**2016-2017 ISSS Orientation Assistant and Peer Mentor Application**

**International Peer Mentors** assist the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) with activities during the International Student Orientation and periodically throughout the semester. Peer Mentors help with the day to day logistics of orientation, with a focus on facilitating social activities and helping students become acquainted with both campus and the city of Stevens Point. They are required to attend all activities during the orientation week and to serve as a resource to international students and the ISSS for the duration of the semester following their appointment. They are also required to hold office hours during the week in the ISSS. Peer Mentors are expected to attend all ISSS programs and events.

Peer Mentors should have an interest in learning about different cultures and working with students who are new to American culture. Previous cross-cultural experience is preferred; however the ISSS will consider any applicant who can articulate their interest in the position and how they would benefit the Orientation Team.

This is a paid position and Peer Mentors will be compensated hourly for their time. This position will pay **$8.25 per hour**. Each Peer Mentor will be expected to be able to make the following work commitments:

* Work full time (around 40 hours) During Orientation week (August 25th- September 2nd)
* During the rest of the semester (6-10 hours per week):
  + 6 hours of office work in the new OIE Advising Center each week, including at least one weeknight evening shift (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
  + Plan and attend Peer Mentor Events throughout the semester (usually on nights and weekends)
  + Attend all ISSS programs and events

**Selection Process:**

- Fill out the attached application and turn it in to the ISSS (108 CCC) OR email to Melissa Murray (mmurray@uwsp.edu) **no later than: Monday, May 2nd, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

- The ISSS will contact qualified applicants to set up interviews that will take place between

May 5th and May 13th. Students who are currently abroad need to make arrangements to

interview via Skype.

- Applicants will be notified by email if they are selected no later than May 20th, 2016.

**Qualifications:**

- Respect for cultural diversity and an interest in learning about different cultures

- International or cross-cultural experience

- Volunteer or leadership experience

- Effective communication skills

- Commitment to student success and community-building

- Knowledge of a variety of resources at UWSP and in the Stevens Point community

- The ability to face challenges with an open mind

- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

- A minimum of sophomore (3rd semester) standing during the 2016-2017 academic year (You must have been a student for at least 2 semesters in order to apply.)

**Expectations:**

*During Orientation Week:*

- Attend all training sessions and periodic team meetings

- Attend and assist with International Orientation Week from August 25th-September 2nd, 2016

-Assist with check-ins during new student arrivals on Friday, August 26th and Saturday, August 27th, 2016

- Help facilitate small group activities/ice breakers/skits/discussions during orientation sessions

- Organize and lead social activities for your group during orientation week (these may include a

shopping trip, campus tours, group dinners, a Belts walk, and other fun activities)

-Give one 10-15 minute presentation about an aspect of student life at UWSP

- Show up on time and ready to go each day (for trainings, orientation, and follow-up sessions)

- Act as a role model and demonstrate appropriate behavior for the duration of your

appointment

- Be willing to serve as a resource and friend to international students throughout the semester

*After Orientation Week:*

-Serve as a resource and a friend to international students throughout the semester

-Organize at least one follow-up activity for new students

-Attend **all** follow-up activities and ISSS events/programs

-Attend monthly planning meetings

-Hold Office Hours (6 hours per week) in the ISSS, including at least one evening shift

-Assist with office tasks and assist OIE advisers with maintaining schedules and keeping the office in order

**Benefits:**

- Become a recognizable leader in the international community at UWSP

- Increase skills in intercultural communication and sensitivity

- Meet students from around the world and gain new perspectives

- Expand on/improve interpersonal and problem solving skills

- Strengthen your resume

- Have fun while developing lifelong friendships!

**Peer Mentors will need to be available for the following dates:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activity** | **Time** | **Location** |
| Thursday, August 25 | Pre-Orientation Meeting | TBA | TBD |
| Friday, August 26- Sunday, August 28 | New Student Arrivals & Pre-Orientation Activities | TBA  (throughout the weekend) | TBD (various) |
| Monday, August 29- Friday, September 2 | Orientation Week | 7:45 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. | UWSP |
| Friday, September 9th | ISSS Welcome Back Game Night | 5:00-7:00 p.m. | TBD |
| January 13th-20th | Spring 2017 Orientation Week  (Arrivals & Orientation) | All Week | Various |

**Please complete the following application form and return it to the International Students and Scholars Office (Room 108 Collins Classroom Center). You may drop it off at the office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or email it to: mmurray@uwsp.edu**

**2016-2017 International Peer Mentor Application Form**

Submit applications to: International Student and Scholar Services (108 CCC)

Applications are due by **Monday, May 2nd, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. (noon).**

Please print clearly or type answers. Answer each question to the best of your ability. You may attach additional pages if necessary. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**First Name:**  **Last Name:**

**UWSP Student I.D. Number:**

**Phone number (in the U.S.):** ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home or Cell

**Email address:**

**Gender:** Female Male Other

**Major/Field of Study:**

**Year in School:** Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate Student

**Will you be available during all of the dates and times listed on the previous page?** Yes No

**Do you have a valid Wisconsin driver’s license?** Yes No

**What language(s) do you speak?** Please include level of proficiency (beginner, intermediate, advanced, fluent) and how long you have studied these languages if not your native language.

**Do you have any cross-cultural experience (abroad or with a culture other than your native culture)?** Yes No

**If yes, please list your experience(s)** (what, when, where, and how long).

**Being an International Peer Mentor requires you to work with people who have a diverse set of backgrounds, languages, cultures, and ideas. What cross-cultural skills/experiences do you have and how will they help you to be successful in this position?**

**Why are you interested in being an International Peer Mentor and what do you hope to gain from the experience?**

**Scenario and Questions:**

You are the leader of a small group that consists of two Chinese students, a Korean student, a Colombian student, and a German student. You notice that the Chinese students tend to stick together and speak Chinese rather than English. The Korean student is very quiet and you are not sure that they understand everything that you are saying to them. They seem overwhelmed, but every time you ask if they are okay, they smile and nod. It is taking longer than expected to walk students from place to place and you are running a little bit late for everything. The German student seems impatient and annoyed that everyone is running late.

**What would you do to make sure that everyone feels included and respected?**

**How would you respond to the Chinese students? What would you do to get them more involved in the group and speaking more English than Mandarin?**

**How would you address the German student’s frustration?**

**Identify some challenges that students face when they go to college in a different country:**

**One of the goals of the Peer Mentor program is to help students integrate into life at UWSP and gain a better understanding of American culture. How would you help students feel comfortable at UWSP?**

**Tell me about a time when you have had to work through a challenging situation**. **What did you learn from the experience?**