



DIVISION OF GLOBAL DIVERSITY,
INCLUSION & INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Office of International Education and Services

Fall
2019

International Education Services



Volume 4

Greetings Global Citizens!

Greetings from the Office of International Education Services (OIES)! Fall 2019 was another productive and successful semester. OIES team worked diligently over the summer to prepare for new arrivals, support our global ambassadors, and create 50 opportunities to serve our students here on campus and engage the world through our exchange study abroad programs. We are excited and optimistically look forward to future accomplishments in 2020 and beyond.

I'm very happy and grateful to be entrusted with the leadership of the new Office of International Education Services, the comprehensive home for international student programs and services, study abroad, international student recruitment and admissions, and LU Pathway Program. Our services and programs are intended to help ensure compliance with federal regulations, enrich the experiences of international students and scholars, facilitate the development of English proficiency for academic and professional purposes, and to expand global engagement for all Lamar University students, faculty, and staff.



Dr. Mustapha Jourdini
Interim Executive Director

With deep gratitude and humility, I look forward to leading our team of professional international educators. I feel privileged to be working with the Director of Study Abroad and International Student Recruitment, Kyungsik Irene Shim; the Director of Lamar University Pathway Program, Dr. Alex Monceaux; Assistant Director for the Office of International Student Programs & Services (OISPS), Margo Hymer; Coordinator of Study Abroad and International Recruitment, Kayce Smith; Sr. International Student Specialist, Tracy Bourgeois; Coordinator of International Student Admissions, Ian Quinn; Sr. Administrative Associate for Study Abroad, Yolanda Tamayo; and Administrative Specialist for OISPS, David Frederick.

Our team brings over 75 years of combined experience as educators and professionals to the Lamar University community. We welcome you to learn more about OIES by reviewing our website, attending our social, educational, and cultural events and programs throughout the year, and visiting with us in Wimberly 117.

