

RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Advising Services

Office of International Education: First and foremost, OIE provides visa advising and initial orientation assistance to international students and scholars at Miami University. OIE also refers students with needs to the appropriate university offices, such as the Health Services and Counseling centers, the Learning Center and Howe Writing Centers, the divisional and departmental academic advising offices, the Academic Advising Information Center, and other offices and centers around campus that assist with interpersonal and financial issues. The Office of International Education and the Department of English now offers a two-week academic-preparation program for new international undergraduate students in early August. For more information, contact Wynona Little at 529-5628 or go to <http://www.units.muohio.edu/internationalprograms/current.php>.

Undergraduate Advisory Information Office: The newly created Advisory Information Office seeks to be a point of reference for international students who have basic advising needs. The office will help answer academic-related questions and direct students to the right location and contact person to obtain the information they need. Moreover, the staff will meet with international students to talk about making the most of their academic experience, including manageable course combinations, and identifying courses that match the student's interests and goals. The Advising Information Office is located in Gaskil, room 239 and is open Monday-Friday 8 AM – 5 PM. Contact Kim Ernsting at 529-5900 for more information.

Language Directory: The Language Directory lists Miami's faculty and staff who speak, read and/or write various world languages fluently. It is our hope that this resource will assist all campus departments and community members – students, staff and faculty, alike – as Miami becomes more global and diverse. The Miami University Office of Diversity Affairs, in conjunction with Miami's Asian and Asian American Faculty and Staff Association (AAA-FSA) created Miami University's language directory. If you have an immediate need please contact Eloiza Domingo-Snyder in the Office of Diversity Affairs, dominge@muohio.edu.

Academic Support

Howe Center for Writing Excellence: The mission of the Center for Writing Excellence is to assure that Miami fully prepares all of its graduates to excel in the writing they will do after college in their careers, roles as community and civic leaders, and personal lives. See the website for [general information](#) or call Kate Francis at 529-6100. The writing center is located in King Library on the first floor.

Many international students come from cultures that have conventions about citation and attribution that differ significantly from practices in the US. To help the students understand and observe US practices, the Center for Writing Excellence offers the support listed below.

- A weekly “conversation corner” for international students held in the first-floor lounge in McGuffey.
- Workshops for international students on research and citation that will be part of the Howe Writing Center’s spring semester programming.
- Individual consultations for international students.
- A set of resources for international students at the website for the Howe Center; the online resources offers a wide variety of information ranging from writing an academic paper and proper documentation styles, to self-study quizzes and exercise. To access the resources, visit <http://www.units.muohio.edu/cwe/studentresources/quickhelp.html#esl>.

Howe Writing Initiative- Richard T. Farmer School of Business: The Howe Writing Initiative (HWI) is a collaborative project between Miami University's Department of English and the Farmer School of Business, designed to enhance the quality of student writing in the School of Business. The HWI assists both FSB professors in the teaching of writing and FSB students in the improvement of their writing skills.

- The HWI is available for one-on-one or group consultations with business students. HWI is not a proofreading service. Although consultants can help with editing work, their real purpose is to assist you on concerns such as audience, style, and context.
- Drop-ins are welcome, however an appointment is recommended. Call the HWI at 529-8296 or stop by the Center in Laws 204 during drop-in hours.
- See the HWI website for hours and more information, [Howe Initiative](#).

Bernard B. Rinella, Jr. Learning Center: The mission of the Rinella Learning Center is to help students reach their individual academic goals by empowering them with skills needed to be independent and successful learners, and to provide academic support through various programs.

- [Academic Coaching](#) involves one-to-one meetings between the Coach and the student. Focus areas include time management, organization, study strategies, test taking, attention, and critical thinking. To get involved in the program, students should call the Rinella Learning

Center to schedule an appointment to complete a Coaching Needs Assessment, 513-529-8741. Students will then be referred to the appropriate services.

- Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) provides students with individual academic support for specific courses. The tutoring sessions seek to clarify course content, stress understanding of concepts, strengthen background skills, practice application of material, reinforce learning, and promote independent learners. To register for a tutor, please visit the website at www.muohio.edu/tutoring.
- Supplemental Instruction is an academic support program that targets historically difficult courses. SI offers free regularly scheduled out-of-class review sessions to all students enrolled in the course. SI is generally provided in multiple sections of accountancy, BMZ, chemistry, economics, finance, math, physics, statistics, and zoology each semester. To find out which courses are offered this semester, visit the website at <http://www.units.muohio.edu/saf/lrn/RLC1SI.html>. For more information on how to sign up for an SI course contact Kristy Drobney, at 513-529-9624.

