

Newsletter

FALL 2017

mohawkcollege.ca/international

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mohawk College
welcomes the world!

1

New supports for international
students across the College

2

Welcoming international students
to the Mohawk community

3

Pre-arrival orientation sets
students up for success

3

A warm Mohawk welcome
upon arrival

4

Action-packed orientation
provides essential information
and more

4

International Square now open!

5

Cross-functional teams update

6

Upcoming Events

6

International student profile

6

Summer programs enhance
language learning

7

Mohawk International
staff retreat

8

Ongoing student
support initiatives

9

Mohawk College welcomes the world!

This fall, Mohawk College welcomed more than 3000 international students, including 1,055 new, 1,756 returning and 128 in co-op/part-time programs. With students coming to Mohawk from more than 50 countries around the world, India, China, Nigeria, Vietnam, Korea and Brazil are the countries most represented in our international student body. In this newsletter, we feature information on new supports for international students, Mohawk International program updates and how Mohawk College is moving from “welcoming” to “friendly.”



New supports for international students across the College

To enhance the supports available to international students as well as faculty who teach international students, the College is piloting several new positions to promote international student success.

Faculty Leads - International

Within each School, an International Faculty Lead position will provide the area with faculty release time to address international academic needs within program areas. The International Faculty Leads champion the development and implementation of tools and strategies that promote international students' academic success. The Lead will report to his/her Dean and Associate Dean (with some oversight from the Dean of International and Partnerships.) Each Lead will work within his/her School to identify international challenges or opportunities and work with other areas of the College to develop solutions. The Lead will also work collaboratively with a team which includes the assigned Mohawk International Liaison Officer and the International Teaching and Learning Consultant in the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

continued on page 3



HERE IS A LIST OF
THE INDIVIDUALS
IN EACH OF
THESE ROLES:

FACULTY LEADS – INTERNATIONAL:

Health: Alison Diamond,
Tara-Lyn Dinyer

**Community & Justice and
Liberal Studies:** Shirley Bainbridge,
Erica Fagan

**Engineering Technology - BC/
CMA:** TBD; CSAIT: John Holloway

Skilled Trades & Apprenticeship:
Marla Robinson

Business: Carol Fleck

Media & Entertainment:
Jamshed Turel

**TEACHING AND LEARNING
CONSULTANT – INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION:** Kelley Hoyt

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
COACH:** Stoney Creek: Maria John

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
COACH:** IAHS: Eric Harvey

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
COACH:** Fennell: Ruth Tombe

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
EVENTS AND WELCOMING
OFFICER:** Ola Salah

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
CAREER ADVISOR:** Hussam Eldib

INTER-CULTURAL COUNSELLOR:
Mona Fathieh

We will have more details about
the work of these new staff in
upcoming newsletters!

continued from page 2
"NEW SUPPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL..."

Teaching and Learning Consultant – International Education

In addition, a Teaching and Learning Consultant – International Education in the Centre for Teaching and Learning will be starting this Fall. This position develops professional development opportunities for faculty such as workshops, webinars, customized sessions, online toolkits, eLearn modules, etc. relating to strategies to manage the diverse classroom and supporting the academic success of the international student. This position also liaises with Faculty Leads to determine professional development needs and meets individually with faculty to develop tools and strategies to assist with managing issues relating to the diverse classroom and the international student experience.

International Student Supports

Directly interfacing with students, International Student Coaches at each campus, an International Student Events and Welcoming Officer and an International Student Career Advisor will continue to build a strong foundation of support for international students at the College.



Welcoming international students to the Mohawk community

Pre-arrival orientation sets students up for success

This summer, the international team and an associate dean held a pre-departure workshop for incoming (fall '17) students and their parents in Chandigarh, India. The participation of 70 students and 100 parents contributes greatly to our goals of supporting international student settlement and orienting international students to the Canadian educational system.

