

## **CSSW International Students Program**

After extensive consultation, our faculty designed a five-consecutive-term program for international students who are pursuing higher degrees in social work but are unfamiliar with the U.S. social welfare system. Called the International Students Program (ISP), it offers international students an opportunity to get up to speed on the special features of U.S. social services, and improve and enhance their English skills, before beginning their field education.

As a member of the International Students Program (ISP), you'll receive an introduction to social work practice in the United States—including the organizational structures and operation of American social service agencies—and learn about a variety of social welfare issues in this country.

### **SUMMER LANGUAGE COURSE**

Beginning in 2013, the faculty of CSSW has partnered with Columbia University's American Language Program (ALP) to design a unique six-week summer course for non-native English speakers, called **English for Professional Purposes: Social Work**.

International students from a country where English is a second language are required to enroll in this summer program, which generally begins on the first Monday in July.

This daily integrated-skills class includes:

- English language instruction—speaking, reading, writing and comprehension.
- An introduction to key concepts in social work and social work institutions: e.g., self-awareness, the U.S. social system, social welfare policy, and an overview of social services).

Students have guest lecturers and visits from CSSW faculty and field agency representatives, who discuss course and field internship expectations. In addition to helping you improve your English language proficiency, this program has been designed so that you begin learning social work concepts and skills necessary to succeed in your classes and field placement.

[Click here](#) for additional details, dates and cost of the summer term.

### **FALL TERM**

Our hope is that when you are assessed at the end of this ALP summer session, you will have demonstrated mastery of the learning objectives of this course and will enroll in social work classes in the Fall term as part of the 5-term International Students Program. In the Fall term, ISP students enroll in several social work courses – Social Welfare Policy, Social Work Research, Human Behavior and the Social Environment and a Professional Immersion

Seminar – and then begin their first-year field placement in the subsequent Spring term (January-May). ISP students also are concurrently enrolled in required practice courses (e.g. T7100 Foundations of Social Work Practice), and continue their practice courses and field work through the Summer term (May-July).

During Fall Orientation (Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2017), some international students will be required to take [English language proficiency exams](#) that are administered by the University's [American Language Program](#) (ALP) that will determine whether you also will need to enroll in the course Z0800 English for Social Workers in the Fall, along with your SW courses. If you exceed expectations during the summer session, you could be exempted from this Fall English class. *NOTE: In the unfortunate event that you do not demonstrate mastery of the learning objectives of the ALP summer course, you will be required to take a leave of absence and to improve your English before you may register for classes at CSSW.*

## **COST**

Tuition for ISP students is **\$18,180 for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017\*\***, which allows you to register for up to 16.5 credits per term, at a cost equivalent of 15 credits. The Summer 2017 flat rate will be **\$14,460**, for up to 13.5 credits. (Our flat-rate tuition plan does not cover classes taken at Teacher's College, Jewish Theological Seminary or Union Theological Seminary. If you choose to register for a course at one of these schools, you will be charged tuition in addition to the flat-rate cost.)

NOTE: In addition to the fees charged to all full-time students, international students are charged a \$70 International Service Charge each term. The above tuition figure does not include the cost of the Summer ALP program, which can be found [here](#). Details about the various fees charged by the School and University during the academic year can be found [here](#).

## **POSSIBLE EXEMPTIONS**

In a few instances, an international student may be exempted from the Summer English for Professional Purposes: Social Work course and/or the ISP based on strong English-language skills and adequate experience either working in the U.S. or an English-speaking country or with an English-speaking population. An assessment about a student's English-language proficiency is made by ALP staff during the admissions process to CSSW. A student may request a re-evaluation by contacting the Director of Admissions at [cussw-admit@columbia.edu](mailto:cussw-admit@columbia.edu).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the ISP can be found [online](#).

*\*\*2017-2018 Tuition and fees won't be available until after July 1, 2017, when they are approved and released by the Trustees of the University. For planning purposes, you may estimate a 4% tuition increase for the above listed figures for the 2016-2017 academic year.*