The Rinella Learning Center is located at 16 Campus Avenue Building.

- Office hours are M-TH 9- 8 PM, F 9–5 PM
- For more information call Nicole Cobb at 529-8741 or visit the website, <http://www.units.muohio.edu/saf/lrn/>.

Confucius Institute: In a changing world, the Confucius Institute at Miami University serves as a platform for the internationalization of current and future Miami students. In addition, the Institute operates as a host outreach program, helping our community, our region and Ohio learn how to adapt to the changing global economy. Lastly, the Confucius Institute expands our Chinese language and cultural offerings on our campus and in our community. For more information, contact Ms. Yamei Liu at Liuy8@muohio.edu.

Aims and Goals:

- Provide various social sectors with creative and flexible Chinese language and cultural courses;
- Train local teachers to teach Chinese in elementary school, high school and colleges;
- Help local schools to find their partner schools in China;
- Provide consulting services for individuals wishing to study in China;
- Distribute contemporary Chinese values to the local people;
- Promote Miami students' enthusiasm for Chinese study.

Department of English: The Department of English offers several courses designed to help international students who would like to improve their written English. Department Chair, Dr. John Tassoni, 513-529-1393.

- ENG 104 and 105: Writing Studio (1 credit hour) - A small workshop of five students that focuses on helping students (at any level) work together on writing assignments for other

courses. A trained compositionist with a background in ESL instruction facilitates the course. Class time consists of reading over assignments to make sure the expectations are clear, reviewing classmates' drafts to help them think about their writing and general concepts of English composition, and reading the instructor's response to written work, to gain a better sense of expectations and possibilities for future writing.

- ENG 106: Experience in American Language and Culture- The department's newest course for incoming international students. English 106 is the academic component of Miami's new Academic Preparation and Culture Program (APCP). The course includes several faculty guest speakers who represent the five Miami University academic divisions: the College of Arts and Science, the Farmer School of Business, the School of Fine Arts, the School of Education and Allied professions, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. International students arrive on-campus three weeks before the start of fall semester to take part in this voluntary program.
- ENG 108: English for International Students (4 credit hours) – Designed for graduate and undergraduate students who need further work in English before enrolling in college composition. English 108 focuses more on basic language skills such as grammar and sentence structure. The course may be used as an elective, but not to meet the Miami Plan or the College of Arts and Science requirements.
- ENG 109: English for International Students (3 credit hours) - Adaptation of ENG 111 for non-native speakers; satisfies in part the Miami Plan requirement of six hours of composition and literature.
 - Graduate students do not earn graduate credit for these courses.
 - Both English 108 and 109 focus on writing in various essay styles - narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative - and address problems that arise in both International and American students' experiences. For example, paraphrasing, summarizing, citations, plagiarism, voice, and writing creatively.
- ENG 111: College Composition - Incorporates the Miami Plan goals of thinking critically, understanding contexts, engaging with other learners, and reflection leading to informed action. Students engage in—and reflect on—a range of writing processes, including planning, drafting, organizing, revising, and editing their writing. English 111 also teaches students how to evaluate the rhetorical and technological choices in writing for different audiences and purposes. In addition, they learn fundamental library and electronic research methods and practice locating and organizing evidence to support written arguments. Students read, discuss, and learn to analyze a range of texts, from traditional print to film, visual, or multi-media designs on web pages.

Student Organizations

International Student Organizations:

- Farmer School International Student Advisory Committee - The purpose of the committee is to answer questions for international students and to help make Miami's community their home. This new committee is made up of nine Miami professors and faculty and approximately nine Miami students. The Miami students will have some relation with China on Miami's campus and have an interest in helping new students.
- China America Business Organization (CABO) – CABO's mission is to encompass business, social, and cultural aspects for all students who share a common vision in connecting Miami University to China. They fulfill their mission by providing a platform for all students to increase networking opportunities between Chinese and American students and business professionals in order to help create internship and job opportunities both in China and the U.S. and to integrate the Chinese and American culture together. Contact Kent Phillips at 330-962-2205.
- The Chinese Business Program (CBP) – CBP welcomes students of all nationalities and backgrounds. A CBP certificate further enhances the prestigious Farmer School of Business Miami diploma. CBP combines a semester abroad at a Chinese university, two professional China business seminars, an Asia-related thematic sequence, and comprehensive language or culture study. Students gain a competitive edge in the job market and within an American or international business that seeks to thrive in a reshaped global economy. The China Business Program also offers a connection with Miami's Chinese Living-Learning Community and the International Business Living-Learning Community, which provides field trips, celebration of Chinese holidays and customs, the opportunity to interact with China specialists, and career development mentoring. To learn more information visit the CBP on the web, <http://www.fsb.muohio.edu/programs/international-study/china-programs/china-business-program>. Contact Felice Marcus at 513-529-1916 or via e-mail felice.marcus@muohio.edu.
- Multicultural Business Student Network (MBSN) – MBSN is an informal support network established in the Farmer School to encourage multicultural students to participate and take advantage of the resources and services available to all students. Students are introduced to department chairs, faculty, academic advisors, and other staff. MBSN has established a Mentor/Mentee program assigning upper-class business majors to pre-business students to facilitate pre-business student advancement into the Farmer School. Contact Michelle Thomas at 529-4236.
- Chinese American Culture Association (CACA) – CACA aims at building an educational bridge which links both Chinese and American cultures. The organization wants to serve Americans

