

Creating and Maintaining Success and Belonging for **International Students** through Global Connections

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Wake Forest University

Rayna Minnigan Harris (she/her)



- Immigration Specialist, DSO, ARO for Wake Forest University's Center for Immigration Services & Support (ISS)
- 7 years in the International Education field
- ISS team consists of 5 staff members and 2 graduate assistants

Tara Grischow (she/her)

- Senior Immigration Specialist, DSO/ARO for Wake Forest University's Center for Immigration Services & Support (ISS)
- Almost 10 years in the International Education field.



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Indigeous People, the original inhabitants, on whose traditional territory we are standing on currently.

We acknowledge their pasts, present and future.

Changing our Language

We aim to be purposeful with our language and recognizing that common terminology may not be received by all.

For example, identifying "underrepresented" instead of "minority"

Wake Forest University

Total undergraduate enrollment: 5,472 Graduate & professional schools: 3,478 Total university enrollment: 8,950 (for WFU's 2021-2022 school year)



WFU has a little less that 1,000 international students between our main campus, graduate schools, the medical campus, and Optional Practical Training (OPT).

Connect@Wake Shanghai



A unique opportunity to Wake Forest University, this is a week long program in Shanghai, China prior to the beginning of the Fall semester, that allows rising first year WFU international students to sharpen academic writing, preparation to come to the U.S., getting acclimated to U.S. cultural, and become connected with faculty, staff, and students. Also allowing these students to earn additional WFU credit.

Connect@Wake Shanghai



Program Planning and Budget

- Donor
- Housing local hotel and conference center
- Hotel and off site social activities
- Meals
- Faculty member fee (if credit bearing)
- Travel and Transportation
- Visas
- Supplies

Connect@Wake Shanghai



Campus Partners

- Currently led by Professor J. Smart from the English Department
- The Writing Center
- Registrar's office
- Undergraduate admissions office
- University Counseling Center
- University Library
- Upperclassmen
- Study Away

What is it?



Currently, a week long program prior to the beginning of the Fall semester, that allows rising first year WFU international students to sharpen academic writing and become connected with faculty, staff, and students. Also allowing these students to earn additional WFU credit.

Base marketing off the following premises:

- An opportunity to become acclimated to the U.S. culture and academic setting weeks prior to the beginning of classes.
 The goal to create a foundation;
- Connecting with campus leadership;
- It's a credit bearing program to get a jump start on the student's academic career at Wake Forest;
- Become educated about ethical research and how to not conduct plagiarism.

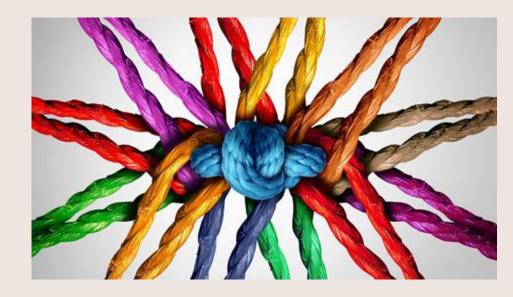
Program Budget

- On-campus housing. What are the charges per Residence Life & Housing?
- On-campus or off-campus social activities
- Meals
- Faculty member fee (if credit bearing)



Campus Partners

- English department currently led by Professor J. Smart
- Registrar's office
- Undergraduate admissions office
- University Counseling Center
- University Library
- Upperclassmen
- Catering
- Housing



Assessment

Connect@Wake Student Outcomes (Scale 0 [low] to 10 [high])

Category	Before Connect@Wake	After Connect@Wake
Confidence in academic writing	3.50	7.08
Understanding of plagiarism	5.00	8.45
Knowledge of ZSR Library	0.92	8.50
Understanding of International Students and Scholars Office	2.00	7.92
Confidence to navigate roommate issues	5.42	7.92
Confidence interacting with other students	4.42	8.25
Confidence to succeed academically	4.83	7.42





Future Plans

Connect@Wake

- Making adjustments to better serve international students
- Will propose this be to be part of the Pre-Orientation programming beginning the Fall 2023 school year



Connect with Us

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Let's Discuss

