Welcome to Winter Quarter!

We’d like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students who have joined our program this quarter, and welcome back to our returning students! We hope you are ready for an excellent Winter Quarter at UW! You will receive the Essential News by email every other week. (It will also be posted on our website.) Please take time to read it carefully for important news about the program, information about meetings and happenings on campus, IELP & FIUTS activities, and fun things to do in Seattle.

A Message from the International Student Advisors

Thank you to all of our many new students for their patience during our busy registration week! We are here to help you. We are happy to answer your questions about visas, I-20s, school transfers, or life in Seattle. If you have any questions that were not answered during registration, please send an email to us at aid@pce.uw.edu or make an appointment with Marissa or Suzy at the UW Tower on the 13th floor by calling 206-543-6242. Have a great quarter!

REMINDER: NO CLASSES ON 01/19 and 02/16

No classes will be held on Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day. Both of these days are national holidays. Please make sure to take note of these days. These dates are also listed in your Weekly Planner.

ATTENTION TRANSFER STUDENTS

If you are transferring to our program from another school in the U.S. and you do NOT have your UW I-20 yet, please let Marissa or Suzy know as soon as possible by sending an email to aid@pce.uw.edu. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that your previous school has transferred your SEVIS record to UW Educational Outreach so that we can complete your transfer.

NON-ACADEMIC COURSES

The UW Women’s Center offers non-academic courses, often in the evening to women and men in the community. This Winter, courses include: Basic Math Refresher, GRE Preparation, and Self Defense. If you are interested, please check out this link: http://depts.washington.edu/womenctr/ and click on “Events” and then “Classes.” You can also call 206.685.1090 or visit the Women’s Center in Cunningham Hall (between Parrington and Odegaard Library).
A Message from the Academic Advisors

Welcome! Here is a list of the upcoming student information meetings for Winter Quarter. Please check each edition of the “Essential News” to see what meetings are scheduled. If you have questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact, Elisabeth Mitchell at emitchell@pce.uw.edu or Nicole Minkoff at nminkoff@pce.uw.edu.

Information Meetings

Conversation Club, early Wednesdays of the quarter, January 7-28th, 12:30-1:20 p.m. OR 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Floor M in the Tower, students can meet with UW students for conversation in English! Encourage your students to come. All levels welcome.

University Track Information Sessions next week, if you are interested in applying to college or graduate school in the U.S., we have some great sessions for you! Please attend the session that makes the most sense for you:

University Track & Applying for College & Graduate School, Tuesday, January 13th, 3:30-4:30pm, Downtown – Ethan DeCoster

University Track & How to Apply to College (Undergraduate), Tuesday, January 13th, 1:30-2:20pm, UW Tower Floor 13 – Nicole Minkoff

University Track & How to Apply to Graduate School, Tuesday, January 13th, 8:30-9:15am OR Thursday, January 13, 1:30-2:20pm, UW Tower Floor 13 – Nicole Minkoff

How to Get Involved, are you interested in volunteering or getting involved on campus? Wednesday, January 28, 3:30-4:20 pm Downtown OR Thursday January 29, 1:30-2:20 pm, UW Tower Floor 13 - Ethan DeCoster & Suzy Cowgill

Attendance Reminder

Please attend class every day. The Department of Homeland Security requires us to report if a student is not making satisfactory academic progress. One important part of making progress is by attending class every day. Attendance is required in the IEP and there are no excused absences. However, we understand that sometimes you need to be absent due to illness so up to ten absences in a single class are allowed.

To help you “stay on track” and continue to make progress, we have an attendance reminder system, but it is important for you to keep track of your own attendance. If you miss five hours of a class (ten hours in two-hour courses like GRWR2, GRWR3, & ARW4), you will receive an email warning. If you miss seven hours, you will have to meet with the Academic Advisor and sign an attendance contract. Students who miss a class more than 10 hours may be dismissed from the program.
Greetings from the IELP Student Activities Assistant

Hello! My name is Trina Buiquy and I am the Student Immigration & Activities Assistant for UW International & English Language Programs. I am a senior at the University of Washington majoring in Health Informatics and Health Information Management. Over the next quarter I will be offering you opportunities to explore Seattle and meet some new friends. I hope you will take advantage of our IELP activities. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning a bit more about all of you! If you ever have questions or comments about the IELP activities, please feel free to email me!

A Message About IELP Activities

We would like all of you to have the chance to participate in our IELP Activities. Before each activity, we will send emails to you at the email address you provided us when you registered for classes. Please make sure that you check that email account regularly so you don’t miss out on important information from us. In order to make sure that the information gets to you, please add the following email address to your “safe” contacts list: eslactiv@pce.uw.edu. If you have not been receiving emails about our IELP Activities, please send an email to Trina. Note that the dates listed in the planner are subject to change, so make sure to check your emails. Additionally, if you would like to invite a friend, teacher, or relative to attend, they are more than welcome as long as space is available. Just let Trina know in advance.

Thank you!

Upcoming IELP Activities

Space Needle: Saturday, Jan. 17th
The Space Needle is recognized universally as being the signature landmark of this beautiful city. Not only will we be taking a trip to this iconic sight, but we will also get the chance to travel to the very top for a breathtaking, one-of-a-kind view of Seattle City!

Mid-Quarter Party: Friday, February 6th
Take a break from studying and homework to enjoy a fun and exciting Poetry Slam with your classmates and teachers! Students will have the opportunity to choose their favorite piece of poetry, or even write their own poems, and share with their classmates! Pizza will also be provided.

Spring Quarter Pre-Registration Meetings

Winter Quarter has just started, but it is already time to think about spring! This meeting for students is during LS classes on Thursday, January 29, in the UW Tower Auditorium. The information meeting for students in LS1, LS2, and LS3 will be at 11:30 a.m. Students in LS4 and LS5 attend the meeting at 12:30 p.m. At the meeting you will learn about Spring Quarter courses and how to register. You will also hear information about business certificate programs and courses offered at the Downtown Program.

Since it is not always easy to see these things without a car, FIUTS plans close to 10 trips and tours per quarter to help you enjoy the great Northwest! The schedule is published at the beginning of each quarter. Please stop by the FIUTS Office (HUB 206) to pick up a schedule of dates and locations or see the calendar online at www.fiuts.org. Trips and tours are designed for UW graduate and undergraduate students, as well as visiting faculty, scholars and IELP students.
### January 2015

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**Find More Things to Do in Seattle**

A lot of events are happening around the city all the time! There are concerts, plays, sporting events, art exhibitions, and much more to see every weekend. Just make sure you have enough time to do your homework too. Here are some websites that can help you find fun things to do in Seattle:

- [http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/](http://www.seattlecenter.com/events/)