Record numbers of international freshmen enroll at Ohio State

More international students selected Ohio State as their university of choice this autumn quarter. Ohio State enrolled approximately 240 international freshmen compared with 133 last year.

A growing international student population at Ohio State means increased diversity and a more global university. "It is becoming critically important to the campus environment to have a strong number of international students," said Dieter Wanner, interim associate provost for the Office of International Affairs. "International
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students bring a new perspective to the campus and provide an opportunity for the cross cultural education for all students.

Ohio State experienced an 89 percent increase in the number of paid acceptance fees by international freshman over autumn quarter 2007, and a 75 percent increase in the number of international transfer students who paid an acceptance fee. The number of new graduate students expected on campus remained similar to last year with 604 who have accepted admission for autumn quarter 2008 compared to 611 in mid-August 2007.

Ohio State typically has a total of 3,600 international undergraduate and graduate students.

Much of the increase in international freshman can be attributed to a concerted effort by university admissions to visit other countries and actively recruit students from abroad to attend Ohio State.

"We have designed a strategy specifically targeted to attract international students to our university," said Mabel Freeman, assistant vice president for undergraduate admissions and first year experience. "We are building relationships with high schools, EdUSA advisors and universities around the world and seeking students who might find different opportunities at Ohio State that will enhance their academic experience."

The increase in international freshman enrollment can be especially attributed to more students coming from China. Ohio State enrolled 110 students from China compared to 20 last year. Additionally, the university is seeing increases in the number of students coming from Korea, India, Taiwan and Canada, as well as Singapore, Argentina and Kenya. New international graduate students primarily are hailing from China, India, Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia.

**Two Ohio State faculty awarded Fulbright fellowships**

Two faculty members from The Ohio State University have been selected as recipients of prestigious Fulbright Scholar Fellowships. Recipients are selected by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, which administers the program for the U.S. Department of State.

Fellows will conduct research abroad, consult with international colleagues, and lecture to promote general global welfare.
Fulbright fellowships are awarded to approximately 800 scholars each year. Recipients are chosen based on professional accomplishments and demonstrated leadership in their chosen fields. Since its inception in 1946, nearly 300,000 people have participated in the Fulbright exchange program, which is widely heralded as the nation's flagship educational exchange program.

Ohio State’s 2008-2009 Fulbright Scholar Fellowship recipients are:

- **Maria Myroslava Mudrak** (department of history and art), Kharkiv Museum of Literature, Kharkiv, Ukraine. Mudrak’s research centers on "Redressing Mythologies: A Scholarly Look at Constructivism and a Revised Study of Ukrainian Artistic Modernism.

- **Joseph S. Verducci** (department of statistics), Limerick College of Arts, Commerce, and Technology, Limerick, Ireland. Verducci’s lecturing and research centers on "Statistical Methods for Biological Modeling and Informatics."

In addition, Ohio State will host eight foreign scholars who have received Fulbright grants to teach and conduct research in the U.S. under the Visiting Scholar Program.

Ohio State’s visiting scholars include:

- **Seddik Boutiouta**, department of radio communication, Institute of Telecommunications, Oran, Algeria. He is visiting the department of civil and environmental engineering and geodetic science and Professor Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska.

- **Sheherazad Youssef Ezzeldeen Ahmed**, department of basic engineering sciences, Menoufia University, Shibin El-Kom, Egypt. She is visiting the department of materials science and engineering and Professor Hendrik Verweij.

- **Suzanna Kamilova**, Kyiv department of marketing and international trade, Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine. She is visiting the department of agricultural, environmental and development economics, and Professor Alan Randall.

- **Uelo Mander**, department of geography, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Estonia. He is visiting the school of environmental and natural resources, and Professor William J. Mitsch.

- **Mbugua Mungai**, department of literature, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya. He is visiting the department of anthropology, and Associate Professor Dorothy Noyes.