Mustapha Jourdini



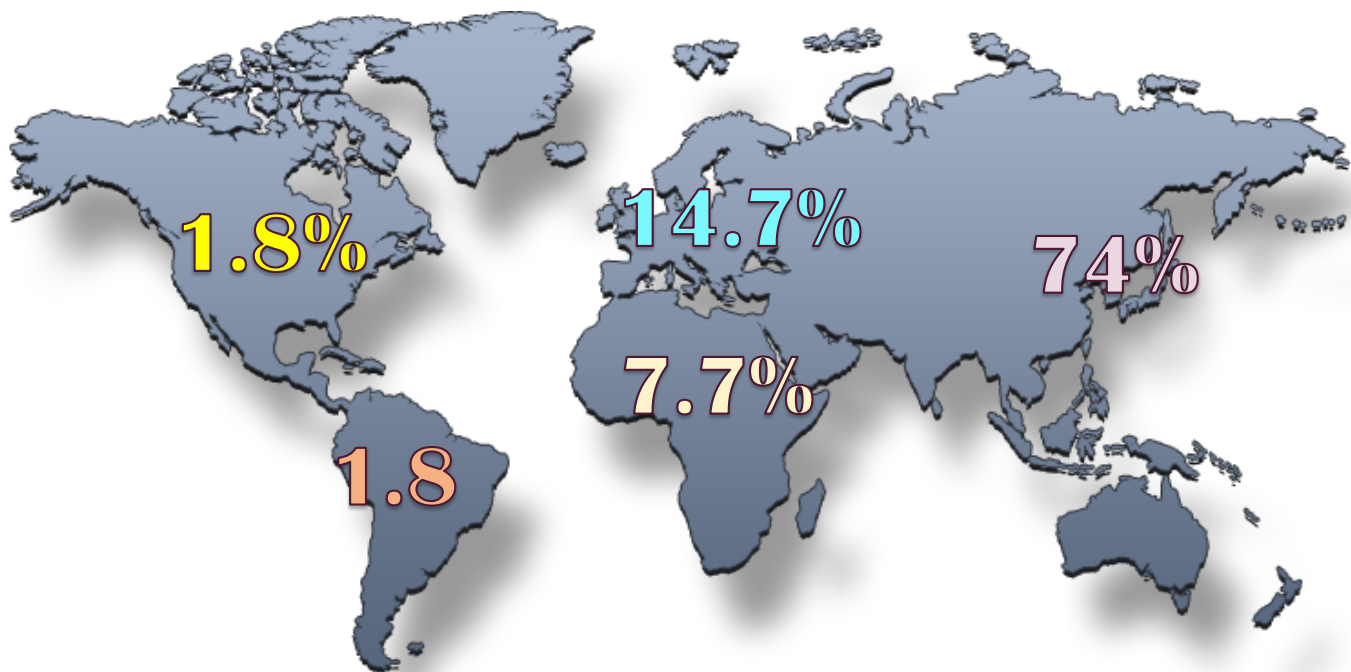


Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Office of International Education Services (OIES) is to foster an environment in which university stakeholders-administrators, faculty, staff, students, residents of the local community and Southeast Texas- have diverse opportunities to gain appreciation, knowledge and understanding of other cultures and global trends.

OIES is the comprehensive home for International Student Programs and Services, International Student Recruitment and Admissions, Study Abroad, Pathway English Language Program, and International Student Organizations. All programs and activities are intended to help enrich the experiences of international students and scholars on campus and to help expand global engagement for students, faculty, and staff.

Student Demographics



OISPS proudly serve F-1, M-1, and J-1 students and scholars from 61 countries spanning 5 continents, including gainfully employed international alumni.

Student Spotlight - OISPS

Nara Almeida

Major: Civil Engineering
Country of Origin: Brazil



Why did you choose Lamar University?

I chose Lamar University mainly because of its great engineering programs reputation. Also, Dr. Liv Haselbach, the current Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was a committee member of my masters degree defense in Brazil. Her research on pervious concrete was related to mine by that time, then she encouraged me to apply for Lamar University doctoral program and to be her graduate assistant.

What do you like most about Lamar University?

I like the spirit of collaboration among students and between students and professors. I believe the limited number of students per classroom is one of the factors that contribute to this environment, facilitating the students communication with the faculty members and improving our learning process.

What expectation of American culture did you have prior to arriving? Are there any differences between what you expected prior to arriving compared to what you have experienced once you arrived?

I had imagined that I would deal with a very straightforward and hard-working people. I believe my expectations prior to arriving in the US are similar to what I've been experiencing, and I actually like it the way it is.

What differences are there between the American educational system and the Brazilian?

To me, the main difference between American and Brazilian educational systems has to do with the time set for courses and exams. Undergrad and Grad courses in Brazil are usually 6 months long, while in America, the same courses last 3 or 4 months, or even 1 month, during the summer. Taking midterms and finals in the US also required me a lot more preparation, in order to get it done on time, since the time available for solving tests in Brazil are normally way longer than the time available in America.

What is your favorite quote/phrase in your native language? What is the English translation?

"Tenho duas armas para lutar contra o desespero, a tristeza e até a morte: o riso a cavalo e o galope do sonho. É com isso que enfrento essa dura e fascinante tarefa de viver".

"I have two weapons to fight despair, sadness and even death: laugh on horseback and galloping dreams. With that, I face this hard and fascinating task of living".

(Ariano Suassuna, Brazilian poet).

Is there anything else you would like to add?

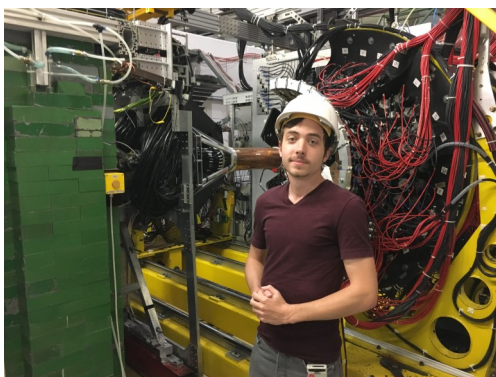
I would like to add that my experience as an international student at Lamar University has been helping me not only with my educational and professional goals, but I'm also growing tremendously as a person. My interaction with American and other cultures enriches me and teaches me how to be more understanding with people from different

Student Spotlight - Study Abroad

Derek Dixon

Major: Electrical Engineering/Physics

Destination: Bonn, Germany



Why did you choose to study abroad?