who are interested in Chinese cultures and Chinese who want to explore deeper into the US and, thus promote cultural diversity on the Miami campus. Contact Aimin Wang at 529-2432.

- Chinese Student and Scholar Friendship Association (CSSFA) – CSSFA has four main initiatives: 1) to help Chinese students adapt to university life and get involved with the Miami community; 2) to nurture the development of friendships within the Chinese community and the Miami community as a whole; 3) to promote awareness of the rich Chinese culture to the community, and 4) to help organize and coordinate activities affiliated with Chinese culture. Contact LuMing Mao at 529-1395.

- Asian American Association (AAA) – AAA’s mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of diversity on campus, as well as to provide a community of students with opportunities to discuss and share the history, culture, and values of their Asian and American heritage. AAA’s goal is to be at the forefront of developing proactive and community-oriented leaders through social events, educational awareness, and service activities. Contact Elizabeth Kwon via e-mail kwoney@muohio.edu.

- Community Service Program for International Students, Faculty, and Families- Families in the Oxford area provide support to international students through the Community Service Program for International Students, Faculty, and Families (COSEP), an organization that offers a variety of services including a host family program, a welcoming Brunch for new students who enroll in the Fall Semester, and various other activities throughout the year. Students do not live with their host families. For Host Family information, Contact Wynona Little at 529-5628.

Student Services

Student Health Services: The Miami University Student Health Service provides comprehensive outpatient care to all eligible students. Services provided include examination and treatment for illness and minor injuries, laboratory, x-rays, and pharmacy, in addition to specialty care in orthopedics, gynecology, and immunizations.

- The Health Center is located at 421 S. Campus Avenue.
- Office hours are 8 AM - 4:30 PM; Appointments are encouraged; call 513-529-3000.
- If you need a ride to the Health Center please call the medical transport at 513-529-2277. The Red Express bus also stops near the front door.
- Don't forget to bring your student verification card (I.D. card) and insurance card!

Student Counseling Service: This office provides ongoing counseling (group and individual) as well as crisis response and outreach/ psychological education for the Miami University community. Their goal is to achieve and/or maintain a mentally healthy status for each student and to create a learning environment that facilitates and supports that status.

- Counseling helps you understand yourself and your difficulties, and ultimately make healthy choices in your life. Miami offers a wide array of services including individual and group counseling and psychoeducation workshops.
- Office hours are M-F, 8 AM-5 PM. If you have questions or need an appointment, please call 529-4634.
- For student, staff or faculty members who need consultation regarding diversity issues, Dr. Saul Rivera is the Multi-Cultural Specialist at the counseling center. He works with all issues related to diversity, which include being an international student and non-native speaker. Dr. Rivera can be reached at 529-4634.

Transportation: The University offers metro service to Uptown and several off-campus housing areas and door-to-door escort service for individuals traveling alone during the evening hours. In addition, some private companies offer bus services to Miami students to regional cities such as Cleveland and Chicago. The following link provides details for the Miami Metro including routes and schedules - <http://www.hdg.muohio.edu/ParkingAndTransportation/MiamiMetro/index.php>. Below is a brief summary of travel information that will make getting around campus and personal and family travel much easier.

- Local airports and airport shuttles- The two largest airports (Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airport and the Dayton airport) are located within one hour of Oxford. 24-hour shuttle service is provided throughout the year by Airport Shuttle Service, 513-896-6605, and Empire transportation, 513-860-3324. The Miami Metro also provides service to the airport during Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break and Spring Break. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For price quotes and additional information, please refer to the website

<http://www.miami.muohio.edu/parents/transportation.cfm>. The link also includes a campus map, directions, restaurants and a list of accommodations near the Oxford campus.

