

Program Overview

Students may complete up to three upper-division Honors credits (one per semester) by participating in the International Partnership (IP) program. Participants are matched with an international student as a language partner, and are required to meet with them at least five times a semester for a total of 10 hours of interaction together. Five reflection papers are required along with a completed time sheet to receive Honors credit. Honors students may receive up to three IP credits throughout the duration of their Honors Program experience, but they are limited to one IP credit per semester. Students may participate in the program beyond three semesters, but will not be eligible for additional credit.

Honors Credit

The IP experience counts as SLU credit and will be documented on participants' transcripts; therefore, students will be billed for IP enrollment if they exceed 18 enrolled hours. IP credit *will* count towards University credits and will be coded as HR4850.

Participant Guidelines

The Honors Program will solicit interest in the International Partnership one semester in advance of intended participation. Students must complete an online interest form (distributed by the Honors Program via the weekly electronic newsletter) during the timeframe specified (usually before May 1 for Fall participation and before December 1 for Spring participation). The Honors Program will register students for the course upon confirmation of intent to participate. First-time participants must attend an orientation session before being eligible to participate. There will be a limited number of openings in the program for incoming freshmen, who will register upon enrollment at Saint Louis University.

After signing up for the course, students will be matched with a language partner, a student in the English as a Second Language (ESL) or English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program at SLU. In order to complete the IP program successfully, Honors students must meet with their partners at least five times during the semester, according to the calendar established by the Honors Program. Students are required to meet **at least once during each calendar session**. A meeting must be at least one hour to count towards the required five calendar session meetings, though we strongly encourage meetings of at least two hours. In total, students should meet for roughly 10 hours over the course of all five calendar sessions.

Reflection Papers

Students must submit a written reflection by the deadlines listed in the program guidelines for the semester. Since Honors credit is granted for participation as pass/no pass, no exceptions will be given for late submissions.

Style

Reflection papers must be at least 700 words (approximately 2 pages) in length. Papers are due by midnight of the submission deadline. Students must submit five reflection papers total in order to earn IP credit for the semester. Reflections should include the names of all partners present, along with the time and place of the meeting. Papers should be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word document to the course Blackboard site. Reflections that do not meet word count or do not fully cover appropriate content will be returned.

Reflection Content

IP participation is expected to challenge students to engage in cross-cultural communication, raise their cultural competency and provide a service to the SLU community. Reflection papers should thoughtfully consider these themes, not simply provide a synopsis of the meeting. A *brief* description of the activity is acceptable, but only as a pretext to the larger discussion about cultural awareness/exchange. In other words, reflection papers should demonstrate critical analytical skill. Papers that merely summarize event proceedings will **not** receive credit.

Good questions to consider are:

- How is your partner transitioning to life in St. Louis or the United States, in general?
- How are you and your partner similar?
- How has your perception of your partner's home country changed by speaking with your partner?
- What struggles might your partner be facing currently? What resources might you be able to provide him/her? What might he/she need to succeed?

GREAT questions to consider are:

- How has your partner changed your perspective and/or challenged your worldview?
- What lessons or newfound knowledge did you gain from your partner?
- How is this experience changing you? What will you do in light of this change?

IP Reflection Paper Requirements

In order to receive credit, reflections must:

1. Be submitted by deadline (as specified in the calendar below).
2. Contain at least 700 words (approximately two pages), including a brief (2 sentence) synopsis of the meeting location and date.
3. Contain a critical analysis of each meeting, addressing and building upon questions like those above.
4. Use clear, concise language. Document should be free of errors, easy to read, and structured in an organized way.

Submissions that satisfy all of the above conditions will receive full credit. **No** exceptions will be given for late submissions. At the discretion of the Honors Program, reflections that do not address the stated criteria and/or exhibit poor grammar or punctuation may be returned for revision or **not** receive credit. If requested, revisions must be returned within 48 hours of notification. Failure to return a revised draft or submission of a revision that fails to improve upon a previous draft will result in **no** credit.

Fall 2015 Calendar Sessions (tentative)

Time Frame	Reflections Due (by midnight CST) to course Blackboard site
Session 1: August 24 – September 13	September 13
Session 2: September 14 – October 4	October 4
Session 3: October 5 – October 25	October 25
Session 4: October 26 – November 15	November 15
Session 5: November 16 – December 6	December 6 (<i>Timesheets also due</i>)

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