I chose to study abroad for the novel experience. I knew this trip offered many things I was looking for. Being born and raised in Southeast Texas, I was craving a new environment. I am also a person that values new experiences, and always tries to get out of my comfort zone, what better way to do that than going to a new country and working in an intimidating world class laboratory. Furthermore, I wanted to expand my understanding of what the rest of the world is really like. I wanted to be fully immersed in a new culture, rather than read about one.

What was your program, and what were some of the things you participated in?

I participated in the Nuclear Physics on the Rhine program in Bonn, Germany summer 2019. Specifically, the class was focused on conducting experiments in nuclear physics using the Electron Stretcher Accelerator (ELSA). I was able to participate in a tour of this world class facility, and see in detail all its complexity. In other local German cities, hiking and winery tours were enjoyed, as well as visits to an ancient Cathedral.

What did you like about your experience?

The most enjoyable thing for me about the experience was all the new things I was able to try. Elevation hiking, new foods, interesting interactions with other people, and of course the experiments in nuclear physics.

How will you use your experience in your professional career?

As a student pursuing a dual degree in Electrical Engineering and Physics, this was my first experience where I was able to fully bring my areas of study together. This opportunity allowed me to explain to job interviewers how my degrees complement each other. Working at a world class laboratory is an eye catcher on a resume.

If you were going to give any advice to someone considering this option (global education), what would it be?

My advice about global education is to embrace it because it might seem intimidating. I was quite anxious at first because there was a lot to think about for traveling abroad, but the professor and Study Abroad office made everything smooth.





INTERFAITH PANEL - The Status of the Other - November 20th

On November 20, 2019 the Office of International Student Programs and Services (OISPS) hosted an Interfaith Panel to discuss “The Status of the Other.” Panelists were asked to provide insight on how their religions influence their acknowledgement and acceptance of others outside of their own faith. Three panelists were in attendance representing Islamic, Christian, and Jewish views.

Cheryl Barenberg, member of Temple Emanuel, the only Reform Jewish Temple between Lake Charles, Louisiana and Houston, Texas stated that, “Historically, the Reform Jewish Movement has been the leading body within the Jewish religious community committed to the development of interreligious relationships so that diverse faith groups may live together in harmony and work cooperatively in the pursuit of social justice.”

Andy Jirrels, Director of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at Lamar shared the Christian views of loving thy neighbor and accepting others that do not hold the same belief. He strives to exemplify this by sharing his love for Christ and Christ’s love for all peoples. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

Dr. Niveen Yaseen is an adjunct professor of chemistry at Lamar Institute of Technology and Islamic studies teacher at Alhedaya Islamic School in Beaumont, Texas provided attendees with information on how Allah, Arabic for God, instructs Muslims to accept people that are different without prejudice or animosity. “Allah does not forbid you from dealing kindly and justly with those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes-. Indeed Allah loves those who act justly.” 60:8

The common theme shared was love and acceptance of those that are different. Respecting people of diverse cultures and accepting those who have not intent to harm humanity allows us the opportunity to grow and learn. It is possible to share and interact with different peoples regardless of the faith or beliefs without bigotry and stereotypes. Peace can be attained if respect and love for all mankind prevails.

By Margo Hymer



International Education Week



Using Study Abroad As A CV Builder
Wimberly 117

Tuesday, November 19 2:00PM
Student Panel Discussion
Fall 2019

DIVISION OF GLOBAL DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
Office of International Student Programs & Services

International Education Week

lamar.edu/international
international@lamar.edu
409-850-7635

The Office of International Education Programs and Services hosted yet another successful International Education Week (IEW) from November 18th -22nd . IEW is an annual celebration of international education and exchange worldwide to recognize international students, education abroad, and internationalization.

