International Education Council

Meeting Minutes
December 12th, 2025
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108

Members present: Krishna Daravath, Dave Viertel, Jessica Tindira, Lisa Brooks, Kristin Brown, David Melton, Micheal Beck

Members absent: Miracle Langston, Catherine Polydore, Gopal Periyannan, Kiran Padmaraju

Ex-officio present: Angela Jacobs, Tanya Willard, Tyler Custer, Bobbi Kingery

Ex-officio absent: Andrew Kerins

Visitors present: Heather Crank, Ellie Bush, Ben Reinbolt

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Kristin Brown called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Approval for November minutes will be addressed in the February meeting. The climate survey was discussed and will need further review, with discussions about separating events. Next week, there will be a coat drive for international students.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars: Tyler Custer

Mr. Tyler Custer, with International Students and Scholars, presented an enrollment update. The admissions report for spring 2026 showed 15 known visas issued, with 3 more students transferring in. Additionally, there are 17 visa appointments happening over the next month. Thus far, over 232 I-901 fees have been processed. Fall admissions stand at 958 total applications, with 302 complete and 634 incomplete. Per last meeting, visa denial rates are at an all time high.

Currently, there are travel restrictions that may affect students who planned to travel over winter break. See the attached policy for more information. There's a total of 19 countries with restrictions as follows. Full restriction and limit the entry of nationals from the following 12 countries: Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. These restrictions distinguish between, but apply to both, the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants. Partial restriction and limit the entry of nationals of the following 7 countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. These restrictions distinguish between, but apply to both, the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants. At this time EIU's International Office is advising current students from any

of the affected countries outlined above to exercise caution when considering traveling outside the United States. While students from these countries may still hold a valid F-1 visa while inside the United States, this new policy could restrict reentry.

2. **International Programs**
   AIS president, Krishna Daravanth, gave us an update on events. Currently, AIS is creating promotional videos highlighting the experiences of international students at EIU. Student Government has provided funds for events, however, there were discussions regarding needing more funding for international events. AIS is sponsoring a *Snow & Tell Social* for an end of the year celebration. To celebrate the large group of international students who will be graduating this year, they will be serving hot chocolates and cookies.

3. **Study Abroad: Heather Crank**
   Mrs. Heather Crank provided an update on faculty-led programs, study abroad promotional activities, and Morocco partnership. Thus far, there are 4 finalized faculty-led programs. For the 2025-2026 academic year, they have 64 applications. For the 2026-2027 school year, there's a total of 6 applications. For more information, see the attached report. Heather will be heading to Tangier, Morocco from January 18th to January 24th to recruit some Moroccan partner schools for EIU during the NAFSA Inaugural Global Summit.

III. Dean's Report: Dr. Angie Jacobs

Dean Jacobs touched on IEC & Beyond Borders, new OISS staff members, strategic planning, and Empower. Due to restructuring, two new staff members, Emily Strawn and Amy Annis, will be starting in the OISS at the beginning of January. Emily Strawn is a new Program Assistant for the office who specializes in OPT and other requests. Amy Annis will take on the role of International Admissions Counselor. On January 9th, a strategic planning meeting will be held. All are welcome to join the meeting starting at 8 AM for breakfast. At 9 AM, OISS will be working on a strategic plan for the department in the coming years.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

USCIS Implements Additional National Security Measures in the Wake of National Guard Shooting by Afghan National

Release Date

11/27/2025

USCIS will consider relevant country-specific factors when using its broad discretionary authorities regarding aliens from 19 high-risk countries after halting refugee resettlement from Afghanistan and the entry of Afghan nationals in the first year of the Trump administration.

WASHINGTON— In the wake of the shooting of two National Guard service members in Washington, D.C., Wednesday by an Afghan national, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued new guidance allowing for negative, country-specific factors to be considered when vetting aliens from 19 high-risk countries. This guidance comes after the Trump administration halted refugee resettlement from Afghanistan and the entry of Afghan nationals in its first year of office.

"My primary responsibility is to ensure that every alien is vetted and screened to the maximum degree possible," said USCIS Director Joseph Edlow. "This includes an assessment of where they are coming from and why. Yesterday's horrific events make it abundantly clear the Biden administration spent the last four years dismantling basic vetting and screening standards, prioritizing the rapid resettlement of aliens from high-risk countries over the safety of American citizens. The Trump administration takes the opposite approach. Effective immediately, I am issuing new policy guidance that authorizes USCIS officers to consider country-specific factors as significant negative factors when reviewing immigration requests. American lives come first."

The updated guidance, including consideration of country-specific factors such as a country's ability to issue secure identity documents, will further strengthen USCIS' implementation of President Trump's Presidential Proclamation (PP) 10949, Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats. It will allow USCIS officers to more meaningfully assess whether an alien is a threat to public safety and national security.

This policy guidance is effective immediately and applies to requests pending or filed on or after Nov. 27, 2025.

For more information, see the USCIS Policy Alert.