- **Zlatko Pejkovski**, department of animal sciences, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia. He is visiting the
International studies has fresh Latin American twist

Abril Trigo’s goal was to provide students with a good balance between the social sciences and humanities when making adjustments to the Latin American track of the international studies major. The Distinguished Humanities Professor of Spanish and the Director of the Center for Latin American Studies, worked closely with Tony Mughan, Director of the International Studies Program and Professor of Political Science, in the redesign of the program.

"International Studies reshaped the Latin American track significantly," Trigo said. "The program maintained economics 200 as a prerequisite, as well as still requiring IS 538, Economic Development in Latin America, but the addition of a stronger foreign language requirement supplemented by another globalization course makes for more of a demanding program and is a step in the right direction. The
"International Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies worked closely together to make these improvements and this cooperation will continue into the future as we look to improve the study of Latin America in the University," Mughan said.

The significant changes included raising the foreign language requirement, including courses in Portuguese or Spanish at the 400 level, and adding international studies 640, which focuses on the globalization of Latin America, as a requirement. The new courses are already in place and ready to go for autumn 2008.

There are 10 major specializations from which students may choose within the international studies program. Offerings in regional specializations encompass: African Studies, East Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies, Slavic and East European Studies and Western European Studies. In addition to offering geographical specialties, International Studies provides a great breadth of thematic tracks: development studies, international and diplomacy studies, security and intelligence, and world business and economy.

"International studies is a good complement to other majors," Trigo explained. "Students can be extremely well prepared by pairing international studies with history, economics, or a foreign language."

The making of a study abroad program to Warsaw

Wawel Royal Castle in Krakow, Poland

While teaching a variety of courses over the years at Ohio State, Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, professor of sociology and political
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science, realized that undergraduate and graduate students who have some experience traveling overseas are much better prepared to discuss current global issues than those who have not spent any time in another country. For this reason and because Slomczynski "values an inter-cultural exposure of young social scientists for its own sake," he has facilitated students' travel abroad, particularly to Poland, the country of his origin. He regularly conducts public opinion surveys in Poland and collaborates with Polish sociologists in research on the post-communist transformation and integration with the European Union.

Over the last decade, Slomczynski has helped make arrangements for 15 Ohio State students to individually study in Poland, but he found the process very costly and time consuming. These students’ visits were not a part of the traditional study abroad programs organized by the university.

"In the fall of 2007 my former Ph.D. student, Irina Tomescu-Dubrow, asked me: ‘Why not organize a summer school in Warsaw under the Study Abroad umbrella?’" Slomczynski said. "At the beginning I was reluctant, expecting a lot of bureaucratic problems. However, the Office of International Affairs was extremely helpful in organizing the study abroad program in Warsaw, as was the Graduate School of Social Research, the host institution in Warsaw."

Slomczynski and Tomescu-Dubrow developed an intensive training and research study abroad program with two tracks, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. Students have four weeks of classroom instruction/research in Warsaw and upon their return to Ohio State, spend another month meeting individually with Slomczynski to discuss and finalize their work product. "We focus on rigorous training of students in quantitative research methods and on demonstrating to them how these methods could apply to specific public opinion surveys conducted in the region," Slomczynski said.

The first Ohio State Summer School in Warsaw took place July 3-30, 2008 and was the first study abroad program developed for sociology. To supplement the work in the classroom while in Warsaw, students also visited major international organizations that assess social and political change in the region; the program also included day visits to the cities of Krakow, Lodz, and Kazimierz Dolny.

A mix of undergraduate and graduate students combined with some graduate students from Poland participating in the program helped facilitate Ohio State students adapting well to their new environment. "The 2008 program was a success in terms of what the students have learned and the experience they gained from being in the country and
working side by side with their peers from Poland," assessed Slomczynski.