Planning to attend post-secondary education is an exciting and somewhat intimidating consideration for anyone. Planning to move across the world though, is really a life changing undertaking and it is the reality for international students at Mohawk College every year. Getting prepared for school involves much more than honing your good study habits and having the best highlighters. Under the direction of the Dean, International & Partnerships, a delegation of five embarked on what could be considered a blueprint for success for some of our newest students attending Mohawk in the fall. This delegation travelled to India in early July to give student's an opportunity to set their own personal stage for success by hosting a Pre-Departure Orientation session focused on academic, future career and personal preparation. Part of the aim was to give students a more realistic and comforting approach to what their new life in Canada could look like before they even left the familiarity of their own home.

continued on page 4



Pre-arrival orientation sets students up for success

continued from page 3

This delegation of Mohawk colleagues included our Dean of International & Partnerships – Keith Monrose and Associate Dean, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology – Elizabeth Pietrantonio, Ranmalee Kulandran – Operations Support Officer – International Partnerships & Recruitment, Nancy Pitman – Coordinator, International Agents, International Partnerships & Recruitment, and Vinay Joshi - International Recruiter – India & South Asia, International Partnerships & Recruitment. We were pleased to welcome close to 300 people for two separate sessions in Chandigarh, India. The first session hailed the academic achievements of present Mohawk students along with their proud parents and the second focused on providing a pre-orientation to new students accepted into Mohawk programs. The sessions were fun, thought-provoking, interactive and moving at times. Many students expressed feeling more content at the thought of school and their plans and felt more prepared about the venture that lay ahead. Over the first two weeks of startup, we were excited to welcome many new students to Mohawk but also to see many of the familiar faces from the Chandigarh workshop.



A warm Mohawk welcome upon arrival

During the fall '17 startup, Mohawk International piloted a welcoming service at the Pearson Airport to support students from the moment they touch down in Canada. The service provides students with water/coffee and a free call home to confirm their arrival in Canada. The airport greeters also assist students with locating transit to Hamilton, establishing a wi-fi connection, currency exchange, banking and general information about Mohawk College.

Action-packed orientation provides essential information and more

The **International Passport to Success** took place on Saturday, Sept. 9th. ISS staff provided a warm welcome to international students and important information about Canadian culture, student success strategies, how to get involved in campus activities, getting around the GTHA, finding basic necessities and cultural/community supports. This year, 165 enthusiastic students attended orientation – following this event, some of the students accompanied International Staff to the James Street Festival “Supercrawl”.



International Square now open!

International students now have a central space on campus where they can access key services and a welcoming space to call home! The International department space in room J137 is now International Square – a space dedicated to serving international students. As of August, 2017 all International Student Services staff have moved from The Square to International Square, room J137 at the Fennell campus.



Just as The Square is the key service location for students, International Square provides international students the following services:



PAYMENT
SERVICES



ADMISSIONS



REGISTRATION
TIMETABLE HELP



ADVISING



DOCUMENT PICKUP
SERVICES



ENGLISH LANGUAGE
PROGRAMS

AND MORE!

Please note:

International Student Services staff have moved from The Square to J137; however reporting structures have not changed and phone and email contact info remains the same for these staff.

The Co-op Department and Community Employment Centre are still located in J137 and there has been no change to these service locations.

The Language & Culture Centre (LCC) is also still located in J137.

The following services will continue to be available in The Square for both domestic and International students:

- Timetable Selection Support
- CE Registration
- Counselling
- Accessible Learning Services
- Transcript Pick-up
- ONE card replacement

Please drop by International Square and say hello!



Upcoming events

Mohawk International supports or hosts many events aimed at making our international students feel right at home. Please note the following dates and help us make all events a great success.

OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 9

Check out the International Team during the Open House at Fennell on December 9, in J137 and at our C-Wing Booth.

START SMART JANUARY 16

New international students will learn valuable success strategies at this essential annual event.

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION JANUARY 20

All new international students are invited to join us at this fun and information-packed event to learn about Mohawk and the community!

Cross-functional teams update

At MEG's request, the international area was asked to convene a Cross Functional Team. This team includes individuals from across the College and is focused on:

- 1 enhancing academic supports;
- 2 elevating our understanding of other cultures within the college;
- 3 increasing new international students' opportunity to interact with the broader community; and
- 4 collecting feedback to improve how we measure and manage the international experience here at Mohawk.

Student Profile – getting to know our students

In each newsletter, we'll profile an international student who is currently studying at Mohawk.

