INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL SERVICE PROGRAM

GUIDELINES, APPLICATION INFORMATION, AND BENEFITS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Oregon public universities listed below welcome students from other countries to pursue higher education in Oregon. The presence of international students in Oregon provides local residents with valuable exposure to the world’s cultural diversity. Our desire is that interaction between Oregonians and students from abroad will be mutually beneficial and lead to better understanding among the peoples with whom we share this world. The International Cultural Service Program (ICSP) was developed to both involve international students in the educational programs of Oregon communities and at the same time to assist them in meeting the costs of attending an Oregon public institution.

BENEFITS AND EXCHANGE FOR FINANCIAL AID: Students accepted into this program receive scholarship assistance that will reduce tuition in an amount designated by the Oregon institution to which they have been admitted. In return, participating students must provide a minimum of 80 hours of cultural service in the State of Oregon during each academic year they are in the program.

EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL SERVICE: The 80-hour yearly cultural service requirement may be satisfied in a number of settings. The ICSP Coordinator at each institution manages the participant’s fulfillment of the cultural service hours required by the scholarship. Listed below are some examples of cultural service:

- Speaking or giving demonstrations to schools or community groups about the heritage, culture, and government of their home country;
- Tutoring students in a foreign language;
- Assisting Oregon school teachers with programs about their home country;
- Participating in the international programs of campus, school, or community groups;
- Translating materials from native language into another;
- Consulting with business, industry, or government agencies about their home country.

SELECTION: Selection for ICSP is made by each institution. It is for this reason that prospective ICSP applicants should contact the ICSP Coordinator at the institution to which they will apply in order to obtain specific information about that institution’s selection requirements. A variety of factors are considered in the selection process. Performing the required cultural service in Oregon communities makes it necessary that all participants have a good command of spoken English. All programs strive to maintain a broad cultural and national representation. Selection will depend upon the ability of the institution to utilize the applicant’s cultural service. Preference is given to students with strong academic records.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applicants must be admitted or admissible to the Oregon institution to which they apply.
2. Applicants must not be U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, or be eligible to receive U.S. federal financial assistance.
3. Participants must complete a full course of study each term. Undergraduates must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours each term, and graduate students must carry at least 9 credit hours.
4. Participants must make satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree objective.
5. Students must meet the academic requirements of the program. Undergraduates must maintain a 2.5 grade point average each term, and graduate students must maintain a 3.0.
6. Participants must satisfactorily complete their cultural service commitments each term. Students normally provide 27 hours per term which averages out to be about 3 hours per week.
7. Students accepted into the program on one campus cannot automatically transfer their acceptance to another campus.

APPLICATION: Send your completed ICSP application form to the ICSP Coordinator at the institution to which you are applying as listed below. Please note that the application is not complete until the Coordinator receives two current letters of recommendation (written in English), attesting to your ability to perform the required service and your spoken English skills, and a written description of an ICSP presentation you would make.