Annual Report

July 1, 2008- June 30, 2009
Vision

The International Center is a primary resource center of international education programs and services for the international community at the University of Utah.

Mission

The mission of the International Center is to support the academic, research, and community service mission of the University of Utah by providing opportunities for all students, faculty and staff to incorporate an international, multi-cultural dimension into their academic and professional lives.

It seeks to foster and support a positive, interactive learning environment for international students and scholars through programming and services.

It supports the concept of the global community through an international network of individuals with academic and economic ties to Utah.

It promotes institutional and public awareness of the value of international educational exchange.

Values

International educational exchange is the migration and mobility of students and scholars across borders and cultures. The International Center believes it enhances the learning environment and better prepares students for a successful place in a global society.
The International Center Overview
In January of 2009, the University of Utah reorganized the current activities of the International Center by separating the functions of “inbound” and “outbound” students seeking international experiences. The International Center will focus on recruiting and serving international students and scholars on campus, by enhancing their individual experiences and interactions with U students, faculty, and the local community, and consequently, increasing the overall international character of the University.

The International Center is poised for growth and ready to take on new challenges against the backdrop of competitive global markets.

We serve the campus community in the following areas:

- Advising on immigration matters for International Students and Scholars
  - Information and services to international students with F-1 and J-1 visas.
  - Review and process forms for departments hosting international researchers, visiting professors, or short-term scholars on J-1 exchange visas.
  - Informational sessions held bi-annually for departments who host J-1 scholars
- Maintaining SEVIS records, The Immigration Tracking System
- Lead the university’s international recruitment initiatives
- Orientation for New Students, Faculty & Researchers
- Outreach Programs to various departments and committees
- Cross-Cultural Training Programs for students and staff

Increases in International Student Enrollment
The International Center has defined an international recruitment strategy that supports measured growth. In 2007, the number of international students on visas was 1712. In 2008, the total number of students on visas reached 1809, an increase of 97 students. The latest figures in 2009 show an increase of 9.23% from the previous year to 1976. The University of Utah continues to attract international students given its high quality programs, relatively low cost tuition, and safe environment. The International Center will continue to lead the international recruitment strategy that includes a Sponsored Student Program, new initiatives to recruit students from China and throughout the world, as well as maintain strong retention programs.
Overview of the International Population  
2008 – 2009

International Students:

Total enrollment: 1,850  
Graduate: 940  
Undergraduate: 910

Male: 1,018 (55%)  
Female: 832 (45%)

Countries: 120

Top 12 Sending Countries:

China 353  
Korea 267  
India 262  
Japan 101  
Taiwan 94  
Mexico 69  
Vietnam 65  
Canada 60  
Germany 49  
Brazil 48  
Peru 48  
Iran 37

Regional Representation:

Asia East Asia and West Asia 67%  
Central and Latin America 13%  
Europe 12%  
Middle East 5%  
Africa 3%

International Scholars:

International scholars 427  
Countries 52  
Departments 83
**International Visiting Scholars & Researchers**
The U.S. State Department requires that the International Center review and validate the academic and employment credentials for all visiting international scholars. In 2009 there were 633 J-1s recorded in the system.

*See Appendix A for information on J-1 Population*

In April of 2009, the International Center held an informational session for all academic departments who sponsor scholars on the J-1 visa. Approximately 50-60 people attended and requested further information on taxes and insurance. Each semester we plan to hold a workshop and continue to keep the campus informed of the policies and new regulations pertaining to the J-1 visa program.

**Special Programs for Short-Term Visitors**
The International Center offers immigration advising and visa processing for students and visitors on short term programs with the University of Utah. Orientations, cultural programs, and campus tours are also arranged through our office for these groups.

