



St. Mary's College of Maryland
at Historic St. Mary's City

Student Advocates for Global Engagement
A Leadership Development Program

Mission and Goals

The **Student Advocates for Global Engagement program (SAGE)** cultivates the academic, personal, social, and leadership potential of students committed to linking global communities at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Through supporting students of diverse backgrounds in academic and multicultural activities and leadership opportunities, the program aims to develop a community of international scholars who will guide the College's efforts to:

- deepen understandings of cultural perspectives;
- expand knowledge about the interconnections among local, international, and global communities;
- create a campus community climate that is inquisitive and dedicated to appreciating global diversity;
- build skills in self-reflection, personally and culturally; and
- promote global engagement and opportunities to serve local and global communities.

Program Design

The SAGE program serves as a year-long framework to facilitate student learning.

The pillars of the framework are:

- leadership training and certificate program
- academic coursework
- activities to promote self-reflection
- activities to develop awareness about the impact of culture on our personal identities, values, and interactions
- activities for social engagement and development
- student support services that teach strategies for individual success in navigating through academic and social life at St. Mary's College of Maryland

The year-long program begins in the fall semester of each academic year. Participants will gain knowledge about the academic and social culture at St. Mary's; the impact of culture on personal identities, values, and interactions; and critical thinking skills essential for navigating their individual transitions and being successful as St. Mary's students.

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Participants

The Offices of International Education and Residence Life will work together to invite international degree-seeking and visiting international exchange students to participate in the two-semester program. Students who choose to participate in the fall semester academic component of the program may earn academic credit for their participation and completed coursework.

Student Advocates for Global Engagement (Student Advocates)

The Offices of International Education and Residence Life will work together to recruit students to serve as Student Advocates for Global Engagement. Interested students will submit an application that will be reviewed by a joint office selection committee, and successful candidates will be offered a position as a Student Advocate. Each Student Advocate will need to agree to serve for a minimum of one year and participate in the leader training workshop in September.

Student Advocates for Social Engagement may elect to participate in the Student Advocates for Social Engagement Leadership Certificate program by completing the program requirements for that academic year. Certificates will be awarded to successful Student Advocates at the end of each academic year.

Student Advocates for Social Engagement will serve in two teams.

Team Yellow: Team Yellow will partner with the IE Office to support inbound exchange students and outbound St. Mary's study abroad students.

Team Blue: Team Blue will partner with the Office of Residence Life to support inbound degree-seeking students.

Position Descriptions

Team Yellow:

Student Advocates on Team Yellow will have two main responsibilities: 1.) to assist incoming exchange students in adjusting to academic, social, and cultural life at St. Mary's, and 2.) to partner with the assistant director for international education to share personal experiences and knowledge gained about a particular study-abroad destination with potential study-abroad students.

Student Advocates on Team Yellow will be **assigned to one international exchange student and will assist him/her by:**

- welcoming him/her to campus during the first week of classes
- eating a meal with him/her two times per month
- advising him/her about how to find answers to questions and solve problems by using the resources of the College
- participating in the planning and implementation of programs and social events
- reaching out to the exchange student and being a friendly, personal resource that the exchange student can turn to in times of need

Student Advocates on Team Yellow will work **with the IE Office as an alum of an SMCM study-abroad program to:**

- participate in the IE Chat for their study-abroad program in partnership with IE assistant director (September),
- build membership and manage the IE Facebook group for their study-abroad program (September through December), and
- plan and implement a Travel Talk for their study-abroad program in partnership with IE assistant director (November).

Team Blue:

Student Advocates on Team Blue will have two main responsibilities: 1.) to assist incoming matriculating international students in adjusting to academic, social, and cultural life at St. Mary's, and 2.) to partner with the area coordinator, international support services to cultivate social programming designed to enhance intercultural awareness and interactions.

Student Advocates on Team Blue will be **assigned to one international matriculating student and will assist him/her by:**

- welcoming him/her to campus during the first week of classes,
- eating a meal with him/her three-four times per month,
- advising him/her about how to find answers to questions and solve problems by using the resources of the College,
- participating in the planning and implementation of monthly programs and social events,
- reach out to the matriculating student and being a friendly, personal resource that the student can turn to in times of need, and
- invite the matriculating international student to campus events and help him/her get to know other students on campus.

Student Advocates for Social Engagement Leadership Certificate

Student Advocates for Social Engagement may elect to participate in the Student Advocates for Social Engagement Leadership Certificate program by completing the program requirements for that academic year. *Students are not required to earn the certificate.* Certificates will be awarded to successful Student Advocates at the end of each academic year.

Certificate eligibility criteria:

- Student Advocates will participate in September training session.
- Student Advocates will participate in the following activities:
 - Yellow Team: Two (2) IE Chats (Sep and Feb), Facebook group interaction, two (2) Travel Talks (Nov and Apr), and participate in two (2) social events throughout the year
 - Blue Team: Plan and implement five (5) out of seven (7) social events throughout the year and meet at least twice (2) per month with their international peer for meals or social programs
- Student Advocates will submit a one-page summary of their activities by April 1.

