

WELCOME

Walden University's Center for International Programs Welcomes You!

Adjusting to a new educational environment can be a challenge for any student and especially for international students who are entering a new culture and a new online learning environment. Through our exclusive international student support services and our commitment to the diversity of our student body and academic leadership, we at Walden University are dedicated to your success.

We hope this resource will help you understand how to navigate through the online learning environment and through a new academic system and that it will provide the necessary information to help you better make the adjustment to "online student" life.

Within these pages, you will find information, tools, and tips that we believe will be particularly useful for Walden's international students. Topics include:

- Orientation
- Culture and communication
- Internationalization
- Scholarships and awards
- After Walden

International students at Walden are students who are:

- Citizens of any nation other than the United States (who are residing outside the United States)
- Serving in the U.S. military overseas
- U.S. citizens living overseas

No matter where you live, you are integral to the fabric that makes Walden University the diverse higher learning institution it is today. We want to ensure that you have all the information you need to be successful during your studies at Walden.

Did You Know?

Walden University's International Student Advising Team (ISAT) is dedicated exclusively to international students.

Current international students can contact their assigned ISAT member via email or phone with questions related to their program of study and future courses, as well as tuition and funding opportunities. You can contact any ISAT member via the online student portal:

- Click on the Support tab to see the following instructions:
 - If you are in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or Australia: dial +31.20.713.0200, Option 2, for Walden, then Option 2 again for Advising. If no advisors are available to take your call due to the time difference, a student support coordinator will be available to assist you.
 - If you are in North, Central, or South America, or the Caribbean: dial +1.443.627.7222, then choose the appropriate option for language, then choose Option 3 for Advising.
- You can also reach ISAT via email at internationaladvising@waldenu.edu.

ORIENTATION

Below, you'll find some tools that will help you in getting oriented at Walden and to taking courses online.

A Virtual Community for International Students: eCommunity

We have created the eCommunity so that you can communicate with other international students enrolled at Walden who reside in different regions of the world. This is a space for you to share ideas and create a sense of camaraderie with other international students. Please contact the Center for International Programs at cip@WaldenU.edu if you have not received an invitation to be added to this virtual community.

Social and Professional Networking at Walden

Connecting online is important to the Walden community and to the impact it has on the world. To support and enhance the dialogue within Walden, our students, staff, and faculty members have built several online communities. These communities make it easy for you to find an answer, share a hypothesis, join a discussion, express yourself, and stay in touch with fellow students.

Connect with the Walden community via the following sites:



www.facebook.com/waldenu



www.twitter.com/waldenu



www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?gid=30800



www.youtube.com/user/WaldenUniversity

Student Assistance Programs

Because we understand the needs of adult learners, Walden University has formal support programs in place for students who are going through various challenges in their academic life. Explore the Student Assistance Program to see how we can help: www.WaldenU.edu/Support-Services.htm.

The U.S. Education System

The U.S. education system may be quite different from that of your country. Visit this link for information on how the U.S. education system is structured: <http://www.globaled.us/wwcu/background/United-States.htm>.

CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

Though you may not be face to face with professors and fellow students, the online classroom reflects the cultural and interpersonal dynamics that each student brings to the experience. One of the benefits of online learning is the ability to connect with students in different regions of the world, bringing the richness of their cultures and perspectives into the online classroom discussion. At the same time, understanding the cultural dimensions that are the backbone of communication will help create rich communities of learning in the online environment.

The following video demonstrates two of the cultural dimensions that influence communication online:

- **Low-Context vs. High-Context Cultures**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tIUilYX56E&feature=related

Communicating in the Online Environment

Working and studying in an online environment requires that students develop specific skills to make those communications more effective. Those skills include:

- Using effective virtual communication strategies.
- Understanding the importance of academic integrity.

The following resources discuss these two skills and their impact on online learning:

- **What Is It Like to Learn Online?**

<http://www.WaldenU.edu/Student-Experience/20271.htm>

- **The Value of Online Learning**

<http://www.WaldenU.edu/International/33860.htm>

The Effect of Culture in Online Communication

One of the unique benefits of the online classroom is the chance to interact with students who are located in different regions of the world. This gives you the opportunity to identify how a problem or an issue is perceived by students from various cultures. We know that each culture attaches meaning to a context, and learning about other countries can help us better understand why people from those countries may perceive problems differently.