On November 19th, a panel of four Study Abroad Representatives addressed challenges related to study abroad programs. This year’s discussion focused on the topic of “Using Study Abroad as a CV Builder.” Presentations included such topics as, Strategies to Integrate your Study Abroad Experience into your Resume, and The Importance of Education Abroad in Professional Pursuits. Panelists included: Dr. Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Associate Dean of the College of Business and Marketing Professor, Dr. Chiung Fang Chang, Associate Professor and Director of the Sociology Program, and Madison Hamby and Katey McCall, students, Global Ambassadors and study abroad program participants to Italy.

Student panelist, Madison Hamby, told a story of an experience that “shook her view of the world” and changed her perspective on life. The 2017 Italy program allowed her to visit a refugee village, Riace. In this village she met a young girl named Precious whose positivity and passion for her “transient” life brought Madison to tears upon departure. Madison explained “Precious had only known a life in which people would come and go.” While others may find this discouraging, Precious’ view was different. She believed “having a friend for a day is better than never having a friend at all.” Madison described that Precious changed the way she looks at people and connections.

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“My advice for students considering studying abroad is to DO IT! You will never regret the money you spent or the classes that you took. It may seem challenging to get started but you have tons of resources here at LU to help.” – Madison Hamby

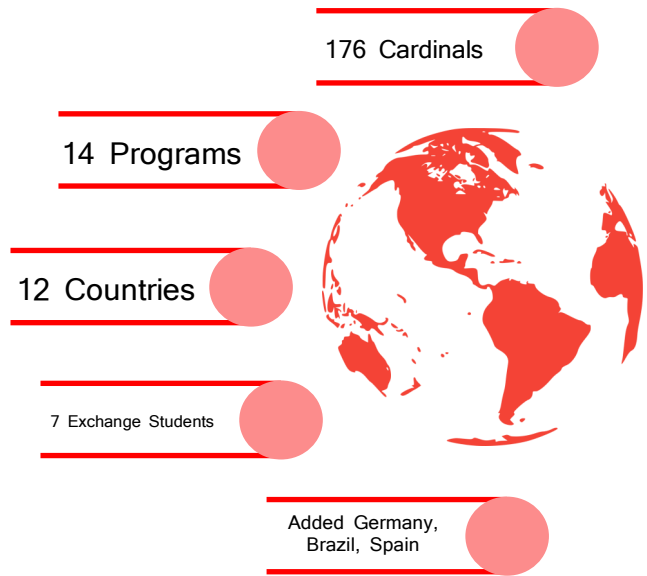
Study Abroad Services

We had an excellent year of study abroad programs. As many of you already know, study abroad programs offer an opportunity to our students to further enhance their academic knowledge and gain global perspectives in an international environment. This is a great venue for our students not only to take their academic courses but also to learn history and culture of the host society.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 176 Cardinals participated in 14 faculty-led programs in 12 countries around the world. We also had 5 students studying at our partner universities in two countries and 7 incoming exchange students from four countries attending Lamar University. This year, we added programs with new majors, characteristics, and/or destinations. Physics in Germany was the first study abroad program for students interested in physics. We added Brazil (SPHS in Brazil) and Alicante, Spain (Business in Spain) to our study abroad map. We also enjoyed programs with non-conventional characteristics. The Department of Physics offered "Nuclear Physics on the Rhine," the first lab-based study abroad program, in collaboration with the University of Bonn in Germany. The School of Nursing conducted "Healthcare in Dominican Republic," a service-learning program, tailored for students in the healthcare profession. Deaf Studies and Deaf Education provided an experiential-learning program for its students in Paris, France. Indeed, each program deserves applause for its unique characteristics. My sincere appreciation to all faculty members for your hard work to bring the best educational opportunities to our students. Special thanks to academic departments, Office of Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, and the Office of Scholarship, for your countless hours and support. Most importantly, Kudos to our Cardinals! You ventured out of your comfort zone, faced the world, and integrated new experiences that will help you grow!

