information for international students
“This university is always moving forward and that’s really important,” says Esteban Lizano, a 2001 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University with family roots in Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Switzerland.

“Students have close contact with professors, and professors care about the development of students,” explains Lizano, an economics and business administration double major, adding: “Faculty challenge you.”

Lizano—who was vice president of the class of 2001, president of the Economics Society, and treasurer of the student government—says that it’s easy for all Illinois Wesleyan students, including international students, to become involved in the life of the university.

Associate Professor of Sociology Teddy Amoloza, a native of the Philippines, was a teenager when she first came to the United States as a student. Through that experience, she knows firsthand the profound impact that international cultural experiences can have on young people.

“Knowing how my horizon has been broadened, how my perspective has been enriched by my international experiences,” says Amoloza, who heads IWU’s International Studies Program, “I am very passionate about international education.”

Illinois Wesleyan has been passionate about international education for more than a century. Bring us your strengths and your dreams.
Illinois Wesleyan University’s first international students arrived on campus in August, 1889. Tokyo residents Y. Osawa and K. Tanaka were Japanese lawyers, who came to the United States to continue their legal studies. When Osawa graduated from IWU, he wrote in the local newspaper: “For my alma mater,” Illinois Wesleyan, “I shall always cherish the most sacred affection and shall regard the year passed within its walls one of the happiest of my life.”

More than a century later, international students still share that feeling. Illinois Wesleyan enrolls students from 22 nations. Faculty also represent a global perspective with professors from Algeria, China, Colombia, England, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and many other locales.

“Illinois Wesleyan students are exposed to an international environment,” says Mauricio Parra, associate professor of Hispanic Studies and a member of the International Studies Team, who is originally from Colombia.

A Context for Imagination

For more than 110 years, students from around the globe have traveled to Illinois Wesleyan for an exceptional education. IWU is a small college with big opportunities for students.

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine, a leading U.S. monthly publication, ranks Illinois Wesleyan 12th among the “top 100 values in private colleges” in the United States. (There are more than 1,100 private colleges in the United States— campuses not operated by state or federal governments). IWU is tied for 12th place with Princeton University, Dartmouth College, and two other campuses.

Illinois Wesleyan also has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honors organization in the United States. Phi Beta Kappa was founded at Virginia’s College of William and Mary just five months after the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. There are just 262 PBK chapters in America.

International students flourish in Illinois Wesleyan’s challenging and creative atmosphere. “We are proud of the high academic achievement of our international students while they attend Illinois Wesleyan. Given their records, we always expect them to graduate with honors on their way to Ph.D.s,” says Minor Myers, jr, president of Illinois Wesleyan University.

International Education: An Illinois Wesleyan Tradition

The Illinois Wesleyan campus is located in a safe and scenic residential neighborhood, providing a park-like setting for students to study, live, and pursue their recreational interests.
Illinois Wesleyan is an undergraduate campus, offering only programs leading to bachelor's degrees. All classes are taught by professors, not graduate students. We offer undergraduates options reserved at other universities for graduate students, or even faculty. Our departments are organized into a College of Liberal Arts, with separate Schools of Art, Music, Theatre Arts, and Nursing. In our community the faculty know each other. Each department and school is a concentrated program ready to cooperate with other programs to meet the multiple interests of a single student. Our structure allows the faculty to help students achieve several dreams in one academic program.

The academic year runs from August to May. Students take four classes during a 15-week fall term (August-December) and another four classes in the spring (January-April). They also have the option of participating in one class during May Term. This single-course option may be fulfilled in several ways: taking one, in-depth class on campus; traveling to U.S. or international locales; working on an internship in government, business, or elsewhere; or conducting research in partnership with a professor.

IWU’s wide-ranging academic program offers 30 majors and 43 minors. Classes average about 18 students each, while enrollment in laboratory courses is about 15 students. Consequently, The Fiske Guide to Colleges, a prominent U.S. college reference, points out that Illinois Wesleyan’s “finest attribute is the personalized attention students receive from the faculty.”
Professors With Students

Illinois Wesleyan is first and foremost a place where students and professors work together, exploring diverse fields in the classroom and through joint research.

