



**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES**



**STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS &
SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION BOOKLET**

Welcome to Virginia Union University's Center for International Studies

This booklet contains important information regarding the Center for International Studies, the International Students Association, and tidbits on scholarships, Study Abroad Programs and lists additional resources that are available to assist faculty, staff, and students to explore opportunities in international education.

THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The CFIS at VUU was established in 2009 to provide the means whereby the institution can use its academic and service resources to fulfill a major institutional mission, which is to “develop scholars, leaders and lifelong learners of a global society.”

In keeping with this VUU mission, the CFIS promotes the education of students and the experiential knowledge of faculty and staff to become outstanding contributors to society through global learning and experiencing the cultures of other countries.

OUR MISSION: To provide leadership and support for internationally-oriented and

interdisciplinary teaching and research; local, national and international business; and other international creative work and services. To promote study abroad programs for VUU students and faculty as well as bring students and faculty from abroad to VUU and the local community. This will be achieved through active collaboration with several other organs of the university and other institutions in the United States and around the world.

Our Key Staff & Advisory Board

Dr. D. Adewuyi, Program

Director

Dr. H.P. Singh-Sandhu, Sydney

Lewis School of Business

Ms. Kristie White, Enrollment

Management

Ms. Sukenya Best, School of
Humanities and Sciences

Dr. Dorothy Eseonu, School of
Math, Sciences and Technology

Dr. John W. Kinney, Dean, SDP

School of Theology

Ms. Vanessa Coombs, Director
of Public Relations

Dr. Peter Sutton, School of
Humanities and Social Sciences

Ms. Karen Jenkins, Financial
Aid Office

Mrs. Takeisha Brown, Director
of Career Services

Ms. Kyerra L. Carr, Program
Assistant, International Studies

We are located in the Henderson

Center, Room 1013, right next to
the Career Services Center.
Ph.: 804-342-3937/342-3939
Fx.:804-342-3959
Email:
internationalstudies@vuu.edu

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The ISA at VUU represents students from all nations and cultural backgrounds on campus. The major goal is to facilitate awareness and promote active participation of students in particular and the university community in general, in international education activities. As part of its constitutional mandate, ISA will also assist newly admitted international students to smoothly transit into the United States' social and academic life and culture. The 2010-2011 executive board is made up of the following officers:

President : Ceyara Dickey
Vice President : Chalene
Jefferson-Harvey
Secretary :
Assistant Secretary :
Treasurer : Elbetel Mherete
Social Secretary : Nana
Brookman, Allen Stokes, Jordan
Bolden
PRO : Nana Brookman
ISA Representative :

Faculty Advisor- Dr. D. Adewuyi

ISA executive and general meetings are held weekly at the Center for International Studies.



RELEVANCE OF THE CENTER TO VUU

The Center for International Studies, in collaboration with relevant organs of the university, organizes and implements local, national, and international academic and socio-cultural events that positively enhance the academic achievement of students and global understanding of faculty and staff.

THE BENEFITS OF STUDYING ABROAD

The Institute of International Education and the U.S. Department of Education report that “although African-American students comprise 14% of post secondary student enrollment, they make up only 3.4% of study abroad participants.” Study abroad

provides an excellent opportunity to earn credit toward your degree while living and studying in a foreign city. You gain important perspective on your own country through the eyes of another country's citizens.

The first step in selecting an overseas studies program is to think about your academic goals for study abroad. Find one that meets your specific needs and goals. Ask yourself these questions: **1.** How does foreign study fit in with your major program? **2.** What kinds of courses will complement the work you do at your college? **3.** Are there topics you could explore better overseas than at your college? **4.** Do you have the necessary background knowledge to take major courses at a foreign university or can you acquire it before you go?

Look for programs that have the courses you need to meet your goals. Select courses that take advantage of your study abroad location.

Studying abroad will allow you the opportunity to immerse in an environment filled with new customs and an entirely different culture. Live with a family, instead of rooming with fellow Americans. Also, seize the

opportunity to do an internship, volunteer assignment or work in the place you are studying abroad.

