



Dedicated to Promoting International Education

From the Director

Welcome to the Spring 2012 semester. The Office of International Education is in full swing. We started off the semester welcoming our new exchange students to campus with a week-long orientation session. Now we are currently in the midst of working with students on submitting applications for Summer 2012, Fall 2012, Academic Year

2012-13 semesters. We have instituted open advising hours on Tuesdays 2-4 pm and Thursdays 10 am-12 pm which have been a huge success with numerous students stopping by with their program questions.

The IE Office is currently also undergoing an extensive external review process that will allow us to improve our

services, program offerings and more. We hope the entire College community will participate in this process with us.

Have a great semester and please feel free to stop by the IE Office anytime.

Mandy Reinig, Director of International Education

SMCM Spring 2012 Exchange Student Orientation

A week before the start of classes, our Spring 2012 exchange students arrived on campus. To welcome these new members of the SMCM family, the Office of International Education held a week-long orientation program for these new students.

After recovering from their long flights, they were launched right into action! The students met with College administrators from a variety of areas, and went over such essentials as roommates, housing, and basic guidelines for the College. The IE Office also assisted them in getting their ID Cards and computer access. We also tried to incorporate a few ice breakers such as mummy-wrapping and a wonderful home-cooked meal



Our new Exchange students enjoyed a home-cooked meal of grilled chicken fettuccine and cheese cake.

prepared by one of the IE Student Workers, Michael.

Student workers from IE also took students into town to pick up a few essentials, like the obligatory SMCM Verizon cell phones, tons of Levi Jeans, and Burger King. We hope everyone will make them feel welcome on campus.

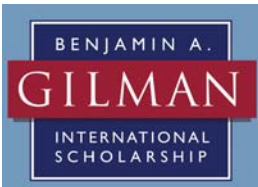


Exchange students, Urska and Jose, mummy-wrap IE Student Worker, Ana

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Scholarship Opportunity

Worried about the costs of studying abroad? The IE Office is available to assist students in exploring scholarship opportunities and in applying for the various scholarships that are available.

This month, with applications for summer and fall semesters looming near, the focus is on the [Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Program](#). For a school such as St. Mary's, where we pride ourselves on being an institution that brings traditional liberal arts education to a more open community, this scholarship fits with the values our College and students hold.

One of the requirements for the grant is that when you return, you need to work with the IE

Office to promote studying abroad, in general, your program, and the Gilman Scholarship Program.

Even though there are stringent criteria on who can apply (eg. you need to currently be receiving a Pell Grant), if you are awarded this scholarship it is well worth the work of filling out the application.

The Gilman Scholarship usually awards an average of \$4000 per student, but if you study one of the "[critical languages](#)" they will award an additional \$3000! This award is a scholarship, which means that you do not need to pay it back. The only requirement is the service project to be completed, on campus, after you return.

The deadline for applying is **March 1, 2012**. Please make sure you work with the IE Office on your post-program project idea as well as on submitting your application materials.

For more information please click on the links to the left for eligibility requirements, program information, and application instructions.



Information on:

[The Program](#)
[Eligibility](#)
[Applying](#)

Letters From Abroad



In the fall, the IE Office began the tradition of sending care packages to all of our students abroad. filled with candy, mementos from campus and more. These were very well received by the Fall 2011 study abroad students, who wrote letters about what they received.

If you have any ideas of what to send our students please email us at ic@smcm.edu.

20 October 2011

To the Office of International Education,

On Behalf of the St. Mary's Student's students studying abroad in the Gambia, I'd like to thank you for the wonderful package! We have been enjoying the candy all day, and had a great time reading through the Point News together. It was really nice to have a little bit of home here in the Gambia with us. Again, thank you so much and see you in the spring!

Sincerely,

Hannah Brown



15 October 2011

Hello!

Thank you guys so much for the care package! :)
We all loved it here! I already read the whole "Point News."
It feels so nice to be thought about abroad!

Have a great Fall!

Thanks again,

Sam DiDonato



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Events:
 Deadline for Summer, Fall 2012, and Academic Year 2012-14 Applications
March 1st

SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
			1	2	3	3
5	6	7	8 Welcome Welcome Back Reception	9 Study Abroad Resume Writing Workshop	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 External Review Student Open Forum	17	18
19	20	21	22 Study Abroad Info Session	23	24	25
26	27	28	1 Application Deadline			

Thinking About Applying for Study Abroad?

With the application deadline looming for Summer, Fall 2012 and Academic Year 2012-13 programs; here are a few tips for a successful application.

TIP 1: Use the [International Education Website](#)

Probably the most important and useful tool in your study abroad search and application process; surf the IE website and check out all of the offerings at our partner institutions. There is a ton of information to help you in figuring out where to go and how to apply.

TIP 2: Fill Out the Paperwork Early

All students need to turn in various application materials no matter the program they decide to go on. Make sure you turn in your paperwork as soon as possible, since serious issues can spring up with paperwork and the earlier you turn it in the faster the IE Office can make



sure you turn in a completed application on time. Remember, it's not just SMCM that needs your paperwork, but the partner institutions too!

TIP 3: Come into the office (Glendening 230)

The IE Office is available in person, via email, or phone to discuss any questions you may have. We also have new walk-in advising hours on Tuesdays 2-4 pm and Thursdays 10 am-12 pm-no appointment necessary.

TIP 4: Talk to the [Financial Aid Office](#)

They can aid you in determining which of your scholarships, grants, etc. are available to be used on your chosen program. They can also assist you in applying for other loan/grant options. Don't forget to stop by the IE Office to explore your scholarship

Read the Travel Blog of SMCM Student-[Christina Rickman](#) as she details her adventures in [Australia](#).