When Professor Michael Seeborg won the top teaching award in 1999, he expressed the university's philosophy about an essential partnership between students and faculty. Seeborg, an economist, said “effective teachers have to have a passion about their discipline and a passion about learning through a dialogue with students.” Seeborg said his greatest pleasure is “working one-on-one with students. I really enjoy working with students on research projects and seeing students' critical-thinking skills improve and mature—that brings a lot of satisfaction.”

Illinois Wesleyan is not a place to find anonymity. Expect your professors to continue correspondence with you even after graduation.

The Advantages of a Liberal Arts Education

Illinois Wesleyan is a nationally renowned liberal arts university. Professor Parra, who first came to the United States as a 19-year-old student, explains the value of the liberal arts this way.

“Here is an element of exploration in the liberal arts,” he says. “You have the element of learning different subjects from a humanistic viewpoint.”

A another way to look at a liberal arts education is that it offers students a wide range of choices—choices that help students stretch and sharpen their intellectual curiosity.

Multitalented Students A Specialty

Illinois Wesleyan seeks students who aspire to achievements in more than one field. Some colleges ask students to focus narrowly. We are just the opposite. We offer broad opportunities for those who want to do two or more things. Scientists are often musicians as well, and we eagerly recruit students who want to be economists, lawyers or scientists and continue violin or piano. Robin Favor, a 2000 music/biology graduate, exemplified this when she returned from her first year of medical school to play a piano recital in Presser Hall.

Diana Imaka, a 1996 economics graduate, is now a business consultant with Deloitte & Touche back home in Latvia. "It was lovely," she said, "that I could take up dance classes and art... I would not give up for [anything in] life the opportunity to dance jazz, to do ceramics, or study psychology. It is simply brilliant."

Combinations are virtually limitless, given the strength of the individual programs. Nursing students are commonly also linguists, biologists are

Most Selective
College guides rank Illinois Wesleyan among the most selective colleges in the United States.

Academics
The Fiske Guide to Colleges states: "With its diverse academics, [and] caring faculty... Illinois Wesleyan University is the perfect place for the multitalented student to thrive."

Science Thrives
Barron's 300 Best Buys in College Education wrote: "With the addition of a new science facility and equipment, the undergraduate program could surpass that of any national university."

Technology
Yahoo! Internet Life, the monthly magazine, rated Illinois Wesleyan 8th "most wired" college in the United States. The Ames Library puts students in touch with resources all over the globe.
artists, and computer students play in the Jazz Ensemble. Challenge us with the possibility of your dreams.

Jared Brown, professor of Theatre Arts, believes a liberal arts campus is best for his students, compared to a conservatory, with its narrower focus on the techniques of theatre.

“In my opinion,” Brown says, “students of theatre are best served by liberal arts undergraduate training: training that encourages and nurtures the growth of artists, instilling in its students an appreciation for great theatre and encouraging them to aspire to the highest level of artistry they can attain.

“But the point applies to all students,” he adds. “If a theatre major can benefit from studying biology, so can a biology major profit by studying theatre.”

These intellectual adventures take place in the classroom, in the laboratory, on stage, in the studio, and on the playing fields. But they also take place away from campus. “International students can see how U.S. society works at the university and other levels,” Professor Parra explains.

“These students,” he adds, “can become involved in athletics, musical ensembles, and other groups on campus. But, they also can become involved in community activities in Bloomington, neighboring communities, and a major city like Chicago, where there are people from all over the world.

“I take my students to Chicago,” Professor Parra says, “to visit various communities and museums—to expose them to different cultures within the United States.”