In 2019 – 2020, Lamar University will offer 15 programs in 12 countries. There are also numerous opportunities for our students to study at our partner universities around the world. We have added partner universities and will continuously expand our offerings to provide wider opportunities for our students. In addition to providing services to our students, the Office of Study Abroad will continue to work toward a compilation of resources for our faculty members, including a Faculty Manual for Students with Disabilities in Study Abroad Programs, a three-year initiative, we started in 2018 in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. All of us at the Study Abroad Office are excited to be a partner in facilitating these amazing "once in a lifetime" opportunities for our Lamar students!

By Irene Shim



Get out **there!**



The world awaits.





CONGRATUATIONS Fall 2019 INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES!



On December 5, 2019, OISPS celebrated the many accomplishments of several international students at our Fall Graduation celebration. The GLODIIA division leader Dr. John O Bello-Ogunu, Sr. VP Diversity & Inclusion, Diversity & Intercultural Affairs, gave an inspirational speech telling the graduates, “to be bridge ambassadors between their native county and the future population of the world.” Dr. Bello-Ogunu encouraged the graduates to, “take their experience at Lamar University into the world and continue to stay open minded in their future.” The graduates enjoyed refreshments and camaraderie with our staff and VIP attendees.

There were 45 international students graduating that represent 15 different countries and consisted of 4 Undergraduates, 34 Graduate, and 6 Doctoral degrees in 12 different programs of study.

Lamar University is blessed to have these international students pursue their degrees here in the United States and take their experiences with them in their future careers. Once again congratulations to all our Fall 2019 graduates and we wish you the best in all future endeavors.

By Tracy Bourgeois



Thanksgiving - November 28th

The Office of International Student Programs and Services, (OISPS) held the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Feast in honor of the International student population on Thursday, November 14, 2019. The event was a tremendous success! This success was partly due by our generous sponsors and by the attendance of our guests, campus and community wide.



The OISPS would again like to thank our generous donors and the efforts put forth by OISPS colleagues. Our sponsors included Dean Brian Craig and the College of Engineering, Dean Derina Holtzhausen and the College of Fine Arts and Communications, and Dean Arne Almquist and the Mary & John Gray Library.

In keeping with the theme of giving thanks, below are a few personal insights and quotes from our distinguished guests and what they are thankful for!

By Margo Hymer



"I am thankful for all of my wonderful coworkers I get to work with every day in GLODIIA."

"...met some amazing people this year and made some amazing memories!!!"

"I am thankful for all of my loved ones and my Lamar University family."

"Thankful for all the goodhearted and kind human beings out there who are making the world a better, happier place to live for all the beings... with their small steps."

"Love from family and friends. The opportunity to study and improve my professional career. My lovely advisor, Dr. Liv Haselbach."

"I am thankful for the opportunity to study at Lamar University and have the opportunity to experience diversity at this university!!"

"Thankful to my parents, friends, and to God for all His blessings."





Halloween—A Spooky Party



Like many holidays, Halloween has evolved throughout history. More than 2,000 years ago, people called the Celts lived in what is today Ireland, the UK, and areas of Northern France. November 1st was their New Year’s Day. These people believed that the night before the New Year, or October 31st, the living and the dead came together.

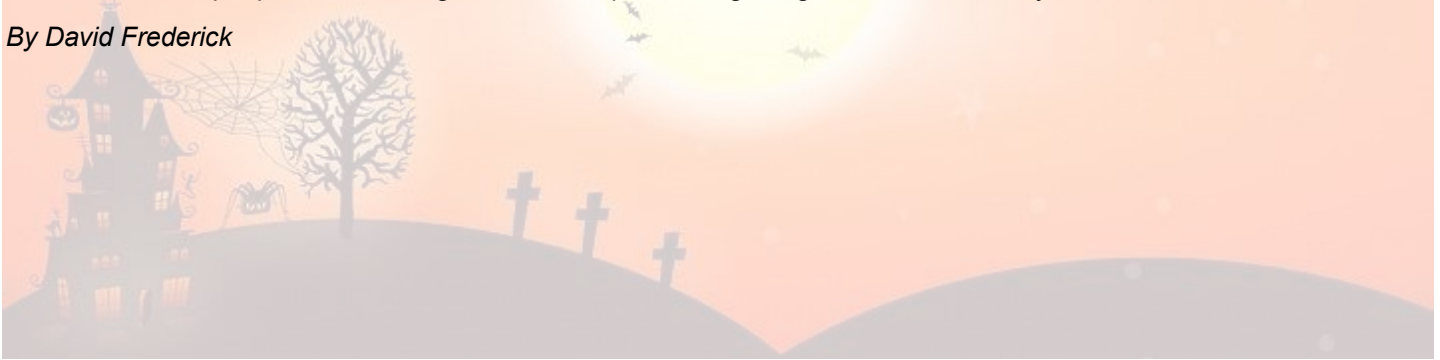
Over a thousand years ago, the Christian church made November 1st All Saints Day (or All Hallows) to honor the saints. The night before All Hallows was called Hallows Eve. The name later changed to Halloween, which is what we call it today!

