

Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program

Winter 2026 Newsletter



A Note from ISSS

January Term brought opportunities for students to enjoy a wide variety of academic courses and engaging workshops such as An Immigrant's Journal, Activism: An Inside Job, Guitar 101, Intro to Hieroglyphics, Olde World Locksmithing, and Patchwork Feminism: A Community Quilt Project.

On February 3, we welcomed our new international February students (Febs). After an introduction to life at Middlebury, guided by the ISSS team and our fabulous Feb Mentors, they joined the rest of the Febs for Orientation. We are so happy our new students are finally here and wish them the best of luck as they begin their studies at Middlebury.

During this cold and snowy season students truly appreciate a home-cooked meal or a fun activity with their host family. Looking for ideas? Visit the Addison County Chamber of Commerce website at <https://www.addisoncounty.com/guide>. See our **Local Events and Opportunities** section for more suggestions.

If you or anyone you know is interested in hosting a student in the fall, please let us know at isss@middlebury.edu.



Important Dates and Reminders

Host Information Changes

Please email us if you have any address, phone, or email changes.

Winter Carnival

Middlebury College's annual Winter Carnival, the oldest student-run Winter Carnival in the nation, takes place on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21. Come join us at the Snowbowl and Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton, Vermont for athletic events and lots of fun!

<http://www.middlebury.edu/student-life/annual-events/winter-carnival>

Spring Break

Spring break is the week of March 23-27. Some students may go away during the break, participating in volunteer activities, traveling with friends or visiting their families. Others may stay on campus so this may be another great time to make plans with your student.

Local Events and Opportunities

Hirschfield International Film Series

Once-a-month, Thursdays – 7 PM

Dana Auditorium

Enjoy international and independent films!

Free and open to the public, no tickets required

<https://www.middlebury.edu/college/academics/film-media-culture/hirschfield-international-film-series#section-22266-label>

Caledonian Connections: A Concert of Traditional Music

Friday, February 20 – 7:30 PM

Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall

“A performance of acoustic music that explores musical connections across the region of Caledonian orogeny, spanning Appalachia, New England, Québec and the Canadian Maritimes, Greenland, Ireland, Scotland, England, and even Denmark and Norway.”

Free and open to the public; no tickets required

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/caledonian-connections-concert-traditional-music>

West African Dance and Drum Class

Wednesdays (February 18 & 25, March 4, 11 & 18, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, and May 6)

4:30 – 5:50 PM

Wilson Hall, McCullough Student Center

“Participants will learn songs, rhythms, dances, and culture as we embark on a journey of dances from the African diaspora.”

Free and open to the public, no tickets required

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/west-african-dance-and-drum-class-20>

Le Consort

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 – 9 PM

Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

A world-class baroque chamber ensemble who “interpret the trio sonata repertoire with enthusiasm, sincerity, and modernity.”

Free and open to the public, no tickets required

*Note: This concert will also be streamed, with 48-hour access to the performance stream available starting at showtime. <https://www.youtube.com/@robisonhall>

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/le-consort-0>

Songs and Arias

Saturday, March 14, 7:30 – 9 PM

Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

Music Department vocal students performing songs and arias

Free and open to the public, no tickets required

*Note: This concert will also be streamed, with access to the performance stream available starting at showtime. <https://www.youtube.com/@robisonhall>

<https://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/songs-and-arias-3>

Spring Student Symposium

Friday, April 17, 2026, 9 AM – 5 PM

McCardell Bicentennial Hall

The 2026 Spring Student Symposium highlights the academic and creative work of students from all class years through oral presentations, performances, artwork and readings. Come support our students and be inspired!

<https://www.middlebury.edu/teaching-learning-research/spring-student-symposium>

Find other local exhibitions, performances and events by clicking on the following links:

The College Calendar: <http://www.middlebury.edu/events>

Middlebury College Museum of Art: <http://museum.middlebury.edu/>

Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs: <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events>

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

<http://www.addisoncounty.com/pages/calendar.asp?content=events>

More area events: <http://www.sevendaysvt.com/>



FIS Story Corner

Are you a student or a host with a story or photo to share with us? Submit them at https://middlebury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJWRPDI1EHzb5yu.



Anastasiia received beautiful flowers from her hosts Susan and Virginia after the fall 2025 ISO Show.



Hosts Mika, Juniper, and pup, Cassini, shared some holiday cheer with their host students, Juraj and Tamaki.



Abhir shared this photo of himself with host, Margaret. "We had dinner at Atwater and decided to see if eating ice cream outside would make us feel warmer. It didn't." Abhir said. (LOL)



Hannah and Fumiko got into the holiday spirit with host student, Chisaki, and enjoyed some festive cookie making.

Thank you for supporting our international students.



Enjoy the rest of winter and keep in touch!

Best wishes,

The ISSS Team

Carolyn, Christy, Janet, Jess, Kas, Loren, Tabitha, & Tracy

Middlebury College

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

Phone: 802.443.5858

E-mail: issss@middlebury.edu

Web: <https://www.middlebury.edu/international-student-and-scholar-services>