

NAFSA Region XII Southern California District Newsletter (October 2013)

Announcements from Southern California District Team

Greetings Southern California District!

Region XII Conference in San Diego November 3-8

The Regional conference is less than one month away! Hope to see you all there. Click [here](#) to register.

Please visit the [conference website](#) to download the conference session descriptions and workshop schedules.

Southern California District Meeting at the Regional Conference

Save the Date: 11/6/2013, 5-6pm, Location TBD (Please check the schedule upon your arrival to the conference for the meeting room location.)

Join us for updates within the District. Network with your District Team/Members.

Southern California District Election Announcement

Elections are now open for Chair-Elect, Education Abroad Representative and Communications Coordinator on the 2014 Southern California District Team. Please take a moment to check your inbox for an email containing a link to the Survey Monkey election ballot and cast your vote by Thursday, October 31 at 5:00 PM.

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International Student Update

Have Questions for SEVP?

Do you have a burning question or two for SEVP regarding policy, recertification, Held Desk procedures, etc.? Submit your questions to me (email: opiro@ucsd.edu) for the SEVP Hot Topics session at the NAFSA Region XII Conference to be held on Friday, November 8.

Have Questions for the California Service Center?

Do you have questions for the CSC regarding OPT, policies or best practices? Please submit your questions to Daniel Yoder (email: dyoder@caltech.edu) for the USCIS Hot Topics session at the NAFSA Region XII Conference to be held on Wednesday, November 6.

Discontinuation of the Form I-797 Receipt for SEVIS I-901 Fee

On July 29 SEVIS put out a broadcast message stating that effective July 31, 2013, SEVP will no longer mail Form I-797C "Notice of Action" for the I-901 SEVIS fee payment (http://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/broadcast-msg_1307.pdf). Students should be advised to print their receipt upon paying the fee online, as they may need to show evidence of payment when they apply for a visa, at the port of entry, or for any other benefit or service that may require proof of payment.

SEVIS Help Desk Outsourcing Causing Some Glitches

NAFSA members have reported that since SEVP started outsourcing data fix requests, we are no longer receiving email notifications when those corrections have been approved, as was done in the past. A member recently posted a helpful workaround on the **ISTA Network**:

"When submitting a correction request via SEVIS RTI, utilize the remarks section and instruct the processor to contact the DSO once the correction has been completed. Be sure to list either a phone number or email in your remarks where you can be reached. The contractors have honored that request each time and we received notification that processing had been completed."

Join the International Student Advising Network!

Connect with your NAFSA colleagues to ask and share advice and feedback on concerns and issues. Select from a variety of resources developed to help you do your job better, including assistance with understanding immigration regulations, building successful orientation programs, intercultural communications advice, best practices for developing appropriate office policies, and supporting internationalization on your campus.

<http://www.nafsa.org/groups/home.aspx?groupid=9>

Olga Piro

International Student Representative

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International Scholar Update

Government Shutdown as Extraordinary Circumstances for Late Filing for Some I-129 Petition:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=f37df5f081cc1410VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>

E-Verify has Resumed Operations:

http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Verification/E-Verify/E-Verify_Native_Documents/E-Verify_and_I-9PublicWebsitesStartupMessage.pdf

November 2013 Visa Bulletin:

The November Visa Bulletin has been released, bringing a three month advancement in the priority date for EB-3's other than India and the Philippines, and modest advancement for China

EB-2s. There is no advancement for India or Philippines in employment-based visa categories. http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_6168.html

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International Enrollment Management (IEM) Updates

Upcoming Training and Events

Introduction to Armchair International Student Recruitment

Registration Deadline: 10/30/2013

http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Online/E_Learning/Courses/Introduction_to_Armchair_International_Student_Recruitment/

Mobilizing International Alumni for Student Recruitment Webinar

Registration Deadline: December 10, 2013

http://www.nafsa.org/Attend_Events/Online/Webinars/Mobilizing_International_Alumni_for_Student_Recruitment/

Resources

Join discussion groups provided by the International Enrollment Management Knowledge Community

http://www.nafsa.org/Connect_and_Network/Engage_with_a_Community/Professional_Interest/Supporting_International_Students_and_Scholars/International_Enrollment_Management_Knowledge_Community/

Nathan Jensen, International Enrollment Representative
Director, International Center
Orange Coast College
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Intensive English Program (IEP) Updates

Hot off the Discussion Boards:

“I got a call from X office today complaining about the noise that international students make in the hallways.” Sound familiar? A great discussion took place on the AAIEP discussion board regarding how to best orient international students to building etiquette.

