

Welcome, New International Students!



As I've entered the room 1003 on a snowy Tuesday morning, the wonderful smiles and new faces welcomed me. This day reminded me of the orientation I had as an international student not so long ago. I know that this is a special day for all of our new international students! I hope that our presentations met and even succeeded their expectations. The part of the orientation that I witnessed was presented to us by our very own Frances FitzGerald, Writing Center coordinator, together with two of our wonderful Writing Center staff/ESL Tutors, Sally Freels and Dorothea McCurdy. Likewise, a great introduction was given by our Director, Grace Philson and our International Advisor, Joy Cho. They are exceptional individuals!

I started to share my experiences as an international student transferring to Madonna University. Last fall semester was my first semester here at Madonna University. It was a memorable semester! I was a full-time student majoring in Business Administration, a CPI Tutor for Statistics and a student assistant for the Nursing Department. Some of the student organizations I was involved in include Campus Ministry, S.C.O.P.E., and Model UN.* The smiles on their faces were visible and greatly cherished. Concluding, "You'll enjoy your stay here at Madonna and succeed. We hope that you'll also get involved with Student Life activities here on campus. We are happy to meet all of you!"

This semester we have 18 new international students that have joined the Madonna University family. They come from Brazil, Canada, Cameroon, China and Korea. The students are studying many different subjects including business, hospitality management, etc. They spent a Tuesday morning and afternoon attending the orientation session to learn things about Madonna University. The students heard presentations about campus life, campus safety, tutoring services, and other things needed to make their time here at Madonna a good experience. The best part of the orientation was being able to hear from current international students about how they enjoy daily life both inside and outside the classroom.

We would like to welcome these new students and wish them good luck in their studies. We also hope they have a chance to meet new friends, have fun, and learn about other cultures while they are here. Welcome to Madonna!

-Written by Dorothea McCurdy(MTESOL)

-Written by Blaise Michelle Lou G. Javier

ISO Events

- Workshop: F-1 Regulation (Thursday, January 27, 2011)
- Coffee Time: Thursday, February 10, 2011
- Field Trip: NBA Game: Detroit Pistons vs. Miami Heat (Friday, February 11, 2011)
- Tax Workshop: Thursday, February 17, 2011

International Students Office(ISO)

- Location: Academic Building Room 1207.1209
- Website: <http://www.madonna.edu/admissions/international-student>
- E-mail: internationalstudent@madonna.edu
- Director: Grace Philson(734-432-5791), gphilson@madonna.edu
- Advisor: Joy Cho(734-432-5743), scho@madonna.edu

Please come and visit us on ISO Social Networking

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January, 2011

International Student of the Month



This month we would like to introduce Orla McLarnon. Orla is from Ireland and is majoring in Business. Orla took a break from her studies in Ireland so that she could take classes at Madonna on a full scholarship. In her free time, she likes to shop and watch sports. If she had the chance Orla likes to play volleyball. She has also practiced Irish dancing for 16 years.

This winter feels very cold for us in Michigan. Orla seems to like the cold weather. Maybe she will change her mind in January when it gets colder. We will see. In America, we use Fahrenheit to measure hot and cold, but in Ireland they use Celsius. She still feels confused about how to convert the temperature.

Orla likes to travel. She has been to many states; including California and Florida. She has also been to several countries around the world with friends.

Students in Ireland do not study as much as those in the U.S. Orla was very surprised when she came to Madonna University and saw everyone studying very hard. In Ireland many students do not come to class unless there is a test. Orla is going back to Ireland at the end of the Winter semester. Orla, we will miss you here at Madonna. We wish you well in reaching your goals and hope your dreams come true.

-Written by Scott Corp (MTESOL)

Things to Remember Before Traveling Abroad

Before leaving for a trip outside the U.S., you need to come to International Students Office to have your I-20 endorsed by Grace Philson. A valid entry visa and a student status document (I-20) are required for re-entry into the U.S. from all countries except Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean. Check your travel documents at International Students Office one month before you leave the U.S., and obtain any necessary additional forms at that time.

How to Maintain F-1 Status

- Maintain a valid passport, I-20, and I-94
- Attend the school you are authorized to attend.
- Pursue a full course of study and make normal progress towards the completion of the course of study. (Undergraduate student: at least 12 credit hours per semester and graduate student: 9 credit hours per semester. Only 3 credits of on-line courses can be counted toward a full course of study each semester.) Students should not drop below a full course of study or withdraw from the University without first obtaining permission from DSO.
- Report a change of address to USCIS within 10 days of your move.

Announcements

- Applications for Spring/Summer semester Graduation must be submitted by January 28, 2011
- Web registration for Spring/ Summer semester begins February 28, 2011
- There will be no classes during Spring Break from March 7 to March 13, 2011
- In Person/ Open Registration for Spring/ Summer semester begins March 7, 2011
- Final withdrawal from full-semester courses for the winter semester is March 25, 2011

American Holidays & Events

- Valentine's Day: Monday, February 14
- President's Day: Monday, February 21
- Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 13
- St. Patrick's Day: Thursday, March 17