Just like the Celts, The Europeans of that time believed that the spirits of the dead would visit the earth on this day. They also worried that evil spirits would cause them problems. Because of this, on that night people wore costumes that looked like ghosts or evil creatures. They thought that if they dressed in scary costumes, the spirits would think they were one of them and not harm them.

The tradition of Halloween was brought to America by European immigrants, although some of the traditions have changed. For example, on Halloween in Europe some people would carry lanterns made from turnips. In America, pumpkins were more common, so people began putting candles inside them and using them as lanterns. This is the origin of the carved pumpkins with lights or candles inside that you see in the U.S. around Halloween, also known as “Jack O’ Lanterns.”

Halloween in the U.S. is not usually considered a religious holiday. It is primarily a fun day for children to dress up in costumes like people did a thousand years ago. Also, instead of worrying about evil spirits, children go from house to house and say "trick or treat." The owner of each house gives candy or something special to each child, or “trick-or-treater.” Older people sometimes go to costume parties or get together to watch scary movies!

By David Frederick



Upcoming Events - OISPS

SP '20 CPT Workshops

February 12, 2020, 2PM
February 13, 2020, 10AM

Learn about internships, how to apply, and how to maintain your F-1 status throughout.

Wimberly Building, Room 117

OPT Workshops - Spring 2020

Learn about deadlines, the application process, maintaining your status, and other essential information.

February 12, 2020, 10AM
February 13, 2020, 2PM



Wimberly Building, Room 117

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (OISPS)

~Invites you to attend the~

Graduation Reception!

04.30.2020

Coffee or Tea?

Enjoy a hot drink with the OIES Director

February 5th, 19th
March 6th, 18th
April 1st, 15th, 29th

10am to 11am in the OISPS Lounge (Wimberly, 117)



Dr. Adria Baker
Associate Vice Provost for International Education Rice University

The Impact of a Fulbright Scholar Award

for faculty and staff

Learn about how to secure a Fulbright Scholarship to explore the world and impact other people's lives.

5 March 2020 1pm – 2pm Galloway, Room 101

Upcoming Events - Study Abroad

Lamar University

Study

Abroad Fair

FIND US ONLINE!

LAMAR.EDU/STUDYABROAD

 GLOBAL LAMAR



Setzer Student Center -1st Floor Arbor

Explore the World



Wednesday, January 29, 11 am -1 pm



GLOBAL GOODWILL AMBASSADORS:

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

CLOSING THE GAP



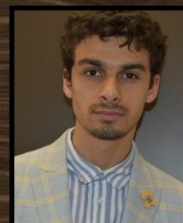
The Global Goodwill Ambassadors Program (GGAP) is designed to assist new international students and scholars to adjust to the educational system and life in the U.S. and at Lamar University. Through their active engagement, the ambassadors will learn about other cultures, practice other languages, and make life-long international friends.

GGAP plays a vital role in developing and executing social, cultural, and educational programs.

