

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA - 2003/2004 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

## OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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International Affairs provides leadership, advocacy, development, and support for all central and college-based international activities. International Affairs works in collaboration with the colleges and regional campuses to promote international education, research, outreach, and service programs. International Affairs is comprised of the Center for Africa and the Diaspora, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, the Office of Study Abroad and Exchanges, and the USF Linkage Institutes. It is also closely allied with the English Language Institute. International Affairs leads the development of academic program offerings (area studies) and services, international exchanges, partnerships with business, industry, and government both in the U.S. and overseas, and to establish the venues for international activities, and enhance faculty, student, and staff training and development.

### Center for Africa and the Diaspora

*Location/Phone:* SVC 1087, (813) 974-4727

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The Center for Africa and the Diaspora is a joint venture between the Institute on Black Life and International Affairs. The Center works with IBL and International Affairs to provide leadership and advocacy for research, program development and community service initiatives that examine and illuminate the contributions of Africans and other peoples of the African Diaspora, as well as problems and issues that affect their lives. Through educational, cultural and economic exchanges, symposia, and other programs, USF students, faculty, and scholars and the local community are linked in tangible and productive ways to the world African community on issues of global relevance. The Center fosters interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborative arrangements with a wide range of institutions and organizations related to Africa and the African Diaspora in Tampa Bay and around the world.

### Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program

*Location/Phone:* CPR 474, (813)974-3547

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*Web Site:* <http://web.usf.edu/~lacs>

The mission of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS) program, as part of the University of South Florida's strategic plan for internationalization, is to enhance, coordinate and promote teaching, research, and service activities related to Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies. With the College of Arts and Sciences, the office offers a **Certificate** in Latin American and Caribbean Studies for undergraduate students who want to enhance their major degree program, a graduate certificate in Cuban studies, and a **Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree** in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies. LACS provides advising and support services to students.

The program offers research grants to USF faculty and graduate students to encourage and support research, conferences, and/or course development in all fields related to Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino studies.

The program fosters greater knowledge of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino issues through several partnerships with community organizations and university departments to sponsor **lectures and cultural programs** open to the public throughout the year. Academic exchanges with Latin American and Caribbean educational institutions are coordinated by the Director of LACS. These exchanges foster the recruitment of international students and visiting scholars as well as develop joint research projects. The office works collaborates with more than 40 teaching faculty in several disciplines who are

experts in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino studies. The staff consults with university administrators on issues related to the Latino community and Latino students.

### Office of International Student and Scholar Services

*Location/Phone:* CPR 469, (813) 974-5102

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The University of South Florida welcomes qualified students from all over the world to our campus community. The resulting international educational exchange leads to the enrichment of our common life, the intellectual development of our students, the research endeavors of the University, and mutual understanding between the peoples of the world represented at USF. The ensuing exchange of life stories exposes all USF students, faculty, and staff to the likenesses and differences which exist between cultures, worldviews, experiences, and ideas.

ISSS is the main administrative and advising office for approximately 2,500 foreign students and 200 visiting faculty members and researchers at USF. ISSS has many administrative duties, including the issuance and maintenance of all visa documentation for foreign nationals at the University. ISSS staff persons are experienced in cross-cultural counseling and crisis management in a cross-cultural setting. Advisement is available related to immigration matters, adjustment to life in the United States, culture shock, and other personal and academic matters. To further assist internationals in adjusting to life at USF, ISSS provides letters of enrollment and expenses, orientation, non-resident tax seminars, and immigration workshops. International students and scholars may also contact ISSS to get information regarding Tampa area activities, transportation, housing, tourist attractions, and Florida drivers' licenses. ISSS also offers opportunities to be involved in outreach programs of community service groups such as the American Mentors Program, and Friends of Internationals. Other programs include parties, cultural events, and the annual International Festival.

### Office of Study Abroad and Exchanges

*Location/Phone:* CPR 468, (813) 974-4314

*Email:* [studyabroad@iac.usf.edu](mailto:studyabroad@iac.usf.edu)

*Web Site:* <http://web.usf.edu/iac/studyabroad/>

The USF Study Abroad and Exchanges Office develops and coordinates academic programs abroad that allow students to incorporate an invaluable international component in their education. Through a variety of cost-effective study abroad opportunities, students may participate and meet general distribution requirements, including foreign language and USF summer enrollment graduation requirements. Many students find that they are able to fulfill individual degree requirements while studying abroad through USF.

Students can select from among different models of overseas study programs:

- (1) Semester or academic year program,
- (2) USF faculty-led group study abroad programs, ranging in duration from a 10-day short-term study tour to a 4-6 week summer "in-residence" program
- (3) Internships or special programs arranged by USF College or Department in cooperation with an institution overseas, or
- (4) Service learning programs.

While some programs require a minimum grade point average, others require only that students be degree-seeking and currently in good academic status. Depending upon the study abroad option chosen, students may earn USF credit across academic disciplines including courses in Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, Education, Business Administration, Engineering and more. Programs are available to students in

every major field, and most programs do not require foreign language proficiency.

Increasingly, USF students are able to apply the same financial aid available to them for classes on campus to courses taken abroad. The USF Office of Study Abroad and Exchanges coordinates closely with other units on campus on the student's behalf, including the Financial Aid Office, the Cashier's Office and Office of the Registrar.

USF degree-seeking students who meet eligibility requirements may apply for study abroad scholarships offered each term through the Study Abroad and Exchanges Office. The Office also maintains an Overseas Information Library. Here, students may research study abroad options, alternative funding sources and overseas employment possibilities in connection with their planned study abroad. Country-specific information and general travel publications further assist students with their planning.

Although new overseas programs are constantly being developed, a sampling of countries in which USF offers different study abroad opportunities includes:

Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (various locations).

### The English Language Institute

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The English Language Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences offers intensive academic English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to non-native speakers of English. Students are given a placement test upon registering for the program. This test determines the proficiency level into which the student is placed, ranging from elementary, low-intermediate, high-intermediate, to advanced pre-university ESL.

Students attend non-credit classes 25 hours per week. International students on a USF I-20, F-2 and J-2 visa holders, as well as permanent residents may enroll part-time in the ELI. The integrated-skill, content-based curriculum includes training in listening comprehension, spoken English, grammar, reading, writing, culture, learning strategies, and a host of test prep elective courses (TOEFL, GRE, SAT, SPEAK) for upper-level students.

The English Language Institute is authorized to issue Certificate of Eligibility (I-20) to students who require a Student Visa (F-1) and who meet criteria set forth by the U.S. Bureau of Citizens and Immigration Services.

The cost of the program is \$3,150.00 per semester, including health fee, activities fee, and a non-refundable application fee.