

You Are Welcome Here: Re-envisioning International Student Support During COVID-19

Members of the International Student Advisory Council (ISAC) will lead a discussion of the primary challenges international students face on our campus today. Student advisory council members lead a conversation around the salient needs international students have including assistance with mental health, career support, and academic writing. The challenges international students have faced during the pandemic have been unique because they had to keep abreast of changing immigration regulations while far from their families and home communities. We will discuss the methods students have used to combat isolation and how this can inform our practice as staff members who work with and support international students. ISAC's role is to provide feedback and recommendations to International Student Services and other campus units to assist the University of Arizona in setting the standard for a global university in the digital age. Members of the ISAC contribute to unparalleled student support by serving as advocates for the international student community and contributing to effective global engagement

Maritza Marquez Olague

Maritza (She, her, Ella) is a PhD. student from the program Educational Leadership & Policy with a minor in Higher Education. She is an international student from the border of Mexico, which gives her a deep understanding of the border practices. As a collaborator of ISAC, she will support and advocate for the international students' community. At the University of Arizona, Maritza is also a member of the COE Dean's Graduate Advisory Board, Student representative at COE Diversity Committee and Graduate Teaching Assistant at EDLP Program.



Liane Eugenio Pinto

Liane Pinto is a Clinical Translational Science 4th year PhD student with a minor in Cancer Biology. She was born and raised in Brazil. She went to high school and undergrad studies at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. She completed her master's degree in Cancer Science at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK, and a Palliative Care fellowship in Barcelona, Spain. As a result of this past exposure to different cultures and experiences, she is delighted to be part of the International Student Advisory Council (ISAC) where she wants to support the University of Arizona International Student Community in local adjustments, smooth transitioning and settlement into the UA and Tucson Community. She also wants to give voice to any difficulties of the international community on campus/out of campus and open the possibility to seek solutions and improvements to the past and present issues faced by her fellow international students and their families. In her spare time, Liane likes to be with her daughter and husband and to read local, national and diversified international news.



Nguyen Dang

Nguyen Dang is an international student from Vietnam. He is currently a Sophomore majoring in Food Safety with a minor in Chemistry. He spent his first year in the United States as an exchange student under the J1 exchange student program in 2018. He later went on to graduate high school in Michigan under the F1 international student during the COVID-19 pandemic. He loves the campus because of its classical and modern buildings as well as the fascinating lifestyle that Tucson has to offer. Here, he works as an Operations and Distribution Staff for the Campus Pantry, a student-run organization that distributes food to the Wildcats community at no cost. He decided to join ISAC because he believes the voice of international students should be heard, and he could share some of his experiences during his years in the United States so that they could feel the university like their home. While he is not doing his homework, he loves to hang out with his friends and cook some Vietnamese dishes to the people in the dorm.