Student Research

Join a research group and soar. The Science Center has individual research labs for student projects that can last year round. The Journal of Organic Chemistry is the senior journal in its field. In January 2001, it carried an article on bismuth compounds by Professor Ram Mohan, a native of India, and three students published. When they did the research, two of the students were juniors, one was a sophomore.

Check our physics department on the website to see the exciting research Gabe Spalding, assistant professor of Physics, has underway with his students. Usually students wait until graduate school for such opportunities. He often makes the comment that the great virtue of a small college is that senior faculty know individual students by the end of their first year. They are therefore in a good position to guide them to exciting research by their junior year.

Each April students from every department gather for the annual John Wesley Powell Research Conference, named in honor of our former professor who was later director of Geology and Ethnology at the Smithsonian. One year a student found a new species. International students are always prominent among our investigators.
Global Options

International students regularly take part in our travel courses to all parts of the globe. In recent years, trips have gone to Brazil, Kenya, China, Australia and Ireland. Students study abroad during the regular academic year and May Term.

Students have joined in our visiting program at Pembroke College, Oxford, the college of Samuel Johnson and Sir William Blackstone, where they experience tutorials, row on the Isis, live in college, and wear their gowns to dinner in hall.

The Campus

Illinois Wesleyan’s 76-acre (30.8 hectares) campus, located in a safe and historic residential neighborhood, is landscaped with about 900 Dogwood, Pine, Catalpa, and other trees, providing a park-like setting for students to study, live, and pursue their recreational interests.

There are 48 buildings spread around the campus. The university’s oldest building, Stevenson Hall, was constructed in 1910 with financial assistance from the world-famous businessman-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. IWU’s newest building—the $26-million Ames Library—was funded, in part, by B. Charles Ames, IWU class of 1950, and his wife, Joyce Eichhorn Ames, class of 1949, for whom the university’s School of Art is named. Mr. Ames has headed several major corporations, including Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Company.

The Twin Cities

The twin cities of Bloomington and Normal, Illinois, form a community of more than 110,000, with a thriving business community. The adjoining cities are the headquarters for some of America’s largest insurance and agriculture companies, as well as Mitsubishi’s high-tech U.S. automobile-manufacturing plant.

Bloomington also is an historic community. Abraham Lincoln practiced law in the area before he was elected the 16th President of the United States. He delivered his famous 1856 “lost speech” in Bloomington about the organization of the Republican Party, the party he headed just four years later, when he was elected to the White House. Bloomington was the home of Adlai Stevenson, vice president of the United States from 1893-97, and one of our first students in the 1850s. His residence is located a short walk from the campus. Bloomington was also home of his grandson, Adlai Stevenson II, who was governor of Illinois, ran unsuccessfully for president of the United States in 1952 and 1956, and served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

“We are teaching today tomorrow’s leaders, and tomorrow’s leaders cannot be effective if they cannot understand the world from a multi-dimensional perspective. That is why we have faculty members from across campus teaching international studies courses.”

— Teodora Amoloza
Associate Professor of Sociology
2000 DuPont Teaching Excellence Award Winner (Illinois Wesleyan’s top teaching honor)
Housing

Illinois Wesleyan has 16 residence halls, which offer a wide range of living experiences for students. Some halls are high-rise, a maximum of seven-floors tall, while others are small houses, where students live in apartment-like units. One small hall, Kemp Hall, is designated the International House, a place where domestic and international students live together and share their interests in global issues. On-campus housing is available for international students during holidays and breaks as well.

While housing units vary from building to building, they generally can include: lounges, fireplaces, kitchenettes, computer/study areas, television-viewing areas, laundry facilities, game rooms, vending machines, and storage areas. All traditional housing facilities are air-conditioned, offer free cable TV and connection to the Internet, and have private telephones.

Over eighty percent of our students live on campus either in residence halls or in social fraternities for men, social sororities for women, or professional fraternities focusing on group interests like music.
Dining

Students have many international dining opportunities throughout the year. Special meals are available on campus, for example, to mark the religious and ethnic holidays of Ramadan, Passover, and Kwanzaa. Additionally, the Student Senate brings cuisine, representing various international communities, to the university in connection with special events. Sophomore Erika Meister told the Argus, the University’s weekly newspaper, “I really enjoy the theme nights and the international cuisine. They give me the opportunity to try new things.”