There are many career opportunities when you have completed your study abroad. If you take calculated risks, plan in advance and take advantage of all study abroad has to offer, you will become that "memorable candidate" and you will have developed skills and attitudes that will stay with you for a lifetime. For more information, please visit www.diversityabroad.com

The Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows

Visiting Fellows are prominent artist, diplomats, journalist, business leaders and other non academic professionals, who through intensive seminars, workshops, lectures and informational discussions, create better understanding and new connections between academic and non academic worlds. Applications are usually accepted in February annually with deadline being sometime in March every year. For more information, please visit the website at www.cic.edu/visitingfellows

The Boren Scholarship Awards

This National Security Education scholarship provided unique funding opportunities for U. S. undergraduate and graduate students to add important international and language components to their education. The awards focus on geographic areas, language and fields of study that are critical to U. S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad. Recipients may apply to study in Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America or the Middle East. The length of study for Boren Awards varies. Full academic year or semester is open to all students. However summer awards of 8 weeks or longer are available to students majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Application deadlines are usually around the second week in February every year. For more detailed information, visit their website at www.borenawards.org

CROSS CULTURAL SOLUTIONS

Cross Cultural Solutions is an international non-profit organization that operates short-term volunteer programs in 12 countries around the world. Africa (Ghana, Morocco, South Africa and Tanzania); Asia (China, India and Thailand); Eastern Europe

(Russia) and Latin America (Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Peru). They have no political or religious affiliations. They are fully staffed in each country where they operate volunteer programs. The mission is to operate volunteer programs around the world in partnership with sustainable community initiatives, bringing people together to work side-by-side while sharing perspectives and fostering cultural understanding.

Why volunteer abroad? It is a way for people to lend their skills, service and time in other areas of the world. You can also gain a cultural experience that you would not gain as a conventional tourist.

The CCS has special consultative status with the United Nations and is a member of the International Volunteer Programs Association. There are 4 different volunteering programs and all feature their unique Program design; volunteer work, cultural and learning activities, free time, and home-based where volunteers live together.

Volunteer programs are from 1-12 weeks; they have over 4,000 volunteers per year; 12 countries; 300 staff members; and 300 partner programs-local and grassroots organizations. For more

information visit their website at www.crossculturalsolutions.org

EF COLLEGE TOURS

Education First College Tours is a third party private education company which provides the easiest most affordable way for colleges and universities to offer international travel to students. It offers short-term international travel opportunities so professors can give their student these crucial international experiences. Their mission is to make it possible for people around the world to communicate with one another across borders, breaking down barriers of language, culture and geography. They offer Educational tours, language programs, academic and degree programs; cultural experience programs and online language training. There is a dedicated team of 29,000 employees, teachers and volunteers around the world. EF college tours takes care of all logistics of the international travel with the exception of passports and visas. They provide pre-tour planning, planning resources and on-tour support. It also provides educational resources; Apple, PBS, educational resources database and college credits which are offered through Eastern Washington University's Field Studies Program. They provide Subject specific tours as well as Multi-

Disciplinary tours. All tours include meals, roundtrip airfare, community service, travel within the location, free time and leisure activities. For more information on EF college tours and dates, please visit their website at www.efcollegetours.com.

CAPA International Education

CAPA International Education provides students with the learning experience of a lifetime. It delivers the best in education and experience both in and out of the classroom through the use of proven educational system called My Education, which combines theme based learning with cultural experiences connecting the classroom to the cultural environment. It offers quality, affordable study abroad programs, consisting of academic classes and internships. The mission of CAPA is to provide learning abroad opportunities which genuinely educate students about the people and culture in which they are learning in a holistic educational environment. CAPA offers customized study and internships in London, Florence, Sydney, Madrid and Beijing. CAPA accepts private loans and institutional, state and federal financial aid for all or part of the program fees. For more information on CAPA and their programs, please visit their website at www.capa.org.

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Gilman Scholarship is open to US citizen, undergraduate students who wish to study abroad during the fall, spring, summer or academic year. Students may apply worldwide. To be eligible you must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant. Applications are to be completed online. You must notify your financial aid and study abroad advisor that you are applying. # copies of your transcripts from your current institution and any previous schools listed. Students studying critical need languages are automatically considered for the Gilman Critical Need Language Supplement, which provides Gilman recipients with an additional \$3,000 for a total possible award of up to \$8,000. For more information, please visit their website at www.iie.org/gilman

Critical Need Languages include:

Arabic	Swahili
Chinese	Indic
Korean	Persian
Russian	Turkic

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Fulbright Scholar Program/ Fulbright U.S. Student Program-

The largest U. S. exchange program offering opportunities for

faculty, students and young professional to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. It currently awards 1,600 grants annually in all fields of study in more than 140 countries.

www.us.fulbrightonline.org

National Security Education Program- NSEP awards

scholarships to American students for study of world regions critical to U. S. interests (Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America & the Caribbean, and the Middle East). Fall, Spring and Summer cycles. Summer cycle is open only to freshmen and sophomores or applies science & engineering majors.

www.iie.org/nsep

The Language Flagship- Funding from the NSEP provides two year intensive, advanced level training in Arabic, Central Asian Turkic languages, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian/Farsi, and Central Asian Languages. Fellowships available to qualified applicants.

Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes- Scholarships for U.S. citizen undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. students to participate in

beginning, intermediate and advanced level intensive summer language programs at American Overseas Research Centers.

www.elscholarship.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON STUDY ABROAD

SCHOLARSHIPS please visit:

www.studyabroadfunding.org

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.....



PASSPORTS & VISAS

All persons traveling by air, land and sea are required to present a passport book/card or other valid travel documents to enter or re-enter the United States. The passport card however is only valid for land and sea travel between the U. S. and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean region and Bermuda.

Passport books/cards are valid for 10 years for adults and 5 years for minors under age 16. Currently passport fees are: \$75 and \$25 processing fee. You are required to submit the following: Original

Birth Certificate, valid government issued Photo Id, and 2 color passport photos (2x 2) in size. ALL first time applicants must apply in person at a Passport Agency, Acceptance Facility*, U.S. Embassy or Consulate.* Post Office, library or municipal office.

Visas- Generally a citizen of a foreign country who seeks to enter the U.S. must first obtain a U.S. visa which is placed in their passport. U.S. citizens don't need a visa for travel, but may need a visa issued by an embassy of a country they wish to visit when traveling abroad. There are two types of visas- (B-1) Business Visitor Visa. If traveling to consult with business associates, travel for a scientific, educational, professional or business convention or conference on specific dates, settle and estate or negotiate a contract this is the correct visa. (B-2) Pleasure, Tourism, Medical Treatment. Traveling is recreational in nature, amusements, visits with friends or relatives, rest medical treatment, activities of a fraternal, social or service nature and participation by amateurs. For more detailed information on passports and visas, please visit the Department of State website at

www.travel.state.gov

EMBASSIES

In over 260 countries around the world, there are U. S. Embassies and Consulates with consular officers available to provide assistance to Americans abroad. If you need help in case of an emergency, you should consider the embassy your first point of contact. Find the U.S. Embassy in the country you are visiting and learn where it is located as well as its contact information. The U. S. Embassy is your 9-1-1 overseas. Some of the services offered by U.S. Embassy include:

- Emergency Services
- Health Emergencies
- Arrests
- Deaths
- Missing Persons
- Non-emergency services
 - Absentee voting
 - Selective Service registration
 - Transfer of Social Security benefits
 - Providing U. S. tax forms
 - Notarizing documents
 - Providing information on obtaining foreign public documents

Services not offered:

- Tourism services
- Commercial services/banking
- Search for missing luggage

- Settling of commercial disputes for U.S. citizens
- Interpreter services
- Lawyer advice and services

If you are planning to travel abroad, register your trip with the Department of State. It makes it possible to contact you if necessary, whether it's a family emergency in the States or a crisis in the country in which you are visiting, registration assists the Embassy of Consulate in reaching you. It is free and can be done online. Leave a copy of your trip itinerary with family or friends; make two copies of your passport identification page, your airline tickets, driver license and credit cards you plan to take. Also leave a copy of your traveler checks' serial numbers. Keep one copy with you, but separate from your originals.

For additional information and resources for travel abroad, please visit the Department of State's website at www.state.gov. There you will find information on:

- Travel health information
- Foreign Consular Offices
- Transportation Security
- Crisis Information-Homeland Security
- Federal Aviation Administration

- Sanctions Information from the Department of Treasury
- The Overseas Security Advisory Council
- Document Authentication
- U. S. Customs
- Information about bringing food, plant and animal products into the U.S.

CONCLUSION

We do hope this booklet provides helpful information regarding The Center for International Studies, International Students Association, Study Abroad Programs, Scholarships and travel information.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to stop by the Center for International Studies any time, and view our available resources.

Dr. David A. Adewuyi, Director
Kyerra L. Carr, Program Assistant
Virginia Union University
Center for International Studies
Henderson Center, Room 1013
Email:

internationalstudies@vuu.edu

Fax Number: 804-342-3959

Office: 804-342-3937/804-342-3939