



Middlebury
College



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Friends of International Students (FIS)
Host Program Newsletter, fall 2022
News from ISSS; Important Dates and Reminders; Events; FIS Story Corner

News from ISSS

FIS Host Program: We hosted our first FIS matching event since pre-COVID days this fall on October 8. Wonderful ideas and advice were exchanged during our host and student sessions before we introduced everyone and there was a special buzz in the air as we experienced the FIS magic once again after our hiatus. Thank you to our hosts and students who helped us bring our program back to life!

We have another group of students and hosts waiting in the wings that we'll match during our upcoming spring term. If you are interested in being matched once again, please email us at iss@middlebury.edu and we'll add you to our list.



Winter Clothing Closet: ISSS and the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion have partnered to expand our collection of cold weather clothing for students. We will continue to collect winter clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, jackets, wool socks, and boots all year round! If you have gently used/clean/odor-free items that would appeal to college students, please drop them into our winter clothing collection boxes located in McCullough Student Center and the 1st floor entryway of the Service Building (entrance across the path from McCullough Student Center). We thank you for your support!

ISSS Fall Workshops: ISSS recently sponsored some great workshops for new and returning students. The first event in our new “ISSS Express” series, “Surviving Winter and Social Time with ISSS” was aimed at helping new students learn ways in which to thrive in winter. 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. Rich Connell, Director of Outdoor Programs, provided information about winter activities on campus and in the Middlebury area. Nick Parrish, Senior Staff Counselor, also shared ideas for maintaining your mental and physical well-being during the cold weather months. Our workshop ended with treats and social time, a great way for us to connect with students before the winter break. Our Assistant Director, Christy Fry, also organized a Curricular Practical Training (CPT) workshop for students who plan to do internships after their first year at Middlebury and an Optional Practical Training workshop for those who plan to seek employment in the U.S. after graduation.

Important Dates and Reminders

Winter Recess – The winter recess begins Tuesday, December 20, and runs through Monday, January 2. The College and most offices officially close during this time. Some students remain on campus, but most students leave campus for the 2-week recess. Students must apply to be able to remain on campus during the winter recess, a process that was shared with students earlier in the Fall semester (and reminders shared as the semester progressed). If your student has questions about housing for winter recess, they should contact Residential Life (Res Life) immediately at reslife@middlebury.edu.

Dining services in Ross Dining Hall closes after 12 pm on Monday, December 20, and will re-open for lunch on Tuesday, January 3. During the winter break, students will have access to kitchens stocked with basic provisions and some support from Dining Services. The winter break is a quiet and sometimes lonely time for those who remain on campus. This is a great opportunity to reach out to your student to see if they are staying on campus during the break. You may want to connect with them for a meal, local event, or outdoor activity.

If your student needs a reminder about transportation options during the break, you can direct them to the following link: <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/franklin-environmental-center/sustainability-action/living-sustainably-campus/transportation>. If you happen to be going to Burlington or another Vermont locale during the break, 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 3. Winter Term classes run from Thursday, January 5 until Thursday, February 2. 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 in our local area by clicking on the following links:

- **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.

Here are additional photos from our October 8 matching event for you to enjoy...







Wishing you a peaceful and healthy holiday season.



ISSS Staff

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| Carolyn Dahm | Administrative Coordinator |
| Kathy Foley | Associate Dean and Director of ISSS |
| Christy Fry | Assistant Director of ISSS |
| Janet Hulnick | Immigration Specialist |
| Loren Scott | International Services Specialist |
| Kas Singh | International Student and Scholar Advisor |