Some suggestions included having IEP staff present in the halls, asking instructors to engage with the students, and reaching out to the unhappy offices and offering support. One colleague wrote:

“We’ve included rules about studying in other buildings in orientation, have signs posted in classrooms, and have teachers repeat the announcement a few times during the session. Once

in awhile we'll get a few problems, but lots of repetition and signs everywhere has made it very known to all students what behavior is expected."

Many of the community noted that these complaints can come from departments that have no association with the international student population. Some in our community noted that it may be larger issue of educating non-related staff and helping them understand the noise maybe associated with students in general, not just our international population. Do you agree? How does your office deal with this issue?

Conferences:

Poster proposals for the **2014 NAFSA Annual Conference** are now being accepted. There are a number of themes you could join including: Innovative and Sustainable Practices in Intensive English Programming. Deadline is December 16th 2013:

http://www.nafsa.org/Attend/Events/Annual_Conference/Call_For_Proposals/.

The **NAFSA Region XII Conference** is right around the corner. Here are a few presentations that might be of interest to IEP leaders:

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Intensive English Programs: Implementation and Analysis Student Service Beyond Activities and Accommodations

Thursday, Nov. 7: Improve you international Student Programs and Services Through Evaluation and Planning Non-Immigrant Visa Processing: A Consular Update How to work with International Recruitment Agents: Ideas and Best Practices Keeping Students Healthy in the US; Creating a Sense of Community: Tips for managing a large instructional staff

Friday, Nov. 8: International Students Integrating with American Students on and off Campus; Student and Exchange Visitor Hot Topics

Resources:

From NAFSA national, additional resources have been added to the Intensive English Programs Network Resource List

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?catId=412293>

Mackenzie Bristow, Intensive English Program (IEP) Representative
Center Director

ELS Language Centers, La Verne

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Education Abroad Updates

Lessons from Abroad Returnee Conference – Los Angeles

Have your study abroad students mark their calendar! **Lessons from Abroad Returnee Conference on Sunday, November 3rd, 2013 at the University of Southern California.** [Check out photos from the 2012 LA conference!](#)

Conference highlights include:

- Meeting other recent study abroad returnees from all over Southern California
- Hearing from dynamic and motivating keynote speakers
- Learning how to talk about your newly acquired global skills in a job interview
- Discovering how you can work or study abroad after graduation
- Networking with professionals working in internationally-focused jobs
- Staying connected to and sharing stories about your study abroad experience

This is a great opportunity to network with other students and professionals. We ask that you dress **business casual** and bring several copies of your **resume**. Registration is \$15 for students. For more information go to <http://www.lessonsfromabroad.org/losangeles/>.

California Study Abroad Town Hall Meeting

California Study Abroad Town Hall Meeting, immediately prior to the NAFSA Region XII Conference in San Diego, California on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 from 11:30am - 6:00pm.

The program will be taking place at the San Diego Town and Country Hotel (same location as the NAFSA Region XII Conference). This will follow the programs for the past five (5) years at Loyola Marymount University, Whittier College, UCLA, and the 2012 NAFSA Region XII Conference.

The program will be hosted by Jean-Xavier Guinard, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director from the University of California Education Abroad Program Systemwide Office, Leo Van Cleve, Director, Office of International Programs at the California State University International Programs Systemwide Office, Rosalind Raby, Director of California Colleges for International Education, Lisa Loberg, Senior Lecturer and Director of Study Abroad at California Lutheran University, representing the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, and the Center for Global Education at UCLA. There is no cost to attend and lunch and a sponsored networking reception will follow the formal program.

