

## Tips for International Student Advising from an International Student

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- Not all international students are visa-carrying. Haverford has a fairly inclusive definition of international students; there are students who identify as international students and attend International Student Orientation (ISO) in the fall, who are American citizens.
- If you have any questions about how visa-carrying international students maintain their status, you can contact Denise Allison ([dallison@haverford.edu](mailto:dallison@haverford.edu)) or Natasha Weisz ([nweisz@haverford.edu](mailto:nweisz@haverford.edu)) in the [International Student Support Office \(ISSO\)](#).
- Visa-carrying students have to maintain full-time student status by taking four credits a semester. There are some cases in which they can drop below this course load, including illness/medical conditions, initial difficulty with the English language (during first semester), initial difficulty with reading assignments (during first semester), unfamiliarity with American teaching methodology (during first semester), improper course level placement, and final term of course study. In any of these cases, the student will have to collaborate with you, Dean Glanzer, and Denise Allison.
- Some international students are placed into the Intensive Writing Seminar (WSI) program, which means that they take two writing seminars, instead of just one. These courses focus on understanding the structure of American academic argumentation and essay writing. This program can shape the first year experience, because if they're also taking a language, half of the student's schedule for the whole year is set. Students might need support balancing these requirements with the pursuit of other academic interests.
- Incoming international first years will have varying levels of experience with the etiquette and dynamics of the American college classroom and interactions with professors. Thus, they might initially be unsure about what is expected of them. As the first faculty members they meet on campus, your interactions with them will likely shape their understanding of communication with faculty. You can assist students in developing these skills by communicating clearly with them. The goal is for students to develop communication skills that they can transfer to a variety of academic situations in the future.
- Discipline and major choice:
- Like many domestic students, international students may not have previously enjoyed access to some disciplines, so it would be useful to provide information about these fields of study. As the only Haverford international student majoring in Philosophy, I have benefited from support in the form of mentorship and assistance with building intellectual community.
- [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#)
- Some academic resources on campus that students can be pointed to are [the Writing Center](#), [the Writing Partner program](#), and **Check with Kristin Lindgren; international students and students for whom English is not their first language**
- Checking in with students after political developments in the United States, or their home countries can strengthen your advising relationship.