**Step by step process to develop a study abroad program**

Ohio State study abroad programs are developed in partnership with academic units and colleges to supplement the classroom experience and provide memorable and educational opportunities for students to travel in another country. The growing number of study abroad programs is part of the university’s commitment to making educationally significant study experiences in an international setting accessible to students of all curricula and backgrounds as Ohio State strives for eminence in higher education.

Ohio State-Sponsored study abroad programs are generally initiated by faculty and academic departments and carry the endorsement of appropriate department and college administrators. The Office of International Affairs can help assess study abroad program ideas and can oversee the development process so that the goals of the program are consistent with institutional goals and policies.

Faculty and departments interested in proposing a new Ohio State-sponsored program will need to provide:

- A narrative about the study abroad program which would include required coursework, learning objectives, student qualifications, length of program, possible study tours, program credit, and identifying an evaluation process, among other elements.
- Budget proposal
- Letters of support

Complete details for developing a proposal for a new study abroad program can be found at [Guidelines for Developing an Ohio State sponsored study abroad program](#).

**International Scholar Profile – Maria Cecilia Machado Parrula**
Name: Maria Cecilia Machado Parrula
Home country, city: Portugal, Lisbon
Degree: DVM
Department at Ohio State: Department of Veterinary Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine

What are your research/specialty interests? I am interested in virology, viruses as oncolytic agents, and veterinary clinical pathology.

How long have you been in the United States? 4 years and 5 months
Why did you choose Ohio State? I wanted to do a PhD and at the same time get specialized training in veterinary clinical pathology. The college of veterinary medicine at OSU through the department of veterinary biosciences at OSU is one of only two colleges in the U.S. which offer a combined residency training/graduate pathology program in veterinary clinical pathology, therefore it was the perfect choice.

What have you been doing at Ohio State as part of your exchange visit? I have been working with a mouse model of a human leukemia and the application of measles virus as an oncolytic agent to this model.

What has most surprised you about your experience in Columbus? I was surprised to see so many people exercising, especially jogging in summer. It actually influenced me to exercise more regularly; I have never been so in shape.
What has been the hardest thing to adapt to since you’ve come to Columbus? The food. In the beginning it was difficult to get used to some of the tastes. But after a couple years I was converted.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State? When I look back I think that overall the entire experience is the most exciting thing I have done in my life. I am fulfilling my biggest dream: to study in the U.S. (a dream that I have had since I was a teenager). Furthermore, I have had the chance to meet so many new people from the U.S. and from other different countries. I have never had a dull moment.

How has the Office of International Affairs helped you adapt to campus life? In my first year at OSU, the OIA was particularly helpful in getting me settled to the life in Columbus, like for example getting a U.S. driving license and getting a bank account.

International news briefs - OSU awarded global health grant

Ohio State recently has been awarded an NIH Fogarty International Center Global Health Grant. The award will help support an infrastructure and educational program that is multidisciplinary, serving the Health Sciences Colleges, other campus colleges, and the Metro High School in the mission of educating and igniting student interest in global health. The Ohio State University Center for Global Health, which was founded in 2007 to promote careers in global health research and education, will serve as the home for this effort. Daniel D. Sedmak, MD, Executive Vice Dean, College of Medicine is the principal investigator, and Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, and Richard Love, MD, of the Colleges of Medicine and Public Health, are the co-investigators.

This prestigious designation as a Fogarty Center for Global Health gives Ohio State an unparalleled opportunity to advance global health and respond to the remarkable growth in interest by students at all levels.

Study abroad applications to go online

Beginning January 2, Ohio State students will be able to apply online for study abroad programs scheduled for Summer 2009. As a result of the joint project between the Office of International Affairs and the Office of Information Technology, students will be able to access and submit their study abroad applications through a system set up on buckeyelink.osu.edu. Paper applications still will be accepted for students applying for Winter and Spring 2009 study abroad programs.
osu.edu adds international dimension

With the redesign of Ohio State’s website came the addition of "International" as a new tab on the osu.edu homepage. The International link takes the viewer to a page that contains information relating to the many international activities at Ohio State. From area studies to foreign language to global health initiatives to study abroad opportunities, the international page can help students, faculty and staff explore the university’s international perspective. Ohio State University - International.