Jialin Gu

Jialin Gu is from China and is in his third semester of his second year in Mechanical Engineering. We asked Jialin what his favourite part of Canada is and he commented that the thing he loves about Canada is that "people always feel free to talk to others even if they are strangers...it is much easier to start a new friendship and build up a social group." It didn't take Jialin long to find Hamilton's spectacular waterfalls – "my favourite experience is hiking along the trails in Hamilton," he said. "The views are beautiful." Jialin commented that he appreciates the new International Square, saying "International Square is a department which knows everything. You can ask any questions whatever the question is about. For example, during my volunteer shift, some students asked about where and how to book a flight, work permits, driving license, best restaurants in Hamilton, events in our college and so on. They all got satisfied answers at the end." We're pleased Jialin is finding Canada and Mohawk College not only welcoming but friendly!





Summer programs enhance language learning

The Mohawk International Team was busy this summer welcoming students from across Canada and around the world to enhance English language skills.

This summer, we welcomed 158 teenagers aged 14-18 from Quebec and Spain to discover Hamilton and Mohawk College through the "EXPLORE" program. The "EXPLORE" program is a federally funded program in partnership with the College de Jonquiere. The Explore program exposes students to one of Canada's official languages, provides opportunities to learn about local culture through a variety of socio-cultural outings and reinforces learning

through skill enhancing workshops. Mohawk is the 4th institution in Ontario to offer EXPLORE. Mohawk International partnered with several Mohawk and community groups (Sustainability Department, Digital Print Lab, Aboriginal Education and Student Services, Indigenous community partners, local farmers, the City of Hamilton, and Centre De Santé) to coordinate events and



workshops in visual arts, music, sports, mixed media arts and dance. Students performed in a final gala on August 2nd. Many host parents in our community provided engaging homestays. Mohawk International is expanding the partner network to expand the number of future International and visiting student programs.

In addition to EXPLORE, the LCC also ran its regular EAP program for approx. 250 students. This summer we were host to five visiting students in the EAP program - four from Italy and one from Japan. The students explored volunteer opportunities at Mohawk and in the community, resumé

continued on page 8



EXPLORE program students enjoying Dundurn Castle.

Summer programs enhance language learning

continued from page 7

building and Canadian Workplace culture workshops. Within the program we made a curriculum change to the Program of Studies (POS) and added new courses to the EAP program to align the teaching hours with similar programs across Ontario: For EAP levels 1-6 contact hours increased from 18 hours/week to 21 hours/week starting September 2017.



EXPLORE program students at an outing at a Hamilton park.

Mohawk International staff retreat

To enhance team-building and collaboration, the Mohawk International team attended an all-staff retreat on June 9th in Brantford. The day focused on strategic planning and how we can work together to ensure a successful international student journey pre-arrival, at Mohawk and after graduation.



Mohawk International team.

Ongoing student support initiatives

International Student Services provides a range of ongoing support activities to international students. Here are some of the highlights:

Coffee Club

Coffee Club was established in May 2015 to encourage international students to engage in conversations and activities to help with their transition to Mohawk College and life in a new country. Over time, the group has grown and attracts both international and domestic students alike.

Coffee Club encourages lively discussions, engaging activities and offers light refreshments. Every Coffee Club gathering is different and discussions and activities are determined by the interests of the participants for that week.

Coffee Club runs bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 pm in J137. Please visit our website for more information:

www.mohawkcollege.ca/coffeeclub



Student Connect, International Peer Mentor Program

The Student Connect, International Peer Mentor Program is aimed at partnering international students with senior students at Mohawk, before and after they arrive in Canada, to make the transition to Canada and Mohawk College as smooth as possible. Most peer mentors are international students and understand the challenges these students may face. Ongoing training is provided to ensure the peer mentors have the tools they need to best support our students.

Please visit our website for more information:

www.mohawkcollege.ca/student-connect



Permit Presentations

Once a month during common hour, at all campuses we present a permit presentation for all our international students. This one hour session provides updated information regarding processes and policies enforced by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Topics cover a variety of areas including study permit extensions, post graduate permits and visitor visas.

For more information email:

international.services@mohawkcollege.ca



Let's Connect Sessions

The second Tuesday of every month, from 5:00pm-7:00pm in J103, ISS hosts a Let's Connect Session sponsored by the Hamilton YMCA open to all international students. A representative from the YMCA presents information to attendees regarding community services and resources, immigration pathways and Provincial Nominee and Express Entry Programs. It is well attended and participants provide favourable feedback on what is offered during the session.

For more information email:

international.services@mohawkcollege.ca