Issues to be discussed will include:

1. The current status of Study Abroad Support and Opportunities for Collaboration in California in Public and Private Higher Education
2. Opportunities for Expanding Study Abroad in California: Easing Transfer to Study Abroad, Connecting to the 100,000 Strong Initiatives, Connecting Study Abroad to Retention and Success Strategies, New Ideas for Marketing Study Abroad, etc.
3. Increasing Study Abroad Opportunities in Mexico While Responding to the U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings.
4. Responding to Financial Challenges and Creating Innovative Strategies for New Resources, Including Ways to Provide Central Support and Document the Impact of Study Abroad
5. Opportunities to Network and Discuss Critical Issues with Colleagues in the Field.

We hope that many people attending the Town Hall will also be attending the NAFSA Region XII Conference and that this will help jump-start discussions that continue throughout the conference.

Please RSVP to Jasmine D. Watson at jdwatson@usc.edu (Residence Coordinator at the USC Office for Residential Education and Intern at the Center for Global Education at UCLA) as soon as possible, as there is limited space to attend the Fall 2013 California Study

Abroad Town Hall Meeting. Information about the program is also available online at: www.calabroad.org/townhall.html.

Alliance Advising Workshops

You're invited to the Alliance for Global Education's advisor workshops. Join special guests Han Bing, Director for China Programs, and Uttaraa Jadhav, Director for India Programs, for a day-long program exploring topics including advising for China and India, curriculum integration, health and safety, outcomes assessment and experiential learning.

Contact [Shannon Cates](#) to reserve your seat or [click here](#) for more information.

November 12, Boston College; Advising for China and India

November 14, University of California Los Angeles; Advising for India

November 20, University of Pennsylvania; Advising for China

100,000 Strong in the Americas Grant Competitions

NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Partners of the Americas, and the U.S. Department of State are pleased to announce two new grant competitions as part of President Barack Obama's 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative. 100,000 Strong in the Americas is the administration's signature education initiative in the Western Hemisphere designed to foster region-wide prosperity through increased higher education collaboration. To implement the president's vision, the Department of State established a public-private partnership with NAFSA: Association of International Educators and Partners of the Americas to raise money for competitive "Innovation Grants" for higher education institutions, following the work of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program and the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act.

This first round of funding consists of two separate competitions:

- [The Capacity Building Program to Reach 100k Strong](#) offers 10 grants worth U.S. \$25,000 each to Latin American institutions in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru. This competition is supported by Department of State Economic Support Funds and is intended to be used by Latin American institutions to expand access to study abroad in the Americas.
- [The Promoting Study Abroad in STEM and Sustainable Development](#) competition will be open to higher education institutions in the United States, Chile, and Peru. The program will offer between five and 10 grants worth \$20,000 to \$70,000 in order to support innovative proposals to increase the number of U.S. students studying in Chile or Peru, preferably in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) or sustainable development fields.

These are the first of what will be many more grant competitions designed to increase collaboration and ease student mobility between U.S. and Latin American institutions of higher education.

Deadline for questions about Round 1: **October 4, 2013**

Closing date for proposals: **November 8, 2013** at 5:00 p.m. (EST).

To learn more and apply, visit www.100kstrongamericas.org.

Critical Language Scholarship Program

Application deadline: November 15, 2013 by 8:00 pm EST | [Apply online](#)

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to announce the scholarship competition for the 2014 [Critical Language Scholarship \(CLS\) Program](#) in thirteen critical foreign languages. The CLS Program provides fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate and graduate students.

Languages offered: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu.

Prior to preparing their application, interested students should [review the full eligibility and application information](#) on the CLS Program website. Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, and Japanese institutes have language prerequisites, which can also be found on the website.

Students from all academic disciplines, including business, engineering, law, medicine, science, social sciences, arts, and humanities are encouraged to apply. While there is no service requirement attached to CLS Program awards, participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period, and later apply their critical language skills in their professional careers.

