International Ambassador Program
Meet Our Fall 2015 International Ambassador
About the Ambassador Program

The International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) International Ambassador Program matches globally-minded students who are familiar with the campus and Salt Lake City with incoming international students. Ambassadors help new international students adjust to life at the U and in the U.S. by assisting at International Student Orientation and welcome events, answering common questions asked by new international students, and providing support during orientation.

Ambassador Mission

The mission of the Ambassador program is to provide new international students with support, guidance, resources and advice during International Student Orientation.

Ambassador Description

Ambassadors are experienced students from a variety of backgrounds who serve as role models to new international students by helping them transition to the University of Utah through individual interactions throughout International Student Orientation. Ambassadors strive for cultural and global competence and desire to help build the U’s global campus.
Team Captains

Deepika Malla
International Ambassador
Document Check In Team Captain

Kha Nguyen
International Ambassador
I-94/iStart Team Captain

Amy Yu
International Ambassador
Scanning Team Captain

Brisa Zavala
International Ambassador
Campus Expert Team Captain
Above: Document Check In Team

Below: Campus Experts Team
Above: I-94/iStart Team

Below: Scanning Team
Meet Our
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“I applied to be an ambassador because I enjoy meeting and helping students from around the world. Also, whenever I have found myself in a foreign country, the people there volunteered their time and effort to help me. I feel a strong inclination to pay it forward to promote global friendship.”

-Dallin

Dallin Abendroth
Hometown: Kaysville, UT
Major: Computer Science & Chinese
Year: Fifth Year
Language(s): English, Chinese

“I like helping out people especially International students because I am international too and I went through the difficulties that they may face.”

–Majeed

Majeed Alkhayat
Hometown: Saudi Arabia
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Year: Senior
Native Language: Arabic, English
“On the formal side, I am a PhD candidate and a research assistant at Pharmacy School. With a pharmacy background, my goal is to combine the clinical knowledge I have with research skills I am learning to help improve patient care.

On the other side, I like learning about different cultures and helping people. The International Ambassador program allowed me to be part of ISS welcoming family, make international students' transitions easier, and 'paying it forward'. “ –Eman

Eman Biltaji
Hometown: Jordan
Major: Pharmacotherapy
Year: 4th Year Ph.D.
Language(s): Arabic, English, French

“I am an international student majoring in chemistry. This is my junior year at the U. I like to see movies and play basketball. I like helping international student to fit in the U. There are lots of international students that are lacking the knowledge of resources or information from the University of Utah. I want to help those students to get involve with this amazing community. Having such amazing experience also helps me on the resume and non-academic activities.” –Stuart

Stuart Cai
Hometown: China
Major: Chemistry
Year: Junior
Language(s): Mandarin, Cantonese, English
“I decided to be an International Ambassador because I love all things international! I’ve studied abroad in Paraguay, Germany, Costa Rica, and Spain and am going to Cuba this fall with the U. It’s been fantastic meeting international students and helping them navigate all the challenges that face them as they move to the U.S. and adjust to the culture here, since I’ve faced those same challenges myself in my experiences abroad.” –Uinta

Uinta Cook  
**Hometown**: Salt Lake City, UT  
**Major**: International Studies & Spanish  
**Year**: Junior  
**Language(s)**: English, Spanish, German

“My name is Huy Doan, I come from Vietnam and I am currently studying Biology. My favorite hobby is cooking. Besides that, I also enjoy being outside and socializing with friends. I love to get to know and help other students, so I decide to become International Student Ambassador. I know how it feels to be in a new environment and how difficult it is to adapt to an unfamiliar culture. I hope I can bring the connection and friendship to new foreign students.” –Huy

Huy Doan  
**Hometown**: Vietnam  
**Major**: Biology  
**Year**: Junior  
**Language(s)**: Vietnamese, English
Juanne Giravi
Hometown: Kurdistan, Iraq
Major: Psychology, Pre-PA
Year: Senior
Language(s): Kurdish, English

“I am a 4th year college student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a career as a Physician Assistant (PA). I wanted to join International Student Services as an ambassador to enhance my leadership skills, welcome students from all over the world and become engaged in different cultures outside of my own.” - Juanne

YeoJin Jessica Jung
Hometown: Seoul, South Korea
Major: Undeclared
Year: Sophomore
Language(s): Korean, English

“Hi guys this is Jessica 😊 I'm from South Korea and came to the United States when I was 13. I wanted to be the international ambassador because I went through what most of you guys have or will be going through and I would love to help you guys!” - Jessica
“I was born and raised in Salt Lake City and this is my last year at the university. During college, my best experiences took place abroad, working in Costa Rica and studying on a Boren scholarship in southern Brazil.

When I lived abroad, local students were a huge help to me as I tried to navigate foreign cultures, bureaucracies, and languages. I wanted to be an International Ambassador so that I could help pay their help forward to international students in my own country. I also wanted to practice my language skills I gained abroad and learn about other cultures and countries.” -Matt

Matt Kirkegaard
Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT
Major: Political Science & Environmental Studies
Year: Senior
Language(s): Portuguese, Spanish, English

“As an international student, I am aware of the difficulties they may face. Guidance is very important for the freshmen students so that their experience at the U is memorable. When I came to US I got the same warm welcome by the other ambassadors and at the moment I decided that I want to be an ambassador too. It gives me great happiness to help the freshmen students and make them feel at home. I love making new friends from all over the world. I am thankful for this awesome opportunity. Go Utes!”

