Challenges and Opportunities for Graduate Study and Research in the USA

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Overview

- Benefits for international students and scholars
- Challenges for international students and scholars
- Strategies and resources to assist

Benefits

- Great education
- Improved language skills
- Enhanced cultural understanding

Challenges

- Language barrier
- Cultural differences
- Isolation
- Political climate

Strategies and Resources to Address Challenges

- Intensive English Program
- Open lines of communication
 - Active student organizations
 - International advisory committee
- Programs to provide exceptional experiences and bring students together, and build a sense of community.

Intensive English Program



International Student and Scholar Organizations



http://www.csoauburn.com/forum.php

International Advisory Committee

- Representatives from each international student organization and student services office
- Meets monthly
- Seeks to identify specific concerns and develop solutions

Programs for Student and Visiting Scholars

Atlanta Airport Shuttle 'Friday shopping' Shuttle Bus



Len Vining

International Graduate Experience (UNIV 7000)
International Graduate Colloquium

Auburn Family Friends
International Wives Group
InterConnect
House-to-House

Visiting Scholars and Post Docs

Atlanta Airport Shuttle





International Graduate Experience (UNIV 7000)

Orientation to Auburn University and life in the United States

- Auburn University: navigating your first few weeks
- Auburn culture & traditions... "rules of football"
- American history, values and traditions

International Student Colloquium

- Meets monthly
- Programs on various topics of interest

Auburn Family Friends



American host families are matched with international students and scholars (On-line application:

http://graduate.auburn.edu/current-students/cross-cultural-programs/

International Wives Club







Interconnect



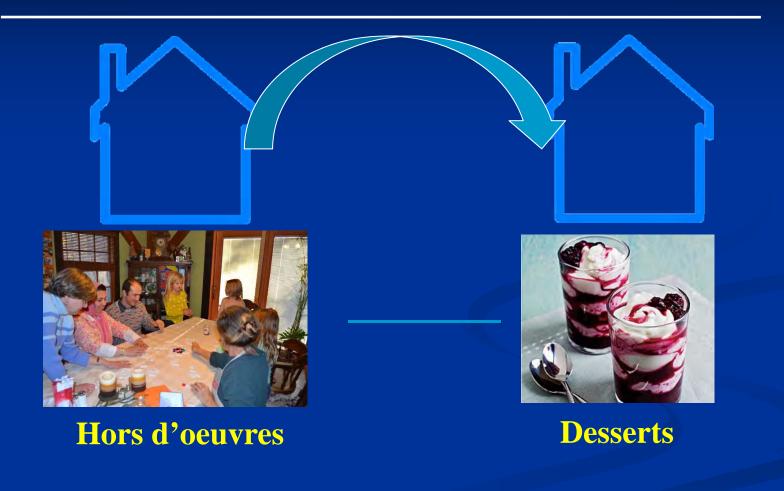








House -To-House



Visiting Scholars and Postdoctoral Fellows

(VP Research, Graduate School, OIE)

An Online Community for Visiting Scholars and Postdoctoral Fellows

BY ADMIN



Each year over 900 students and 300 scholars from over 80 nations participate in the Auburn experience. This online resource is dedicated to helping visiting scholars connect and share the experiences as they move through their residency at Auburn and beyond.

Postdoctoral Scholars Association (PSA) at Auburn University is dedicated in providing resources information and representation for postdoctoral scholars. PSA aims to connect all the postdocs AU through the website and social activities. PSA currently has over 40 members.

Goal

Auburn Advocates: welcome, integrate, equip, recognize

- Welcome breakfast once per semester
- Progressive Dinners in American homes
- Off-campus outings to see American life
- Scholar/doc website...community
- Opportunities for professional development
- Certificate of Appreciation

Summary

- Study in the US can be very beneficial for international students and scholars
- However, there are challenges that must be addressed.
- Some resources at Auburn University that provide support and assistance have been described.

Questions, Thoughts, New Ideas?

