

Peer Advocacy 2018-19

Prepared by Elaine Shuai, Peer Advocate



Peer Advocates at the Office of Advocacy are students who have completed formal training on empathetic listening, motivational interviewing, and working across differences. The goal of Peer Advocacy is to provide individualized peer-based support to students at Oregon State University. Our motto: As an OSU student, you are never alone.



In the 2018-19 Academic Year, Peer Advocates impacted hundreds of OSU students, including all incoming INTO and Pathways students, all directly admitted students who attended the international student fair, more than fifty students who received individual Peer Advocacy services, and the student groups who attended our UndocuAlly training.



Peer Advocates work one-on-one with students to provide services including identifying campus resources, connecting with off-campus services, communicating with professors and faculty, and problem-solving challenges that arise. We are always on the student's side.

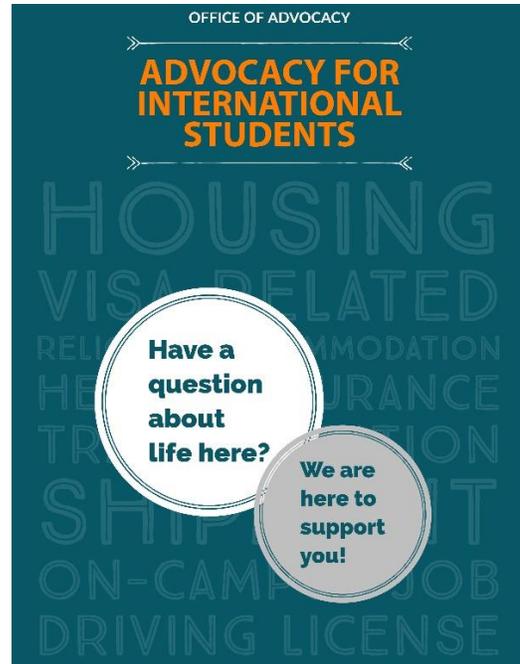


International Student Advocacy Program

This program specifically serves the international student community here at Oregon State University. The goal of this project is to meet the unique needs of students who are facing issues that are new to them. In this way, OSU students become the first resource for international students to go to when they are in need of support or help.



We recognize the multiple, invisible barriers facing international students that are difficult to navigate without support. These issues include obtaining a driver's license or state ID, filing taxes, finding employment, and obtaining and using health insurance. Our peer advocates who are also international students provide one-on-one consultations to each student who has questions.



We regularly present to INTO students and participate in international student orientation. At the International Student Fair and Beaver Community Fair, we connected with more than 100 students from different countries all over the world. As the year unfolded, we became friendly points of contact for these students, encouraging them to succeed.

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Jia Wu was born in Taishan, Guangdong, China, but grew up in Portland, Oregon. She is a senior majoring in Biology and minoring in mathematics, with a plan to go to medical school after her studies here at OSU. This is her fourth year working in the office and she is excited to help more students as they come into the office. Other than being a Peer Advocate at the Office of Advocacy, Jia is also in the STEM leaders program and is doing undergraduate research in the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Erika Meusch is majoring in Psychology, with a minor in Chemistry. Erika grew up in Tigard, Oregon, and is currently a part of the Attention and Performance Lab on campus. She enjoys being a part of her sorority, Sigma Alpha, and spending time with her sorority sisters. In her free time, Erika enjoys having movie marathons with friends and getting outside to explore the different parts of this beautiful state.



Hamza Molvi is a senior pursuing a double major in Marketing and Business Information Systems. Born in New York but raised in Corvallis, Hamza's work in the Office of Advocacy has entailed leading various marketing campaigns. Hamza views collaborating with talented colleagues who strive to make a difference in students' lives across campus in the Office of Advocacy as a privilege of a lifetime. When he's not involved in marketing efforts for the Office, Hamza is lead student designer and digital strategist in the Honors College.



Leif Larsen is a third-year student pursuing a political science degree with a minor in French. He hopes to attend law school to become a public interest lawyer. He was born in Minnesota but was raised in Alaska and North Dakota. He likes to stay active by running; most recently he completed in the Portland Marathon. His all-time favorite thing to do is play Monopoly or Risk with his friends. Leif also loves to travel. His favorite place to visit is France, but he has a soft spot for tropical beaches. His perfect day would be drinking smoothies on the beach while reading a good novel.



Amir Shaarifuddin is a senior majoring in Political Science with an International Affairs option, and minors in Economics and Business. Amir grew up in his beloved country, Malaysia. He enjoys cooking good food, travelling around the United States, and learning about the diverse



Jasmine Meraz is a senior studying Human Development and Family Sciences with a double major in Education and a double option in early childhood and elementary education and a minor in Spanish. She is from Monmouth, Oregon. Jasmine is a proud member of Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc. and is Director of Standards and Finance for the Unified Greek Council. In addition, last summer, Jasmine interned for Senator Merkely in Washington, D.C. and spent a summer studying abroad in Uganda.



Elaine Shuai is currently a senior majoring in Marketing. From Shanghai, China, Elaine enjoys helping students. In addition to her time here at the Office of Advocacy, Elaine is also a transfer ambassador for the START program here on campus, as well as a member of 16xOSU, a social entrepreneurship club for all students. In her free time, Elaine enjoys cooking and traveling.



Vivian Le is a third-year student studying Business Information Systems and Accounting, with hopes of someday running for public office. Vivian was raised in Southern Oregon in the tiny city of Phoenix (not to be confused with Phoenix, Arizona). When she has free time, she loves playing her guitar and piano, writing music and working out.