MESSAGE FROM THE CIEGS DEAN AND VICE PROVOST

Dear International Students,

Welcome to the University at Albany. I am privileged to extend you a warm greeting on behalf of the Center for International Education and Global Strategy (CIEGS). We are pleased you are a member of this diverse and vibrant community, a supportive environment for pursuing and achieving your goals as learners. You join over 1,500 other international students at UAlbany coming from over 90 different countries around the world. We at CIEGS are here to support your success, in the classroom, on campus and beyond.

In this section you will learn of the many ways we are here to support you and we encourage you to avail yourselves of these many services and programs. Universities are communities, and we are eager to incorporate you fully. Your presence in our lecture halls and classrooms, seminars, laboratories, art studios and research teams enriches our research, our teaching and our service to both our local community and the world.

As you benefit from the numerous educational, cultural and social opportunities at UAlbany, it is equally important for you to teach us about yourself, your homeland and the many communities to which you belong.  International students are an integral part of this community, and without you we would not be the University we must be to serve our State, our Country and our World.

I wish you every success.  We are all here to help you achieve your dreams.

Gilbert A. Valverde, Ph.D.

Interim Vice-Provost for Global Strategy and Dean of International Education

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International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

UAlbany is a truly international university that values our multicultural community and provides opportunities for personal enrichment and intellectual growth. As an office that advocates for international students, ISSS advisors and other staff educate students about F-1 and J-1 benefits and responsibilities; help them maintain immigration and visa status; provide cultural and social programming for integrating into campus and connecting to important resources; and liaise with other UAlbany departments in support of our international student population.

ISSS offers walk-in advising daily as well as various workshops throughout the semester to assist international students with immigration related issues in such areas of academics, employment, and travel. Staff provide a comprehensive pre-arrival and on-campus orientation program for newly arriving international students, including airport, train/bus station and nearby hotel pick-up, guest presenters from numerous campus units, and collaborative programming with Undergraduate Orientation and Transition Programs, the Health Sciences Campus and the Downtown Campus. Post orientation programming is also a key component of workshops for student success: academic integrity, career development, writing and speaking in the classroom, employment, travel, know your rights, and work options after graduation. Additionally, ISSS coordinates an international student buddy program, plans cultural excursions, offers social and cultural activities, and advises the Cultural Connections student organization.

ISSS is dedicated to supporting international students through education and training of university faculty staff – how to better support international students. ISSS staff have developed and delivered intercultural and other training to the University Police Department, Residence Life, Academic Advisement Services, the Office of Career and Professional Development, University Libraries, Residential Life and several academic departments. ISSS also provides country/cultural training to university advisors and counselors to help further understanding of students from around the world.

In light of the challenging political and immigration regulatory environment, ISSS not only assists the campus community in comprehending complex federal immigration policies but also advocates for international students at the national level in collaboration with the Office of Government and Community Relations, the SUNY System, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and the Institute of International Education. More recently, ISSS has developed guidance related to COVID-19 (the ISSS FAQ), policy documents in response to the Department of Homeland Security regulatory guidance concerning international student study in fall 2020, and resources for faculty, staff and international students and scholars at UAlbany.

For more information about the above mentioned services, programs, and resources, or to make an appointment to talk with an advisor, please visit [www.albany.edu/isss](http://www.albany.edu/isss) or email us at [isss@albany.edu](mailto:isss@albany.edu). The office is located in the Science Library (SL) G-40 next to the Intensive English Language Program (IELP) and the Office of Career and Professional Development. Our advisors are looking forward to helping you reach your educational goals along with your personal and professional vision of the future.