion Support
 - E: Access to GoInGlobal / Other International-Linked Job Search Platforms
 - F: Combo of Options Above

In-Progress Career Support

- Get comfortable in the effort of transitioning CVs into Resumes
- Pursuing working knowledge* of CPT and Pre-OPT processes
 - OPT and post-graduation career searching is a topic for an entire other session!
- Being well-informed about the I-20/work authorization "behind the scenes"
 - What types of experiences students are even allowed to pursue?
- Keep apprised of scam/predatory trends – and illustrate those examples to students **early and regularly** throughout program

*Avoid being final resource/stop. Connect with relevant institutional stakeholders!

Thoughts, Questions, Discussion

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