- Parking and Transportation Services – If you have a car on-campus, there are several parking garages and restrictions on where you can park. These details as well as information on Miami’s new carpool program called Ride Pool are provided on the following website <http://www.units.muohio.edu/prk/transportation.html>. Ride Pool is a free service offered to all students. It only takes a minute to register. Once registered you can view the list of rides by location, day, and time.
- Buying a car – Students can purchase a new or used car using “EasyWheels,” a car buying service of the Miami University Community Federal Credit Union. For more information visit the website https://www.cueasywheels.com/cu_sites/muccu/index.html or call 513- 529-2739.
- Purchasing a bicycle- there are many inexpensive places near Miami where you can purchase a bicycle, which include:
 - o An organization called Lending Closet may have used bikes from prior international students. The organization is managed by Wynona from the Office of International Education.
 - o Wal*Mart
 - o Annual Auction sponsored by the City of Oxford. The auction is held in the summer, check the website to see the exact date and time of the event, www.cityofoxford.org/news.asp.
 - o Students can also browse craigslist (www.craigslist.com) and search for used/new bikes for sale in the Oxford and Cincinnati area.

Professional Organizations

Tri-State Professional Organizations:

- National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) – NAAAP is the largest and fastest growing Asian American professional organization in the U.S. and Canada. Established in 1982, NAAAP is the premier leadership proving ground for Asian American professionals with over 3500 members. <http://www.naaapcincy.org/Welcome.do> You can also reach the Cincinnati Chapter at 513-615-2210.
- European-American Chamber of Commerce (EACC) – The mission of the Cincinnati Chapter of EACC is to encourage a business and networking relationship between Europe and the Tri-State region. More than 200 European companies have a presence in the Greater Cincinnati area, and hundreds of Cincinnati companies export their products and services to Europe. To learn more about upcoming events, memberships, and to gain access to job postings, please visit the website http://www.europe-cincinnati.com/about_us or call 513-852-6510.

Important Contacts



Advising

- Wynona Little - Office of International Education, 529-5628
- Molly Heidemann - Visa specialist in the International office, 529-2512
- Office of Diversity Affairs, 529-6504
- Kim Ernsting - Undergraduate Advising Information Office, 529-5900
- Ted Peters - Arts and Science Academic Advisor, 529-3031
- Farmer Business School Academic Advisor, 529-1712



Academic Support

- Kate Francis - Manager of the Howe Center for Writing Excellence, 529-6100
- Nicole Cobb - Rinella Learning Center, 528-8741
- Kate Ronald - Howe Writing Initiative (Business School), 529-8296
- Yamei Liu - Associate Director of the Confucius Institute, 529- 8664
- Charm Damon- Department of English ESL Specialist, 529-5221
- John Tassoni- Department of English, 513-329-1393



Student Services

- Student Health Services ,529-3000
- Student Counseling Service, 529-4634; Diversity specific concerns, contact Dr. Rivera at 529-4634
- Parking and Transportation, 529-8535
- Airport Transportation provided by Airport Shuttle Service, 896-6605, and Empire transportation, 860-3324

Off-campus Resources

Miami Hamilton Learning Assistance Office: Miami Hamilton has several ESL/ELL resources for students. Some of these resources include the following:

- *English 007, Fundamentals of Writing* (for people whose first language is not English). ENG 007 is a small-sized, credit/no credit class to help students write academic English. It is taught by an instructor who specializes in English Language Learning and focuses on building skills in grammar, writing, and reading.
- *English 001, Composition Workshop* (for people whose first language is not English). ENG 001 is a one credit writing workshop to help students succeed in ENG 111; it offers students a chance to work on writing with an instructor in a small group.
- *Casual Conversation Circle*. 4 sessions for 1 hour each. This experience provides a relaxed place to get more comfortable speaking English and get informal help with pronunciation. No RSVP necessary.

For more information, contact Dana Katz (ESL Specialist) or Pete Haverkos (Director), Office of Learning Assistance, Rentschler 109, 785-3139.

Hamilton Writing Center

- For students at the Hamilton Campus: 102 Rentschler Hall.
- By Appointment Only: Three ways to make an appointment: Call 785-3139; drop by the Center Monday through Thursday 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM; or log into TutorTrack at <http://www.ham.muohio.edu/learningassistance> (you must schedule a minimum of 48 hours in advance).

Middletown Reading and Writing Lab

- For students at the Middletown Campus: 104 Johnston Hall.
- Drop in Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 7 PM or Fridays 10 AM to 2 PM.
- Appointments are available. Stop by the Center Monday through Thursday 8 AM to 7 PM or Friday 8 AM to 5 PM.