

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS

2024 SUMMER & FALL PROGRAMS

NEWSLETTER TEAM: PAUL BRAUN, KARIN TITTELBACH

SUMMER 2024 RECAP & WHAT'S NEXT - DIRECTOR KARIN TITTELBACH

Our summer was bustling with activity from the middle of July until the middle of September. We had 200 students participate in a mix of non-credit college, high-school and professional training programs, totaling nine different programs. It was the first time we ran the English for Business & Entrepreneurship program and will continue to offer this program in summer with increased focus on "Social Entrepreneurship".

This fall, 30 students from Hokkai-Gakuen Sapporo High School participated in a 3-week English Conversation & SDGs program. We enjoyed introducing them to PSU's sustainability efforts and volunteering in the Portland community. When the students were not on campus, they spent time with their host families, a program that is managed by ACES (American Cultural Exchange Service), one of our close partners. We are also thrilled to bring back our staff training program this week. It allows faculty and staff from Japanese Universities to meet with members of the PSU community. This year's program participants are very interested in learning about faculty and staff professional development opportunities, mental health support and how PSU promotes volunteering in the community.

Winter 2025 will start with a 4-week youth camp for 25 students from Kiribati (small island in the Pacific Ocean), a program funded by the American Council of International Education. This will be the first of two cohorts, the second one coming in July, 2025. ISP will provide the instructional portion while ACES manages the homestay, extracurricular activities, and programs logistics. We are very excited to be part of this opportunity. In addition, we will offer our usual menu of college-level programs, a professional development program for nurses and a custom high school program. It will be a busy winter season.

We are thankful to all of our partners for a great summer and excited for an amazing winter!



Students from Hokkai-Gakuen Sapporo High School visiting Grant High School in Portland for language & culture exchange



Students from Hokkai-Gakuen Sapporo High School volunteering at the Oregon Food Bank

SUMMER 2024 ALL PROGRAMS SATISFACTION STATS:

- **94% OF THE STUDENTS SAID THEY FELT SAFE ON CAMPUS**
- **90 % OF THE STUDENTS WANT TO RETURN TO PORTLAND SOMEDAY**



Visiting students from Hokkai-Gakuen University representing their home city Sapporo at the PSU Farmer's Market

Students volunteered to raise awareness of the 65th anniversary of the Portland-Sapporo sister city relationship



Past students share their love for Portland at Sapporo's Autumn Fest



SPOTTED AROUND TOWN

ISP STUDENTS EXPERINCING PORTLAND'S VIBRANT SUMMER

Photos courtesy of ISP staff & students



Students experiencing an interactive art exhibit around the city for the 15th anniversary of "Coraline" made by Portland film company Laika featuring different cat statues



ISP students and staff enjoying our waterfront park and delicious food after the PSU Farmer's Market and Portland Saturday Market



HUMANS OF ISP

MOLLY GUYOT ISP INSTRUCTOR

My name is Molly Guyot. I'm a Portland native and I live in the Woodstock neighborhood with my husband, Mickey. I joined the ISP this summer and had a wonderful experience teaching conversational English. I'm looking forward to teaching future classes and getting to know the amazing student participants. Before teaching with ISP, I had a long career as a public school teacher. I worked as an assistant in a classroom for students with severe emotional and behavioral disorders, then taught sixth grade for four years. I received my ESOL endorsement from Lewis and Clark College and then taught English Language Development to non-native speakers in grades K-8.

Teaching in the ISP is a great match for me, not just because of my extensive teaching background, but also because of my interests and experience outside of the classroom. I enjoy traveling and I participated in short-term homestays in both Russia and Romania when I was a student. My husband, Mickey, and I have also enjoyed hosting students from Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan.

When I'm not teaching, I like to spend time outdoors. I enjoy kayaking, hiking, biking, golfing, swimming and birding. I love animals and while I do not currently have a pet of my own, I volunteer with the rescue organization, One Tail At A Time.

Mickey and I are also part of Trusted Housesitters and often travel to different places to dog sit.



Photo courtesy of Molly Guyot

"This program allows you to do a lot of volunteer work. I had never done such volunteer work before, so it was a great experience."

-Anonymous, English Through Sustainability & Service-Learning



Students and local volunteers after preparing a meal for houseless individuals

I had the opportunity to go to many companies and listen to their stories directly, and I was able to learn a lot. During the homestay, I had many opportunities to speak English, so I was able to improve my English.

Anonymous, English for Business & Entrepreneurship

"Portland is rich in nature and I felt that the city is actively working on diversity. I felt that Tokyo and other areas in Japan should continue such efforts".

-Anonymous, Trending Topics: Intensive English for Communication



Students interviewing shop employees for a Scavenger Hunt



Volunteers at the ReUse Center



"There were a variety of buildings, including beautiful and stylish ones and ones with a sense of history..." "Portland is a very fun city with lots of nature. The people are kind and I had a great time every day."

Anonymous High School Participant

MAMA & HAPA'S - A ZERO WASTE SHOP!

We want to introduce you to one of our new community partners, Mama & Hapa's, a zero waste shop! This small business opened up their first store 3 years ago and now operates out of four locations in the Portland area. This shop is inspiring in so many ways. It makes it convenient and fast for the customer to purchase refills by replacing the scale with an easy to use RFID card system that dispenses by volume. The shop can sell their eco-friendly products at a comparable price to those you find in any supermarket or drugstore because they purchase the products (soaps, cleaning products, oils, etc.) in large volume from nearby vendors. The owners use their electric van to transport the products leaving a zero carbon footprint. Most everything in the shop is made in-store, from wooden display tables, wooden cutting boards for sale, to molded soaps and above all the electronic measuring system that allows a speedy check-out process. It's a truly inspirational experience! We introduce our students to Mama & Hapa's as part of the Sustainability and Entrepreneurship programs.



Photo courtesy of ISP students

Featured Partner: American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES)

Our partner feature for this Newsletter is perhaps our closest partner at International Special Programs - American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES). ACES's local office provides the majority of the homestay experiences for ISP students and is one of the main homestay organizations for long-term students at PSU and other area schools. The main ACES office, which is located in Bellevue, Washington works with outbound programming as well.

ACES is a natural fit for ISP programs due to their commitment to viewing homestays as a cross-cultural experience, not just a place for students to stay while abroad. This means that both ACES hosts and students are given expectations (and plenty of advice) to help their combined family navigate the short time that students are here. This might mean helping explain cultural differences, preparing students and hosts to engage in regular questioning and conversations (regardless of language level), and helping to resolve conflicts or misunderstandings that arrive. Host family experiences are some of our most highly rated student activities during evaluations, and many hosts have been hosting for years. It's a truly unique and special experience for all participants. We encourage you to reach out ACES if you are interested in hosting or staying with a family yourself! Visit their website at www.acescollegehomestay.org to learn more, or contact ACES at (503) 673-6898, aces.or@exploretheworld.org.



Check the links for program descriptions and updates!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS WINTER 2025

<u>Trending Topics: Intensive English for Communication and Global Understanding</u>	January 20 - February 7, 2025
<u>English Through Sustainability and Service-Learning</u>	February 3 - 20, 2025
<u>American Conversation & Culture</u>	February 3 - 21, 2025
<u>Field Study & America Plus</u>	February 17 - March 7, 2025
<u>English for Business & Entrepreneurship</u>	January 20 - February 7, 2025 or February 17 - March 7, 2025

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!**

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EXPERIENCE OREGON ONLY SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED



IN GRATITUDE FOR ALL OUR PARTNERS



For a complete list of our partners, please go to our website!