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Planning and Events Schedule for 2010-2011

Requirements for Team Yellow*

Requirements for Team Blue*

Requirements for both*

Optional activities

**Required=does not conflict with class schedule*

September

- Friday, September 3rd: Attend Club Fair with students
- **Friday, September 3rd or Friday, September 10th: Leadership training program**
- **Tuesday, September 14th: Welcome/Welcome Back**
- Wednesday, September 22nd: Returning Student Program
- **Wednesday, September 22nd: Team Blue Monthly Social Event**
- SAGE Series: Thursday, September 23rd 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (LQ Rec Room)
 - Ways of Seeing: Observations (Ciji & LaRita)
- **IE CHATS, Information Sessions for your particular program**
 - Tuesday, September 7th: Gambia
 - Wednesday, September 8th: CMRS
 - Thursday, September 9th: Payap
 - Friday, September 10th: Australia and Akita/Lingnan
 - Wednesday, September 15th: Argentina and Costa Rica
 - Monday, September 20th: Fudan
 - Tuesday, September 21st: Sciences Po, Bordeaux, and Heidelberg
 - Wednesday, September 22nd: Alba
 - Thursday, September 23rd: Pondicherry

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- **Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month**
- Assist peers with their Reading Day plans
- **Create and implement one group social event to follow the Returning Student Program**

October

- Monday, October 4th - Friday, October 8th: International Education Week
- Monday, October 11th or 12th: Trip to DC over Fall Break (International Club)
- **Wednesday, October 13th 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.: Team Dinner** (CC 205)
- Thursday, October 21st 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.: SAGE Series (LQ Rec Room)
 - Ciji Tidwell, Lenny Howard, Ruth Feingold, Writing Center representative
 - Topic: Americans – Roommates, Classmates & Professors
 - Tools for Success in an American Academic Classroom
 - Building study skills
 - Understanding norms

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- **Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month**
- **Create and implement one group social event**
- Assist peer with Fall Break Plans and thinking ahead to Thanksgiving plans
- **Facebook group management**

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November

- Tuesday, November 2nd: International Dinner (International Club)
- **Wednesday, November 10th 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.: Team Dinner** (CC 205)
- Thursday, November 18th, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.: SAGE Series (LQ Rec Room)
 - Adjusting to Realities of U.S. Culture (LaRita Hagar & MJ Raleigh)
- **Weeks of November 8th and 15th: IE Travel Talks for your particular program**
 - Gambia
 - CMRS
 - Payap
 - Australia
 - Akita/Lingnan
 - Argentina
 - Costa Rica
 - Fudan
 - France and Germany
 - Alba
 - Pondicherry

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- **Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month**
- **Create and implement one group social event**
- Continue to assist peer with Thanksgiving plans & Winter Break plans

December

- Friday, December 10th: End of the Semester Celebration and Stress Relief
 - Cookie Decorating & Crafts

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- **Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month**
- **Assist with the planning and preparation of the End of the Semester Celebration**
- Assist peer with Winter Break plans

January

- Chinese New Year celebration (hosted by faculty)
- Tuesday, January 25th or Tuesday, February 1st: Welcome/Welcome Back

February

- **IE CHATS, Information Sessions for your particular program**
 - Tuesday, February 1st: Gambia
 - Wednesday, February 2nd: CMRS
 - Thursday, February 3rd: Payap
 - Friday, February 4th: Australia and Akita/Lingnan
 - Tuesday, February 8th: Argentina and Costa Rica
 - Wednesday, February 9th: Fudan
 - Thursday, February 10th: Sciences Po, Bordeaux, and Heidelberg
 - Friday, February 11th: Alba
 - Monday, February 14th: Pondicherry
- Wednesday, February 9th: International Student Forum
- SAGE Series: (LQ Rec Room)
 - Returning to campus, missing family, reflect on last semester

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Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month
- Create and implement one group social event
- Assist with IE Chats
- Assist peer with Spring Break Plans

March

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month
- Create and implement one group social event
- Facebook group management
- Assist peer with Spring Break Plans

April

- Friday, April 15th and Saturday, April 16th: World Carnival
- Friday, April 29th 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.: Farewell spring fling for SAGE members
- Weeks of April 5th and 12th: IE Travel Talks for your particular program
 - Gambia
 - CMRS
 - Payap
 - Australia
 - Akita/Lingnan
 - Argentina
 - Costa Rica
 - Fudan
 - France and Germany
 - Alba
 - Pondicherry

Student Advocates for Global Engagement will:

- Eat a meal with your peer two to four times per month
- Create and implement one group social event
- Assist with IE Travel Talks
- Assist peer with End of the Semester plans

May

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Application Information:

Application due by Wed, Aug 18

Qualifications

- Must be a current undergraduate student at SMCM.
- Have a strong interest in sharing and learning about culture.
- Have a grade point average of 2.5 or better.
- Team Yellow applicants must have studied abroad in a St. Mary's program. We are looking for a minimum of one student to represent each of the programs listed below.
- Team Blue applicants may have studied abroad in *any* program or be sincerely interested in engaging in an intercultural experience.

Requirements

- Attend SAGE leadership development training.
- Actively participate in programs throughout the academic year.

Name: _____

Hall/Room: _____

Major: _____

Class Rank: _____

GPA: _____

Schedule of classes:

Position of interest (circle one): SAGE Team Yellow SAGE Team Blue Either
If you circled SAGE Team Yellow, please indicate in which program(s) you have participated:

Akita

CMRS

Lingnan

Alba

Costa Rica

Payap

Argentina

Fudan

Pondicherry

Australia

Gambia

Sciences Po

Bordeaux

Germany

Why are you applying to be a Student Advocate for Global Engagement?

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit application to the Office of International Education by e-mail at ie@smcm.edu or by mail to IE Office, St. Mary's College of Maryland, 18952 E. Fisher Rd., St. Mary's City, MD 20686.