Orientation Program

A two-and-one-half day orientation program is scheduled for international students to familiarize them with the campus, as well as handling some lifestyle issues: establishing bank accounts, getting a Social Security number (Social Security is a U.S. government program), and understanding aspects of required health insurance. “This orientation program gives international students a chance to get to know each other,” explains Paul J. Schley, director of International Admissions. “It helps students build a support network and that’s important.”

The orientation program focuses, in part, on faculty expectations for students. Many international students, Schley says, come from education systems where they have a single exam at the end of the semester. Here expectations are different. Various types of work—term papers, quizzes, experiments, and exams—may be due throughout the semester. “Sometimes,” Schley points out, “students are surprised that faculty encourage questions and debate in class. Often international students come from an environment where teachers simply lecture.”

The orientation program is continued throughout the year with monthly meetings designed to share information with international students, as well as to assist them with practical matters like filing income-tax forms.

Host Families

International students may be assigned to host families, residing in the Bloomington-Normal area. Great care is taken in matching the interests of international students and host families. Host families may invite international students to their homes for dinner—perhaps for pizza and to watch a movie. Additionally, host families may introduce international students to various aspects of American life such as football or basketball games, picnics, or cultural events in major metropolitan areas like Chicago or St. Louis. International students also might be invited to special family functions, such as weddings or holiday celebrations at Thanksgiving (an American national holiday in November) and Christmas.

“I want to return to the coast of Kenya and help my people learn more about how they can live healthier lives. There is a great need for highly trained medical professionals. ... There is something like one doctor for every 10,000 people in Kenya.”

— Munib Abdulrehman
IWU nursing student from Kenya
Class of 2003
Host families nurture international students, according to Ricardo Baez, a 1979 graduate from Paraguay, who built a strong relationship with a host family as a high-school exchange student, which flourished during his college years. “My host family,” Baez says, “most definitely provided support I wouldn’t have had otherwise. They gave me a family to reach out to.”

Baez has continued this positive relationship with international students by serving as a host family for students from India and Latin America.

Campus Life

“I was surprised how developed campus life can be,” said Diana Imaka, a 1996 IWU graduate who works in Riga, Latvia. “At home [in Latvia], the city is the social life and college is school. But at IWU, college is both social life and school.”

This observation describes the heart of a residential campus—a place where students work, study, live, and focus their social life around friends and recreational activities.

Activities

There are about 170 clubs, organizations, and other activities on campus. Students typically are involved in a wide range of academic organizations, news media, socially conscious groups, service organizations, fraternity and sorority life, and varsity and intramural athletics. For example, students run a weekly newspaper, as well as a campus-based television and radio station.

Many student organizations have an international perspective. Among those groups are Amnesty International, Model United Nations, Black Student Union, Council for Latin American Student Enrichment, International Society of Illinois Wesleyan, and the Southeast Asian Association.

Campus-oriented organizations include Student Senate, the student government, as well as governing councils in each residence hall.

Among academic organizations are the Economics Society, Student Nurses Association, Risk Management and Finance Association, American Marketing Association, American Chemical Society, and the Association for Computer Machinery.

The Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs also is involved in several annual events, including: Kwanzaa, Eid ul-Fitr, Black History Month, African Culture Fest, Hispanic Heritage Month, Soul Food Dinner, Mariachi Dinner and International Carnivale.

Students also participate in club and varsity athletics. Club athletics can range from cheerleading and the dance team to men’s volleyball and water polo. We have 14 varsity sports for men and women, ranging from football, baseball, and basketball to tennis, soccer, and track and field.

Facilities

Over $110 million in new construction and major renovations have been completed since 1994.