The CLS Program will be planning outreach events at universities across the United States in fall 2013. Check out the [CLS webpage](#) or our [Facebook page](#) for updates!

Boren Awards and the African Languages Initiative – Now with French

Applications for the 2014-2015 David L. Boren Scholarships and Fellowships are now available at www.borenawards.org. Boren Awards, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East, where they can add important international and language components to their educations.

For the fourth year in a row, through the African Languages Initiative, funding is available for Boren Scholars and Fellows to study one of the following languages at the University of Florida's summer 2014 program prior to commencing their overseas Boren funded programs:

- Akan/Twi
- French (requires intermediate-high or above proficiency)
- Hausa
- Swahili
- Wolof
- Yoruba
- Zulu

In addition, African Languages Initiative overseas programs are available for intensive language and cultural study during fall semester 2014 in the following countries:

- Senegal (French)
- Mozambique (Portuguese)
- Tanzania (Swahili)

For more information about the Boren Awards and the African Languages Initiative, to register for one of our upcoming webinars, and to access the on-line application, please

visit www.borenawards.org. You can also contact the Boren Awards staff at boren@iie.org or 1-800-618-NSEP with questions.

DAAD RISE worldwide Is Inviting Research Group Project Applications

DAAD is inviting research groups from all over the world to host a German undergraduate to assist with their research in the summer of 2013 as part of the DAAD RISE worldwide program. Eligible fields of research include biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, engineering, or a closely related field. Internship projects can be submitted online at www.daad.de/rise-weltweit/en/index.html

Each student applying for an internship may apply for up to three projects, between December 3, 2012 and January 13, 2013. The prospective hosts are then asked to provide DAAD with a ranking of the applications for their projects which will be taken into account when matching students to projects. Successful student applicants will receive a DAAD scholarship to help cover living expenses and travel costs.

The database for project proposals for RISE worldwide is open from October 7, 2013 through November 24, 2013, and can be accessed by going to: www.daad.de/rise-weltweit/en/index.html.

NAFSA Education Abroad Knowledge Community Network. How can NAFSA help you today?

New Practice Resources:

- [New Webpage for Supporting Diversity in Education Abroad](#). Highlighted resources for underrepresented groups in education abroad.
- [Education Abroad and the FBI's Academic Alliance Program](#) by NAFSA Health and Safety Subcommittee.
- [! Represent: Encouraging Underrepresented Students to Study Abroad: Making the Case for Advocacy](#) by NAFSA Underrepresentation Subcommittee.
- [2013 Federal Financial Aid Regulations Update](#) by Kathy Martin, NAFSA Education Abroad Regulatory Practice Committee.
- [Budget Estimate Creation and Dissemination for Study Abroad Programs](#) by NAFSA Financing Education Abroad Subcommittee.

To receive alerts about updates and practice resources, join the [Education Abroad Knowledge Community Network](#).

Making EA Visa Help Even Easier

NAFSA's [EA Visa Help tool](#) will celebrate its second anniversary in October with upgraded features. Since October 2011, EA Visa Help has received more than 750 requests for assistance from the [Consular Affairs Liaison \(CAL\) Subcommittee](#). The upgraded version of the tool will move all communication with CAL online where users can view a "dashboard" of all of their submissions, provide updated information to CAL, or request that a case be reopened. If you haven't already tried [EA Visa Help](#), now is the time.

AIEA Webinar: Leveraging Assessment for Campus Internationalization

Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

How can Senior International Officers engage collaboratively in the learning outcomes assessment processes on their respective campuses? Presenters Gil Latz and Dan Paracka will explain how they have worked with directors of assessment at their respective institutions to integrate the assessment of global learning into the campus-wide assessment initiatives and

reaped important data for advancing internationalization at their institutions. The webinar will include time for questions for the presenters and will be moderated by Dr. Christa Olson. [Read more and register](#)

Colloquium on International Engineering Education

November 6-9, 2013

The 16th Colloquium on International Engineering Education will take place November 6-9, 2013 in Lexington, KY.