**International Student Recruitment**
The University of Utah has entered into a partnership with two Kaplan programs to increase international student enrollment. One, called U.S. Sino Pathways, will provide a 4 semester foundation program for students in China who wish to come to the U.S., choosing from among 4 institutions: University of Utah, University of Vermont, Northeastern University and Baylor University. With the guidance of Kaplan’s China office, representatives from all four institutions have completed the first recruiting tour in China, visiting 8 Kaplan centers and speaking to parents and students. Approximately 200 students have already applied for this program. Students from this program are scheduled to begin arriving in Autumn 2010.

The other program, Global Pathways, will consist of Kaplan setting up an office on campus to run a greatly expanded Conditional Admission program in partnership with the Dept. of Linguistics. Kaplan’s global network of education centers will recruit students for this program. Students from this program are scheduled to begin arriving in January 2010. The International Center will advise all Kaplan students on immigration and visa matters as well as housing and cultural adjustment.

**Sponsored Student Program**
The Sponsored Student Program (SSP) has been implemented to help facilitate the placement of students sent to the University of Utah by sponsoring entities such as foreign governments, international aid or non-profit organizations, and corporate sponsors. SSP functions as liaison between the above mentioned entities, the University of Utah and the sponsored students received by the University of Utah.
Expected Sponsored Student Program (SSP) enrollment for fall 09 as of July 21, 2009

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fulbright</td>
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<td>Tibet Fund</td>
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<td>GOSI</td>
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<td>IREX</td>
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<td>JSAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>Libya</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar Gas</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar Higher Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar Petroleum</td>
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<tr>
<td>RASGAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
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<td>SAF</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Thai Embassy</td>
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<td>AED</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Learning</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>AMIDEAST</td>
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# of sponsors sending: 19   total SSP: 124

124 students are “sponsored”, or fully funded, by agencies and/or their government. These sponsors include The Fulbright Foundation, Qatar Petroleum, Japan Study Abroad Foundation, the Thai Embassy, and the governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, among others.

**We serve the campus community in the following areas:**

Sponsors as well as University of Utah offices and departments can rely on the SSP coordinator to be facilitator and communicator in the following areas:

- initial contact between potential sponsors and the University of Utah
- clarifying the processes involved in getting students enrolled with the university
- admissions process and follow-up for sponsors and university alike
- assisting in the third party billing process
- primary contact for sponsors and their students regarding any issues prior, during, and after enrollment
- housing issues
The International Alumni Program

The International Center has partnered with the Alumni Association and Central Development to collect international student records but also visiting researchers, scholars, and international faculty members. A relational database will allow us to maintain contact with our international population and serve other institutional needs such as recruitment, networking, and fundraising.

The most active chapter to date is the Utah European Association. A planned reunion in Germany was cancelled in May of 2008 due to budget restrictions. We have seen some activity and renewed interest in developing chapters in India, Korea, and China.

Over the next year, plans are underway to use a social networking site used by the Alumni Association to reach out to international alums.

Orientation & Outreach Programs

The International Center provides a comprehensive orientation program for the new students at the beginning of the semester and monthly half-day orientation programs for newly-arrived scholars and their dependents.

Opportunities for social and cultural integration are promoted through the International Center’s sponsorship of monthly international student clubs, social activities, and an English class for the spouses of visiting scholars, the Friendship Family program for international students and scholars and a wide range of inter-cultural programs.

Customized Orientation Programs

A re-entry program was designed for the first group of MPA students from Hainan University to assist with their placement back into the workplace. Several academic departments requested orientations tailored to their specific groups of students such as the Department of Economics and exchange students from a high school in Japan.

The International Café was started in 2008 to build community among international students and increase retention. Students from all over the world gather each Friday in the student Union to meet and make new friends.

162 students participated in the Friendship Family Program, an opportunity for families to invite participants into their homes for social activities.

The Ambassadors Program pairs international students with a University of Utah student who has studied abroad or has been on campus for at least six months. Several experienced international students joined the program this year.

The Center also provides advising support to the International Student Council, a group of students who represent over 100 countries represented in the international population. With support and advice from the International Center,
the ISC sponsors social and cultural activities for the international community such as International Week. Over the last three years, “International Night” has been co-sponsored with the Union Programming Council as part of “Crimson Nights” to attract more domestic students. Over 1000 students attended the 2008 International Night.