Library

The Ames Library is an asset to research in all fields. It will ultimately house 400,000 volumes and has 100 computer-equipped workstations plus study carrels, study rooms, an auditorium, special collections, and the university’s archives.

Student Life

The new $8 million Hansen Student Center is located in what was historic Memorial Gymnasium. It accommodates a two-level bookstore, a grille, student-government offices, a newsstand, conference rooms, a coffee shop, convenience store, and other amenities.

Academics & Athletics

IWU ranks No. 5 among all U.S. colleges and universities in the number of academic All-Americans—students who are standouts in the classroom and in sports.
The Center for Natural Sciences
Gabe Spalding, professor of Physics, and his research team have used optical tractor beams to manipulate matter. His and other research groups welcome international students.
Guest Speakers

Illinois Wesleyan routinely expands education beyond the classroom by bringing to campus leaders from worlds of government, business, the arts, and science. Recent visitors have included Nobel Prize-winning scientists and peacemakers, civil-rights leaders, Hollywood filmmakers, and world leaders among others.

Many of these speakers have brought a global perspective to campus, including former British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath; former Costa Rican President and Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias; Camelia Sadat, daughter of assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat; Nobel Peace Prize recipient Mairead Maguire of Northern Ireland; Mexican novelist and diplomat Carlos Fuentes; and internationally acclaimed filmmaker Ismail Merchant. When Peter Kann, CEO of Dow Jones and The Wall Street Journal visited, one of our international students spent the following summer interning with him.

A Campus of Multiple Faiths

Illinois Wesleyan is a multi-faith university with about a dozen religious groups on campus, including the Hindu Student Association, Jewish Student Association, and the Muslim Student Association.

“The religious environment on campus is one that respects all religious faiths,” says Dennis E. G roh, university chaplain and professor of Humanities and Archeology. “I want students to feel as comfortable as possible in the context of a great liberal arts university.”
A Graduate's View

Ricardo Baez, who is originally from Paraguay, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1979 as a mathematics major. He is a computer network manager for State Farm, one of the largest insurance companies in the United States.

As a student, Baez was involved in the Student Senate and Spanish Club and played football.

Baez was attracted because of the size. "As I looked at bigger schools," he recalled, "I was intimidated by their size. IWU had a much more welcoming environment." He also wanted to go to college in the United States because of the quality of the experience.

A liberal arts education also appealed to Baez. "There were a variety of options available in terms of fields I could pursue. My options as a student were much broader."

As a senior, Baez took an internship at State Farm, working in the actuarial department because of his math background. That experience launched his two-decade career with State Farm, which is headquartered in Bloomington.

"The experience I had in classes," Baez says, "gave me the discipline to plan, prepare, and follow-through on other assignments. The size of classes at Illinois Wesleyan contributed to getting special attention that provided direction."

The Princeton Review states:

"Through aggressive expansion of its facilities, the 'constantly building and improving' Illinois Wesleyan has transformed itself in the last decade from a well-respected regional school to a nationally renowned university. At the same time, IWU has remained committed to maintaining a moderate-sized student body, and, as a result, students here feel they get the best of both worlds."
Illinois Wesleyan’s location is just two hours from Chicago, an international gateway to the world.

IWU FACTS . . .

- Founded: 1850
- Enrollment: 2,000 students
- TOEFL Minimum (paper-based exam): 550
- TOEFL Minimum (computer-based exam): 213
- TOEFL Average (paper-based exam): 621
- Entering Students—SAT-I Test Average: 1290
- Entering Students—ACT Test Average: 28
- Freshman to Sophomore Year Retention Rate: 93 percent
- Graduation Rate: 81 percent
“if we can help bring the world to our students, if we can make a difference in their outlook, if we can help them appreciate the diversity of the world—that the physical differences between us should make us more interested in each other and not be a wedge to separate us—then we have reason to hope for a better world of tomorrow.”

Teodora Amoloza
Associate Professor of Sociology
Co-Director of International Studies

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