Some of the discussion topics will include:

- How to get started with International Engineering Programs
- Defining the Global Engineer
- Languages in Engineering Education
- Internationalizing the Engineering Curriculum
- Massive Open Online Courses
- Outcomes Assessment of Study Abroad Programs
- Skills Development and Community College Cooperation
- Languages in International Engineering Education
- Internationalization through Consortia and College Cooperation

For more information or to register: <http://aciee.engineering.uky.edu/registration/>

It's Time—Register for the 2013 CIEE Annual Conference!

Don't miss out on attending the leading conference on international education—register for the [2013 CIEE Annual Conference](#) today!

Align. Innovate. Educate. November 20-23, 2013. Minneapolis, Minnesota

During four exciting, informative days, leaders and experienced professionals in the field of international education will come together to continue professional development, network with colleagues, and interact with experts in the field.

Just one of this year's exciting conference events: our **Opening Plenary and Reception featuring speaker, Phil Borges**. Listen in as one of the world's most captivating digital storytellers speaks about the impact of using storytelling to effect social change and his work to shed light on the discrimination and oppression of women and girls in developing regions of the world. Learn more about this year's featured events and sessions, discover how to become an exhibitor, and register for the conference by visiting our [website](#). If you have any questions, contact us at conference@ciee.org.

University 2014: 9th International Congress of Higher Education in Cuba

"For a Socially Responsible University" Universidad 2014, Cuba's [9th International Congress on Higher Education, February 10-14, 2014](#). Every other year Cuba holds a conference that brings together representatives of all tertiary institutions in the country, including those affiliated with different ministries (Higher Education, Education, Agriculture, Health, and Culture).

In 2012, the Cuba-U.S. People to People Partnership booth was visited by more than 100 representatives of national and regional universities, specialized offices, and the Minister of Higher Education and First Vice President, Miguel Diaz-Canel. We anticipate a similar opportunity in 2014 and welcome in-kind (via promotional materials) and in-person partnership with U.S. schools. **Proposed papers must be sent before November 15,**

2013 Instructions | [Primary topics](#) | [Specialized workshops and agendas](#) | [10% airfare discount](#)
You may request a post conference program of visits to Cuban universities wishing to partner with U.S. institutions as well as to service learning opportunities with the Fundacion Nunez Jimenez, a Cuban environmental NGO. To participate, please contact John McAuliff at jmcauliff@ffrd.org or [914-231-6270](tel:914-231-6270).

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship

Application deadline: December 1, 2013 | [Apply online](#): [The Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Program](#) responds to a shortage of experienced faculty and resources for faculty-led research initiatives in African higher education. The program offers fellowships to nurture the intellectual development and increase retention of early-career faculty in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. Applications are now being accepted. This program is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The program features three distinct competitive fellowship opportunities for early-career social science faculty who hold positions in accredited colleges and universities:

- Doctoral dissertation proposal fellowship: Supporting short-term research costs of up to US \$3,000 to develop a doctoral dissertation proposal.
- Doctoral dissertation research fellowship: Supporting 9-12 months of dissertation research costs of up to US \$15,000 on a topic related to peace, security, and development.
- Doctoral dissertation completion fellowship: Supporting a one-year leave from teaching responsibilities with a stipend of up to US \$15,000 to permit the completion of a dissertation that advances research on peace, security, and development topics.

For more information, please contact nextgenafrika@ssrc.org or visit the [SSRC website](#).

Going Global 2014 – Call for Poster Proposals

Review themes and [submit a poster proposal for Going Global 2014](#), the British Council's annual global event for world leaders of international education to discuss global higher education policy. Going Global will take place April 29–May 1, 2014, at the Miami Beach Convention Center. NAFSA members enjoy discounted registration to Going Global.

LaSharon McLean Perez
Education Abroad Representative
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Questions? Contact Your District Team

Your Region XII Southern California District Team members are ready to assist you. If you have specific content area questions, please contact the appropriate District Team representative from our [District Team member roster](#)

From your friends on the Region XII Southern California District Team
Email: region12south@gmail.com