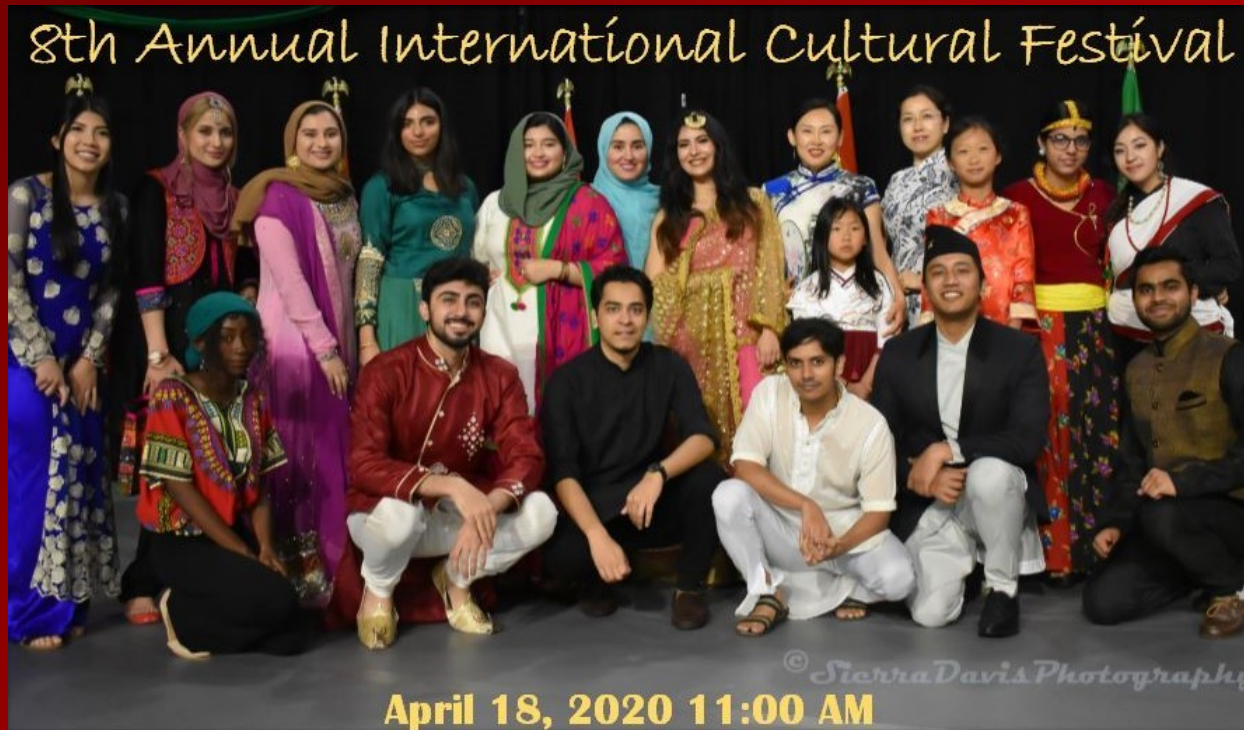
To become a volunteer Global Goodwill Ambassador, please contact the Interim Executive Director of OIES, Dr. Mustapha Jourdini, at international@lamar.edu for more information and to schedule an interview.



Global Goodwill Ambassadors



Make A Difference - Get Involved!



Dr. Mustapha Jourdini, Interim Executive Director

OIES Team

OISPS

Margo Hymer, Assistant Director
 Ian Quinn, Intl. Admissions Coordinator
 Tracy Bourgeois, Sr. Specialist
 David Frederick, Admin. Specialist

Study Abroad

Kyungsik Shim, Director
 Kayce Smith, Coordinator
 Yolanda Tamayo, Admin. Assoc. Sr.

Student Workers

Prashant Ghimire
 Sierra Davis
 Jerrica Francisco
 Arely Medina

Get Involved

Lamar University is home to over 200 student organizations. Below is a listing of student affinity groups that represents the diverse population of students at Lamar. <https://www.lamar.edu/international/current-students/student-affinity-groups.html>

Stay in Touch

OISPS provides numerous activities throughout the year to promote intercultural and cross-cultural experiences for domestic and international students. Visit our Orgsync page to get involved: <https://orgsync.com/163582/chapter>

Connect With Us

Do you have comments or concerns that you'd like to share with OISPS? Please submit your feedback at <https://www.lamar.edu/forms/international/oisps-feedback.html>

www.lamar.edu/international

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