In partnership with the Cross Culture Club, The International Center provided the “Spousal English Class” throughout the year for dependants of students and scholars. Classes met twice a week and were offered at three different levels. Approximately 75 to 100 people enrolled in the courses this past year. The CCC also organizes monthly activities such as a trip to Park City, the Utah State Fair, the Thanksgiving Dinner, and a ski trip to a local resort. Participation in these events average 50 students per event.

There was expressed interest in the Language Exchange Program and 190 (95 pairs) students were "matched" successfully with language partners. Most popular were the Chinese/English - 44 pairs, the Japanese/English - 19 pairs, Korean/English - 8 pairs, Spanish/English - 9 pairs and German/English - 4 pairs. The program has gain momentum and more students have learned about the program through the International Center’s past marketing efforts. The Language Department was contacted for helping getting more American students into the Language Exchange Program. We had a great success with the Chinese language; the entire Chinese class was very interested and participated into the program. We will continue to promote the Language Exchange Program through language departments.

The International Women’s Association (sponsored by the International Center and University Student Apartments) managed programs for spouses and women of the university’s global community. Several programs included collaboration with campus departments such the program on “Women’s Health” with the Student Health Center and the University Counseling Center’s discussion on “Relationships in Transition”. 
The International Advisory Board main purpose is to advance international opportunities and help carry out President Young’s vision to make the University a leader in international education. The IAB continues to look for ways to connect international students and alumni with Utah businesses.

The International Leadership Academy (ILA) The ILA is collaboration between the Honors College, Undergraduate Studies, and the International Center. In this age of globalization, leadership takes on new and complex meanings. Future leaders need to display an understanding of political, economic, social global forces, and the skills to manage those forces within diverse organizations. Each student in the course is paired with an international leader in the community.

The Emergency Loan Fund
During the 2008-2009 academic year, approximately 5 international students were provided with emergency funds administered by the International Center to assist them with unexpected financial emergencies. To date, over $130,000 has been loaned and repaid through the Emergency Loan Fund.

The Nagoya Broadcasting Network Scholarship provides financial assistance to University of Utah students wishing to incorporate an international experience into their academic program. Several international students have been able to complete international research projects with the assistance of this scholarship.
The International Center Assessment Results & Outcomes

Improvements to Immigration Advising and Customer Service

New Staff Hires and Improved Website
The International Center hired two new staff members to strengthen our immigration advising and customer service. We are revamping our website in an effort to further improve our outreach to the campus and international community we serve.

Tax Assistance
A workshop for students and scholars on visas will be held each semester to support students with understanding the process of filing taxes in the U.S. The International Center is investigating a software package used by other universities to assist students with filing their taxes.

International Student Scholarship Fund
Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, The International Center is pleased to announce the establishment of a scholarship fund for international students who face unexpected costs related to books.

Awards will generally be in the amount of $500. Initially, it is anticipated 15 scholarships will be available, with the goal of expanding the numbers as we seek additional fund for the program.

Student Advisory Council
In response to issues raised by students in our annual assessment, the International Center is forming an advisory council to help identify the critical needs of the international population at the University of Utah.

CPT Fee Discontinued
After discussions with concerned students, the International Center has agreed to cover the $25 fee charged to graduate students to renew their CPT authorization letter.
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
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<td>Residency Appeals Committee</td>
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<td>Campus Wellness Connection</td>
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Appendix A: Overview of the International Center’s J-1 Program

427 total Visiting Scholars and Researchers
83 departments host J-1 scholars.

**Major Field of Specialization:**
159 Health Sciences
75 Biological Sciences
72 Engineering
68 Physical Sciences

**Selected Countries:**
China 113
Korea 66
Germany 40
India 28
Japan 23
France 16
Brazil 10
Taiwan 9
Italy 9
Turkey 6