Cultural Competence

Living and communicating across cultures implies adapting and understanding. Communication misunderstandings can be avoided if we can better understand the influence of culture in the meaning we attach to concepts. These videos demonstrate, with humor, situations in which communication is hindered by a lack of understanding of cultural dimensions.

Here are some useful resources that may help you to become more culturally competent.

- **Developing Cultural Competence**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd6ksEx3rZw
- **Dr. Fons Trompenaars on Culture**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqNI8le1bF4&feature=Playlist&p=1C80223F31574458&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=2
- **About Culture Shock**
http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/culture_shock.html
- **Waltzing Matilda Misunderstanding (examples of people NOT understanding meaning and context)**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2NiVL_UP94&feature=related

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Walden University believes that online education opens the door for learners to study anywhere and at any time.

The following are some examples of Walden's internationalization initiatives:

Study abroad—As part of their course of study, students in various programs have the option of traveling overseas for one week to learn and study. Immersed in the culture, students may more fully embrace the comprehensive nature of their program of study and future career field.

Dual degree—Students from UVM, our partner university in Mexico, have the opportunity to obtain a degree with their home university, as well as a degree from Walden University.

International residencies—Some degrees require residencies of one or two weeks. Walden holds international residencies on certain dates. During residencies, international students have the opportunity to meet fellow students as well as professors in person, share academic ideas, and even form friendships. Activities include a welcome dinner and networking events.

Guest speakers—We invite speakers with international experience to share their insights with Walden students via webcasts as well as during residencies.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Walden is committed to providing broad access to higher education. Our scholarships are an investment in the future of our students and the future of the communities they serve as advocates for positive social change. Walden offers merit-based scholarships for academic and professional accomplishments.

The scholarships listed below are available to international students:

- **Ann 'Tunky' Riley Excellence in Education Scholarship**
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/31546.htm
- **Commitment to Social Change Scholarship**
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/Commitment-to-Social-Change-Scholarship.htm
- **Dave Palmer Military Scholarship** (active duty U.S. Military personnel only)
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/David-Palmer-Military-Scholarship.htm
- **National Public Service Scholarship**
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/National-Public-Service-Scholarship.htm
- **Presidential Scholarship**
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/Presidential-Scholarship.htm
- **Teacher of the Year Recipient Scholarship** (students residing in U.S. territories)
www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/23065.htm

We invite you to look at other sources of funding for your education here:

- **LASPAU-Administered Grant Programs**
<http://www.laspau.harvard.edu/current-programs>
- **International Education Financial Aid**
www.iefaf.org
- **Fulbright Scholarships**
www.fulbright.state.gov

OVERSEAS MILITARY

As a member of the U.S. military residing overseas, you need not feel disconnected from the opportunities available to you. Visit these links to find options for funding your education and other helpful resources:

- **U.S. Military & Veteran Benefits at Walden**
www.WaldenU.edu/Admissions/20532.htm
- **The GI Bill**
www.gibill.va.gov
- **Support for Military Personnel and Their families**
www.usa.gov/Federal_Employees/Active_Military_Family.shtml
- **Operation Homelink**
www.operationhomelink.org
- **U.S. Department of Defense Community Relations**
<http://www.ourmilitary.mil>

U.S. Citizens living abroad may also be eligible for federal financial aid:

www.WaldenU.edu/Tuition-and-Financial-Aid/Federal-Financial-Aid.htm

AFTER WALDEN

Jobs and Careers

While not endorsed by Walden, the following sites pertain to jobs and career opportunities:

- **International Job Opportunities**
www.rileyguide.com/internat.html
- **Negotiating Your Salary**
www.salarynegotiations.com
- **Returning Home**
Relocation services
www.americasrelocationhomeservices.net

International Alumni

Keep up to date on what Walden University is doing: www.WaldenU.edu/Alumni.htm

Walden Alumni Magazine: www.WaldenU.edu/Alumni/33708.htm

Walden Alumni Portal: www.myWaldenAlumni.com

Alumni blog: www.waldenalumni.typepad.com/waldenu_alumni