



Middlebury
College



International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
14 Old Chapel Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802.443.5858
E-mail: iss@middlebury.edu
Web: <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/iss>

Friends of International Students (FIS)
Host Program Newsletter, fall 2021
News from ISSS; Important Dates and Reminders; Events; FIS Story Corner

News from ISSS

ISSS Pre-orientation 2021: The ISSS team and our Program Arrival Leaders (PALS) welcomed our new international students to campus on September 2 for our pre-orientation program. Despite long travels, time zone changes and COVID-19 precautions, students displayed remarkable enthusiasm while engaging in pre-orientation activities, making new friends and getting to know their new home. While the ISSS team focused on leading sessions about visa status, academics, and on-campus employment, our PALS engaged in conversations with our new students about U.S. culture and life on campus. The PALS also led small and whole group activities which included painting, a trivia night, a bonfire gathering with s'mores, a talent show and of course, a dance party!



The ISSS team and the Class of 2025 gathered outside Bicentennial Hall.

Winter Clothing Giveaway event: ISSS and other campus partners hosted a Winter Clothing Giveaway at the Anderson Freeman Resource Center in late October for all students in need of cold weather items. More than 100 students attended the all-day event and found sweaters, pants, coats, hats, gloves and more to help keep them warm this winter. We will continue collecting Clothing in the weeks ahead. If you are attending an event on campus at a location that is opened to the public (Wilson Hall, Mahaney Arts Center and Hepburn Zoo), please feel free to put your items into one of the winter clothing donation boxes located near each main entrance of McCullough Student Center.

ISSS Fall Workshops: ISSS recently sponsored two workshops aimed at helping our students adjust to their new life in Middlebury. At *“The Cultural Adjustment Curve”* session, students engaged in conversations about culture shock and strategies for adjusting to life in a new country. At our *“Winter: Strive to Thrive”* workshop, we focused on what winter is like in Vermont, which clothing items are essential for warmth and comfort, and ways to thrive and have fun during this long season. A Counseling staff member also shared ways to nourish body and soul during the changing of the seasons. All who attended took home a beautiful handmade scarf of their choosing, knit by a very generous community member.



ISSS staff and students wearing their new scarves at our winter workshop.

Important Dates and Reminders

Thanksgiving Break – Thanksgiving recess begins on Tuesday, November 23, at 4:15 p.m. and runs through Sunday, November 28. Some students will leave campus. Yet, due to the brevity of the break, many students choose to stay on campus during this time. Although students who registered to remain on campus can stay in their rooms, Dining Services closes for daily meals. The last meal served in the dining halls will be breakfast on Wednesday, November 24, in Ross Dining Hall. The first meal after the break will be dinner on Sunday, November 28, in Ross and Proctor Dining Halls. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29.

***** Dining Services will prepare a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 25, in Atwater Dining Hall from 12-2 p.m. This year, the meal is free for students who have registered to stay on campus. However, the general public is not permitted to attend this year.**

Final Exams – The final exam period begins Tuesday, December 14, and ends Sunday, December 19. Students have varying exam schedules, including take-home exams and term papers depending on their courses. Exams may be scheduled during the day or evening. The exam period is always a hectic and stressful time so you may want to ask your student about their schedule. A care package, a note of encouragement, or a video or phone call can lift your student's spirits!

Winter Recess – The winter recess begins Sunday, December 19, and runs through Monday, January 3. Most students leave campus for the 2-week vacation. The College and most offices officially close during that time. Students who do not have an alternative option can apply for permission to stay on campus for **all or part of the break**, and if granted, students are responsible for their own meals. The application is available in their Housing Portal from now until December 1. It may be worth having a conversation with your student about their plans to help brainstorm ideas and/or to encourage them to request permission to stay. **Students can always adjust their request if they end up being able to travel off campus.** Dining services in Ross Dining Hall closes after 12 pm on Monday, December 20, and will re-open for lunch in Ross Dining Hall on Tuesday, January 4.

During the winter break, students will have access to kitchens, but must provide their own food. The winter break is a quiet and sometimes lonely time for those who remain on campus. If you are comfortable doing so, this is a great time to connect with your student for outdoor activities, or something indoors in a way which feels comfortable/safe for you and your student.

Break Travel – Many students will travel to and from the airport during the Winter Break. ISSS does not expect you to provide transportation so please do not feel obligated to do so. The Student Government Association (SGA) is providing discounted bus services to and from the airport in Burlington (\$20 each way) and to some of the major metropolitan areas for the November and December breaks. Students can purchase tickets through the College Box Office at <http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu>. You can also direct your student to the following link for alternate transportation options: <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/franklin-environmental-center/sustainability-action/living-sustainably-campus/transportation>. If you happen to be going to Burlington during the break times, you may want to bring your student along for the ride, so they have an opportunity to do some shopping or sightseeing of their own.

Winter Term/January Term– For those students who have not been on campus during the Winter Recess, residence Halls open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4. Winter Term classes run from Thursday, January 6 until Thursday, February 3. Students take one course during Winter Term, so they may have more time available for activities with their hosts. If your schedule allows, this is another great time to connect with your student.



Events

Find exhibitions, performances, and events at the College and in our local area by clicking on the following links:

- **Middlebury Events Calendar:** <https://www.middlebury.edu/events/> (Look for events listed as “Open to the Public”.)
- **Addison County Chamber of Commerce:** <https://www.addisoncounty.com/events/calendar/>
- **Burlington happenings:** <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/EventSearch?v=d>

FIS Story Corner

The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share the adventures you have with your students in words and/or pictures that would be of interest to the FIS Community. Please send your submissions to us at iss@middlebury.edu so we can proudly share them in future newsletters.

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy fall season!



ISSS Staff

Carolyn Dahm	Administrative Coordinator
Kathy Foley	Associate Dean and Director of ISSS
Christy Fry	Assistant Director of ISSS
Janet Hulnick	Seasonal Immigration Specialist
Kelly O'Connell	Assistant Director of ISSS (in Monterey)
Loren Scott	International Services Specialist
Kas Singh	International Student and Scholar Advisor