A summer in Morocco

Cory Driver

Cory Driver is the outreach coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center. Last summer he spent five weeks continuing his field research and studying Arabic at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco.

Al Akhawayn, which translates to "the two brothers," signifies a partnership and recognition of shared lineage between the Kings of Morocco and Saudi Arabia. The university is quite young, having been dedicated by King Hassan II in 1995, but it is quickly becoming one of the best known centers for studying Arabic. I attended the Summer Arabic and North African Studies (ARANAS) program from June 28 to July 25. It was a rigorous schedule: five hours of class each day, one to two hours of tutoring, one to two hours of research, two hours for Arabic films or guest lectures and then at least two to three hours of homework.
Part of the ARANAS program enables you to volunteer within the community. I used my previously acquired knowledge of Moroccan dialectical Arabic, Darija, to learn from the directors of the Boy and Girl Scouts of Morocco that they needed some updated information about fire safety and forest conservation. I worked with my professors to produce the educational materials which had been requested.

Students at all levels in the ARANAS program also were expected to write a work of original research in Arabic. We all designed and administered surveys. This dovetailed nicely with on-going research I have been conducting in the High Atlas Mountains. Because I am fluent in Moroccan Arabic and have some knowledge of Tamazight, the mother tongue of a sizeable plurality if not the majority of Moroccans, I was able to leave the cities and conduct my interviews in more remote villages. My work focuses on Jewish communities in the High Atlas Mountains which lived in close proximity to Imazighen communities centered around Midelt. I was very pleased to find an Amazigh family which had been caretakers of the local Jewish cemetery. They were able to give fascinating oral histories of their family’s experiences with a now vanished community. I was able to write a short research piece on their stories to fulfill the ARANAS requirements, and will be adding their stories to my growing collection from that area. Ideally, this experience will color and shape my masters thesis.

The trip to Morocco was tremendously enjoyable and profitable. I was able to reconnect with some old friends, expand my knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic, and continue my research on rural Jewish communities. I look forward to using this experience to be better able to educate on the linguistic, ethnic and religious complexities in the Middle East and North Africa.

**Grant helps fund new courses relating to Africa**

Students interested in learning more about the different challenges facing Africa soon will have more courses available to them at Ohio State. The [Center for African Studies](https://www.cas.ohio-state.edu/) received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education making it possible to develop a total of nine new courses addressing the theme: "Understanding Contemporary Africa: the Challenges of Conflict, Health and Natural Resources."
The center already has supported the development of seven courses initiated over the last two years. The courses are housed in a variety of departments on campus, reflecting the intradisciplinary nature of the contemporary Africa theme. The newest course, *History of Islam in West Africa*, was developed by Dr. Ousman Kobo in the Department of History and is being taught for the first time Autumn Quarter 2008.

Kobo will help his students explore the relationship between identity politics and Islamic movements in West Africa. The course will demonstrate that conflict as well as its transformation is largely a cultural practice. It also will examine ideas about what constitutes conflicts, what are the reactions and responses and how are they resolved.

Two additional courses to be developed include *Children, Families, and Communities in Conflict Transformation* and *Somali History and Culture*. The first course will look at issues of post traumatic disorder and healing in post-conflict communities in Africa and elsewhere. Somali History and Culture will complement the Somali language program, providing contextual background for those interested in Somali Studies.

The Center for African Studies works to expand African studies curriculum across disciplines, increase interaction between Africanist faculty across campus, organize lectures and conferences and conduct outreach activities with K-12, business, government and civic groups.

