



Programs offered to specific populations

Student

Undergraduate International Student Orientation + IPAs: The IO hosts an annual 3-4 day orientation for new undergraduate international students, as well as a 1-day orientation for their parents and family members. ISO includes information sessions and social activities on campus, in Evanston and in Chicago. The International Peer Advisors (IPAs) are current international and American student leaders for ISO.

Graduate International Student Orientation + Graduate Sidekicks: The IO also hosts an annual one-day orientation for new graduate international students. G-ISO includes sessions on academic culture, student visa rules, American slang, and features a current student panel. Graduate Sidekicks are current graduate and American student leaders for G-ISO.

Winter International Student Orientation: The IO holds an afternoon orientation session for new students beginning their academic programs in the winter term. This group typically includes several undergraduate exchange students, as well as those visiting from NU's campus in Doha, Qatar.

Travel Signatures To-Go: Prior to winter and spring vacations, IO staff travel to various campus locations and provide on-the-spot travel signature service.

Student Employment (OPT) Workshops: The IO holds 3-4 OPT workshops per quarter during the academic year, helping to prepare students to apply for post-completion work authorization. Most workshops are open to all students; additionally, the IO provides tailored workshops for students in selected graduate programs.

Host an International for Thanksgiving Dinner: The IO matches international students with local families who eagerly open their homes for the uniquely American holiday of Thanksgiving. Over 100 students were placed with 50+ local families in 2013. Everyone involved enjoyed an evening of delicious food & cultural exchange!

Super Bowl workshop: For the third consecutive year, the IO partnered with NU Football's Jacob Schmidt to present a Super Bowl workshop. Schmidt, a former Wildcats player, explained both the rules of American football and the uniquely American cultural aspects of Super Bowl Sunday, and answered countless questions. International students and EVs also sampled some six-foot sub sandwiches as they prepared for the upcoming game!

International Graduate Student Brown Bag series: The IO expanded our Graduate Student Brown Bag series to include J-1 Exchange Visitors and H-1B employees. The Brown Bag series features a monthly workshop, lecture or discussion on an academic or cultural topic. Highlights of this year's series include: Baseball and American Identity, March Madness, Black History Month, LGBT History Month, Online Resources for Career Networking and NU Library Resources.

Student group advising (UG/G): The IO provides NU staff advising services to several campus student groups, including: International Student Association (undergraduate), Chinese Graduate Student & Scholar Association, Indian Graduate Student Association, Iranian Student Association, and the Graduate Student Association for Latino & Spanish Activities.



Employees/Visitors

Summer BBQ parties: The IO hosted summer barbeque parties for Exchange Visitors and their families at both our Evanston and Chicago locations. In both locations, EVs, spouses and children enjoyed traditional American “BBQ” foods, including hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, watermelon, potato chips and cookies. Over 100 EVs and family members enjoyed the warm weather in our Evanston office backyard, while 75+ attendees enjoyed lunch in the sunny Lurie Research Center atrium on the Chicago campus.

J-1 Exchange Visitor Orientation: As per the J-1 regulations, the IO hosts orientation sessions for J-1 Exchange Visitors on a monthly basis on both of our campuses. Sessions in August, September and October typically include 25-30 attendees, while 15-20 EVs attend monthly sessions throughout the year.

H-1B Employee Orientation: The IO held a workshop for current and new H-1B employees. Employees reviewed the H-1B rules and regulations and had the opportunity to network with one another.

Scholars on Ice: This new event was a huge success! Led by IO Advisor (and former figure skater/Winter Olympics fan) Debbie Kaltman, Exchange Visitors from all over the world took to the ice, many for the first time. 25 Exchange Visitors and spouses took advantage of the Evanston campus’ own Norris Ice Rink and practiced their spins and axels on a beautiful winter night. Another 15 adventurous EVs joined us at Chicago’s famous Millennium Park ice rink.

Boat Tour: Fifteen EVs and spouses joined IO Coordinator Theresa Johnson for a Chicago Architecture Foundation boat tour! The weather was beautiful and everyone learned about Chicago history while enjoying a leisurely boat ride on the Chicago River.

Piñata Party: The IO partnered with ARTica Studios of the Norris University Center to host a fun and family-friendly art party. Twenty Exchange Visitors and family members ventured to the basement art studio and left with their own piñatas! They also learned about Cinco de Mayo celebrations, as well as the many classes and services offered by ARTica.

Spouses/Families

Spouse/Family Resource Fair: The IO hosted a Resource Fair to meet the unique needs of our international students and scholars who bring their families with them to Northwestern. Representatives from campus and community organizations (including area libraries, childcare centers, cultural organizations and local government) were on hand to answer questions and provide information.

Weekly Coffee Hour: Spouses (and their children) meet weekly at the Globe Café in downtown Evanston to network, plan events, share resources and make friends.

Monthly Book Club: Spouses meet on a monthly basis and discuss a commonly-read book.

International-Family.com website and blog: Created and updated by the Spouse and Family Executive Board (made up of current spouse volunteers), this website keeps spouses informed about relocation resources, campus and community services, and upcoming social events.



Programs offered to multiple populations

Outings to sporting events: The IO purchased large blocks of tickets to several Chicago Cubs regular season games, as well as Chicago Bulls preseason games. 100+ students, EVs and their families attended these games and experienced Chicago's greatest sports teams in action!

LPR workshops: IO Director Ravi Shankar provided an information session on pathways to Legal Permanent Residency. This session was designed both for current H-1B and J-1 employees/visitors and for current F-1 and J-1 students.

IO Spring Picnic: In conjunction with the Community Council for International Students (a local volunteer group), the IO held its annual spring picnic in our backyard. The weather was perfect, the hot dogs and hamburgers were delicious and 175 international students, visitors, employees and family members came out to celebrate spring with us.

IO Food Truck Festival: This new event was also an enormous success! Four local food trucks (serving sliders, ice cream, cupcakes and Indian food) parked in the IO parking lot and served up their delicious cuisine. 200 students, visitors, family members and friends of the IO (faculty & staff from across campus) came out to celebrate the end of the 2014-2015 academic year. We definitely plan to make this an annual 'signature' event, so look for even more food trucks in 2015!

World Cup watch parties: *Futbol Fever* was in full swing at the International Office! We invited international students and EVs to our conference room to catch all of the weekday games. We've hosted groups from Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, Korea, Iran and other countries and were very impressed by the soccer spirit of the NU international community. We are considering expanding this program to include selected English Premier League or Champions League soccer matches in the future.