The 19 countries outlined in this policy are as follows:

Fully restrict and limit the entry of nationals from the following 12 countries:

Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. These restrictions distinguish between, but apply to both, the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants.

Partially restrict and limit the entry of nationals of the following 7 countries:

Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. These restrictions distinguish between, but apply to both, the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants.

Things to Consider

At this time EIU's International Office is advising current students from any of the affected countries outlined above to exercise caution when considering traveling outside the United States. While students from these countries may still hold a valid F-1 visa while inside the United States, this new policy could restrict reentry.

If you have questions or need more information, contact the Office of International Students and Scholars at interntl@eiu.edu or (217) 581-2321.

IEC Monthly Meeting – 12/12/2025

Faculty Led Programs Update

These are the finalized programs we have thus far.

- Exploration of Italian Business, Technology, History, and Culture – Jay Grabiec and Nic Robinson
- Art in Florence and Rome – Dr. Eskilson and Jenny Chi
- CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica – Dr. Throneburg
- Sport Industry in the United Kingdom – Dr. James Barkley

Other Study Abroad Programs and Study Abroad Scholarships on Academicworks

Deadlines for J-Term, Spring Break, Spring Semester: - October 28th
Deadline has passed, and scholarships have been disbursed.

Summer 2025, Faculty Leds – February 11th, 2026

Fall and Academic Year 2025-2026 – March 4th, 2026

Fall 2025 Enrollment

We have 7 Students going abroad this fall.

2 South Korea, Costa Rica, Ireland, Spain, Australia, Germany

AY 2025-2026 Applications (as of 12/12/2025)

0 – both AY students decided to return this fall.

Total = 0 Students

Spring 2026 Enrollment (as of 12/12/2025)

We have 6 Students participating this spring.

2 Costa Rica, Australia, Greece, Japan, New Zealand

J-Term 2026 Enrollment (as of 12/12/2025)

Total = 0 Students

Summer 2026 (as of 12/12/2025)

11 students have started an application

1 has been accepted

4 students have committed

Total = 16 Applications

Faculty Led 2026 (as of 12/12/2025)

Applications for Exploration of Italian Business, Technology, History, and Culture

- 19 Started
- 4 Accepted
- 5 Committed
- Total = 28 Applications

Application for the Art in Florence and Rome Program

- 3 Applications started

Applications for the CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica program

- 1 Application Started

Applications for Sport Industry in the UK

- 1 Student Accepted
- 2 Applications Started

Total = 35 applications

Fall 2026 Applications (as of 12/12/2025)

4 students have started an application

1 student has committed

Total = 5 applications

Academic Year 2026-2027 Applications (as of 12/12/2025)

Total = 6 Applications

Total Applications 25-26 as of 12/12/2025 – 64 applications

Total Applications 26-27 as of 12/12/2025 – 6 applications

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Past

11/5 – Class Presentation 12pm to 1pm

Study Abroad presented to 85 First Year Education Students and many stayed after the presentation to answer questions.

11/7 – First Gen Fair – 3pm to 5pm UBR

The Study Abroad Office had a table at the First Gen Fair for First Generation Week where about 15 students came to our table to learn about study abroad opportunities

11/11 – Open House – We had our last open house of the semester where approximately 100 prospective students and their families stopped by our table for information.

International Education Week!

11/10 – Echoes of the World – Arcola/Tuscola Room

We had 3 students show up, 1 student getting ready to study in New Zealand, and 2 international students who talked about their experiences here at EIU.

11/11 – International Game Night! Blair 1207

We were only expecting a small crowd, but we had 10-15 students show up to play UNO and eat pizza!

11/12 – Study Abroad 101 Session - Blair 1207

We had one student attend about the options to study abroad on campus.

11/13 – International Film Fest – Martinsville Room

3 students attended this event. We debuted 4 short films from Argentina, South Africa, Germany, and Spain. After the showing the students voted that the South African Film *Scapegoat* was their favorite.

11/14 – Global Food Night!

Global Food Night was a success! There were foods from Bangladesh, Nepal, United States, and Costa Rica there for everyone to try. After discussion on the different foods, we all joined in for an intense game of UNO – the students favorite card game.

11/15- Global Culture Night –

While Ben and AIS orchestrated this, I was happy to attend and hear the stories and traditions of students from around the world.





Photos on the right are from the Global Food Night. There was Pitha from Bangladesh, Barra from Nepal, Chili Mac from the United States, and Gallo Pinto from Costa Rica. The final photo is everyone having a laugh while playing UNO.

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Future

12/12 – Admitted Student Day: We will have a table for this event where an estimated 150 students and their families are expected to attend.

All Finals Week – De-stress During Finals! 10am to 2pm – Blair 1207

Every day during Finals Week we will have Blair 1207 open from 10am to 2pm for students to de-stress and recharge. There will be coloring pages, ornament creation, Christmas tag creation, Aboriginal Dot Painting, and games for students to play.

Other News – I will be heading to Tangier, Morocco from January 18th to January 24th to recruit some Moroccan partner schools for us during the NAFSA Inaugural Global Summit! I will update you with information from the summit upon my return.