The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) serves as the primary support unit for non-immigrants who study, conduct research or teach at Michigan State University (MSU). MSU has a rich tradition of hosting academic visitors from abroad and they comprise an important part of the MSU campus culture.

The OISS staff brings a wealth of experience to the issues that international students and scholars commonly encounter. It is a privilege for the OISS staff to serve MSU's international community. The services that OISS provides include:

- Advising and interpreting U.S. government regulations pertaining to immigration and visas.
- Conducting orientations and other special programming that help international students and scholars integrate into and adjust to the academic, cultural and social life of MSU.
- Serving as a liaison with foreign embassies, sponsoring agencies and educational foundations that support international students.
- Contributing to the internationalization of MSU by coordinating programs that bring students from diverse backgrounds into contact with each other, promoting the use of cultural differences as an educational resource.

MSU strives to advance knowledge and transform lives. The President’s Boldness by Design initiative gives new emphasis on expanding MSU’s international reach. Friendship across cultures can be transformational and OISS connects the world to our community in several ways.

The weekly International Coffee Hour is a popular tradition and provides an opportunity for friendship and conversation with people from all parts of the world. The Friendship Family program, organized by Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP) offers opportunities for cross-cultural friendships.

For a full list of activities, please visit the OISS Calendar of Events at www.oiss.msu.edu.

This brochure provides some highlights on international students at MSU. You can find a more comprehensive statistical report on the OISS website at: www.oiss.msu.edu.

How to Use OISS

- Consult OISS first for all immigration concerns and questions. Often, students will obtain information from friends, family, various websites, and newspapers. While convenient, it is likely that the information obtained may not apply to your specific situation. Always consult OISS first.
- It is the responsibility of international students to maintain their immigration status in the U.S. Any information obtained from OISS serving as a resource will focus on the laws and regulations that pertain to your current immigration status. It is important to verify this information and consult with OISS and updates sent to your MSU E-mail account.
- Make and safeguard photocopies of all immigration-related documents in case the originals get damaged, stolen, or lost. OISS does not keep photocopies of all immigration-related documents.
- If you have questions or concerns, please visit with an OISS advisor during walk-in hours or make an appointment. Make sure to bring your passport, I-94 card, and DS-2019.

Walk-ins

Monday – Friday, 10:00 – 2:00pm
Walk-ins are generally reserved for individuals who have shorter questions to answer. OISS advisors are available to meet with you during this time to answer simple questions and provide general information. No appointment is needed for walk-ins.

Appointments

If you wish to meet with an advisor for a longer period of time, we suggest that you call (517) 353-1720 or stop in 103 International Center to make an appointment.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 am – 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) is the primary support unit for non-immigrants who study, conduct research, or teach at Michigan State University (MSU). OISS is a rich tradition of hosting academic visitors from abroad and promotes an open and coherent campus culture.

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Most of the strong increase in international undergraduates came from China and Korea. Undergraduate enrollments from China increased by 165% over fall 2007. Enrollments from five countries, China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan, make up 67.8% of the total international student enrollments.

The number of sending countries increased from 131 in 2007 to 133 in fall 2008. International students comprise 9.7% of MSU’s total enrollment in fall 2008.

4. Visiting scholars
In fall 2008, the record high number of 1,019 visiting scholars from 195 countries visited MSU during the 2007-08 academic year.

5. Local economic impact
Research carried out by the Institute of International Education’s “Open Doors Report” indicates that international students contributed close to $100 million to the local economy.

6. Graduating students
Over the past three years, international students have accounted for about 20% of all graduates.