**Mershon Center welcomes new postdoctoral fellows**

Two post-doctoral fellows have taken up residence at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies this fall.
Robert Rakove, who is expecting a Ph.D. in History from University of Virginia, will spend the year revising his dissertation for publication as a book.

His project, titled "Befriending the Nonaligned: Kennedy, Johnson, and the Neutralist Powers," will examine the efforts of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations to create lasting, constructive relations with leading states of the non-aligned world. Rakove defines non-aligned countries as those who declared neutrality during the Cold War, including India, Indonesia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Tanzania, and Yugoslavia.

The book will explore how U.S. policies of interaction with non-aligned powers helped define relations between the United States and its allies, many of whom had tense relations with the new post-colonial states in Africa and Asia.

Rakove will examine how the United States used foreign aid to form international relationships during the 1960s. He will also investigate how policy makers addressed issues of incompatible goals between the United States and new international acquaintances while also dealing with regional rivalries within non-aligned states.
Matthew Fehrs, who received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University, will spend his time at Mershon working on articles for publication as well as revisions to his dissertation.

His project, "Are You Talkin' to Me? The Domestic Politics of Government Signaling in International Conflicts" explores three puzzles in international relations theory:

What causes a country to have or perceive incomplete information and lead states to war?

Why, despite their high levels of transparency and freedom of information, are democracies still likely to be attacked?

What is the role of opposition groups in military crises?

To answer these questions, Fehrs developed a theory that focuses on the unity and hawkishness of government in democratic states. Fehrs hypothesizes that the more unified a government, the less likely it is to send mixed signals to potential challengers. Likewise, the more hawkish a country, the more likely it is to use military posturing and harsh rhetoric.

Fehrs plans to pursue two case-study articles. One will provide an alternative explanation for the Falklands War based on his dissertation theory by analyzing the divisions within the British government and how they were viewed by the Argentines. The second will apply Fehrs’ theory to contradictions in British signaling prior to World War I.

Ohio State professor honored with prestigious award
An Ohio State professor has been honored with the Order of the Rising Sun, the second most prestigious national decoration awarded by the Japanese government. Bradley M. Richardson, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Political Science since 1965, is one of the 4,028 individuals selected from various fields, and one of 75 foreigners from 40 countries recognized with the autumn 2008 decorations. The Japanese government awards these decorations to individuals who have contributed greatly to the nation and the public in politics, business, culture and the arts.

Richardson has interests in comparative politics, comparative political behavior, and Japanese politics. His research is concerned with conflict vs. consensus in Japanese political processes, political culture in new democracies and comparative mass behavior, including political communications.

"Bradley Richardson is the leading non-Japanese specialist on Japanese elections, including helping start some of the first academic surveys on voting in Japan," said Herb Weisberg, Chair of Ohio State’s Department of Political Science. "He helped develop our graduate program in comparative politics, teaching hundreds of graduate students in these courses, and helping start the careers of important young scholars of Japanese and East Asian politics."

During his tenure at Ohio State, Richardson served as the Director of the East Asian Studies Center and was instrumental in creating and leading the Institute for Japanese Studies. He also founded the Central Ohio Chapter of the Japan-American Society and, until recently, he served as Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Columbus.
Richardson is currently engaged in research on political communications in twelve old and new democracies; on political culture change in Japan; and a cross-national comparison of political culture trends in Germany, Japan, and Spain.

His books include Japanese Democracy: Conflict, Power, and Performance (Yale, 1997), The Japanese Voter (Yale, 1991), Business and Society in Japan (Praeger, 1981), Voting in Japan (Tokyo, 1977), and The Political Culture of Japan (California, 1973). He has also published articles in the American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Asian Studies, Asian Survey, and Journal of Modern Asian Studies. Richardson has received grants in recent years from the National Science Foundation, the Honda Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Fulbright-Hays Commission, and the Comité Conjunto de Intercambio Cultural e Educativo Hispano-Americano. He received the Ohio State University Distinguished Scholar Award in 1996.

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