–Paarth

Paarth Lakhani
Hometown: Mumbai
Major: Computer Science
Year: Junior
Language(s): Hindi, Sindhi, English
Hi there! My name is Yinfeng Liu and I am a senior studying Operations Management. I was born in Beijing and came to the Salt Lake as an international student in 2012. I joined the Ambassador Team because I love to meet more international students.” –Leo

Yinfeng Liu  
**Hometown:** Beijing, China  
**Major:** Operations Management  
**Year:** Senior  
**Language(s):** Chinese, English

Hello everyone, My name is Deepika Malla. I was born in Kathmandu, Nepal and moved to the U.S at the age of 12. I am double majoring in International Studies and Ethnic Studies. Being an ambassador is a privilege for me as it gives me opportunities to meet new people every semester and be friends with them. It is always scary to be in a completely new place with a new language, custom, culture, and system. Through this program, I wanted to be that familiar face on campus that students can always come for help without any hesitation. Also, being an ambassador gives me a chance to learn things from different perspectives and value diversity in life.” –Deepika

Deepika Malla  
**Hometown:** Kathmandu, Nepal  
**Major:** International Studies & Ethnic Studies  
**Year:** Senior  
**Language(s):** Nepali, English, Hindi
“I was exposed to the world (outside of Malaysia) at such a young age and I believe my love for travelling, meeting people and experiencing the different cultures grew from there thus why I wanted to be part of this program - I get to make new friends and work with such amazing people at the same time!” –Lina

Nurlina Mazlan  
*Hometown: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*  
*Major: International Studies*  
*Year: Senior*  
*Language(s): Malay, English, French*

“My name is M.J. and am majoring in Biology & Economics. I was born in Seoul, Korea. I joined international ambassador because I’ve always had sincere interest in people from different cultures and backgrounds. Since I’m a senior, I know there are many different and exciting things to learn here at the U and I would love to tell international students about it thus, we could create many unforgettable memories together. Most importantly, I want to be there for international students!” –MJ

MyeongJu MJ McGuire  
*Hometown: Seoul, Korea*  
*Major: Biology & Economics*  
*Year: Senior*  
*Language(s): English, Korean, Japanese*
“Meet up with new people, make new friends! This has been a lot of fun for me 😊” – Afiq

Afiq Mokhtar
Hometown: Malaysia
Major: Geology
Year: Senior
Language(s): Malay, English

“Being an international student myself, I understand the process of moving to a new school in a culture different than one’s own can be quite overwhelming. There are numerous immigration documents required, regulations, and customs that we may not be familiar with. Transitioning to the University of Utah, I found it very helpful to have the help of caring ISSS staff and international students who had gone through the process. To me, it was a necessary step for both acclimating to this new culture and maximizing my experience at the University of Utah.

” - Flo

Florian Nattero
Hometown: Rouen, France
Major: Psychology, Health Behavioral Science and Human Development & Family Consumer Studies
Year: Fifth Year
Language(s): French, Spanish, English
“My name is Kha Nguyen and I'm a senior majoring in Exercise and Sport Science. I was born in Vietnam and have been in the United States for 15 years. I wanted to be an International Ambassador because I love helping and working with a wide variety of individuals. The International Ambassador program gave me a great opportunity to interact with international students as they begin a new journey at the University of Utah. Go Utes!” –Kha

Kha Nguyen  
**Hometown:** Lai Thieu, Vietnam  
**Major:** Exercise and Sport Science  
**Year:** Senior  
**Language(s):** Vietnamese, English

“Hi there! I'm Tanner, a senior at the U majoring in biology and loving every minute of it! I'm also a pre-medical student so my ultimate plan is to go to medical school and get my MD. I decided to become an International Ambassador to meet incredible new people and to help make sure the incoming student's experience at the U started off great!” –Tanner

Tanner Palmer  
**Hometown:** South Jordan, UT  
**Major:** Biology  
**Year:** Senior  
**Language(s):** German, English
"My name is Amy and I am a senior studying Medical Laboratory Science and Health, Society, and Policy. I was born in Salt Lake City and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. I became an International Ambassador because I love meeting new people and helping them adjust to life at the University.” –Amy

Amy Yu
Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan & Salt Lake City, UT
Major: Medical Laboratory Science and Health, Society & Policy
Year: Senior
Language(s): Mandarin, English

"Hello! I was born and raised in Salt Lake City however I travel frequently to visit my family in Mexico. Spanish is my first tongue followed by English, Nahuatl and a bit of Korean. In my spare time I love to catch up on K-dramas, hang out with friends, go hiking and trying new things. I wanted to become an international ambassador to meet international students, make new friends and learn new things!” -Brisa

Brisa Zavala
Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT
Major: Chemistry
Year: Senior
Language(s): Spanish, English, Nahuatl
International Orientation Week
Friday, August 14th - Friday, August 21st