



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE DIVISION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Spring 2022 Newsletter



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We chatted with graduate student Alain Lionel Fogang Takoutsing about his experiences as a PhD student in UL Lafayette's Mathematics program.

TAX INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

We discuss how non-resident students in the U.S. can learn more about filing their 2021 tax returns.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

We list important dates you need to know for this semester and provide important resources you might need in the near future.

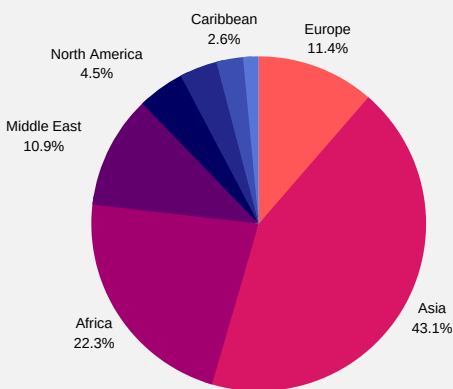
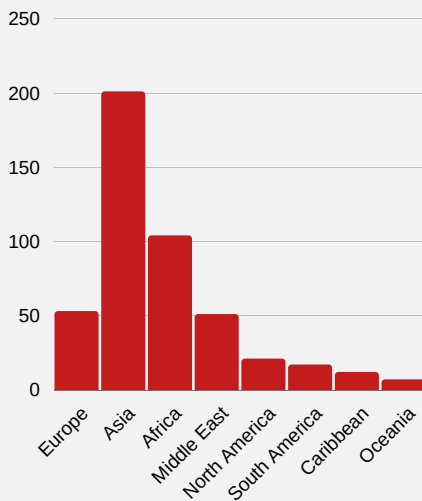


SPRING 2022 STATISTICS

This semester the Division of Global Engagement welcomed 466 students from 73 different countries to UL Lafayette.

Our new students come from countries like Ghana, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and many more across the globe. We are so happy to have these students as a part of our Ragin' Cajun family and wish them the best of luck in their collegiate careers.

SPRING 2022 ENROLLMENT



SUMMER TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

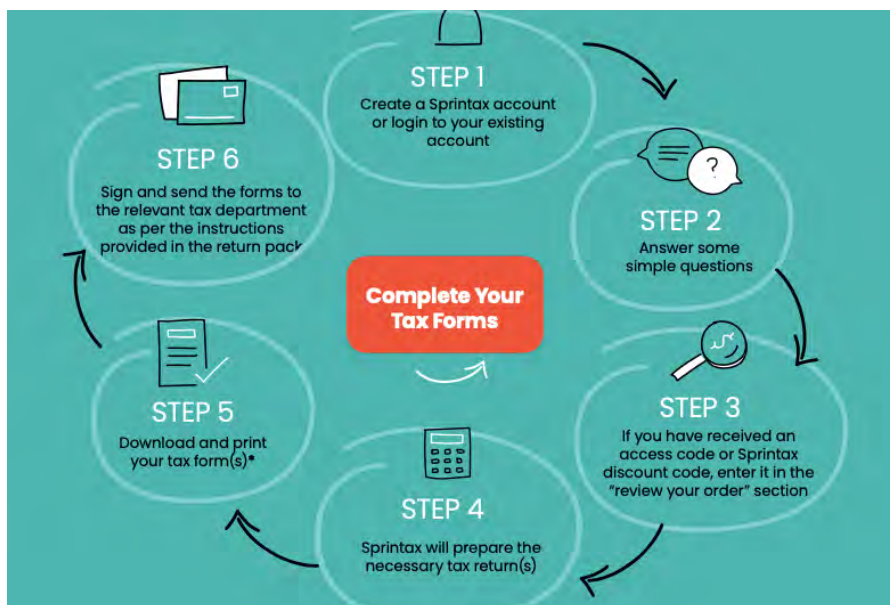
F-1 and J-1 visa holders traveling outside of the U.S. for the summer break (May 14, 2022 – August 16, 2022) must complete a [Request for Travel Authorization](#) and bring their physical I-20 or DS-2019 to our office for travel authorization at least 8 days prior to their departure. Please note that SEVP regulations require that students are registered full-time for the Fall 2022 semester before we can provide a travel authorization. Travel requests should be submitted to the DGE no sooner than 2 weeks prior to your expected travel. Also note that any person traveling back to the U.S. is required to [present documentation of a negative COVID-19 test result](#) before boarding their flight. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [FAQ page](#) includes information about testing requirements for travelers who have a layover before entering the U.S. Please note that DGE staff cannot guarantee your return to the U.S. For further questions, feel free to schedule a [virtual appointment](#) or visit our office.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

Students graduating in the Spring 2022 semester who wish to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) can apply between February 12th and July 11th, 2022. OPT applications must be received and receipted by USCIS within 60 days after the date of graduation; therefore, it is important to apply early.

OPT allows F-1 Students to engage in temporary employment to gain practical experience in their field of study. Please visit [the OIA's website](#) for application documents and instructions on how to apply. You can also schedule a [virtual appointment](#) (select 'Work Authorization') to meet our staff to discuss your OPT questions.





TAX FILING OBLIGATIONS

All undergraduate and graduate students who were physically present in the U.S. as a non-resident in 2021 are legally required to file a tax return. If you didn't work or receive income in the US in 2021, you're still obliged to file a Form 8843 with the IRS. The deadline for filing US taxes is April 18th, 2022.

The Division of Global Engagement partners with Sprintax, a company that specializes in non-resident tax preparation. The DGE is not authorized to provide tax advising; however, Sprintax has an online chat where you can get your questions answered. Please check your louisiana.edu email for important information regarding Sprintax. To learn more about the U.S. tax system and understand your tax filing obligations, please visit [our website](#) for more information.



CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING (CPT)

Curricular Practical Training authorization is available to F-1 students who would like to take part in off-campus internships relating to their degree programs. The internship must either be required by the student's degree program or the student must receive course credit for the internship. The internship may be either full time (over 20 hours per week) or part time (20 hours per week or less). Please note that an internship is defined as supervised employment of limited duration, with education and experience being its primary function. Full-time, continuous, benefits-eligible employment is not appropriate for an internship. The earliest date to apply for CPT for the Summer 2022 semester is April 11th, 2022. The deadline to apply is June 8th, 2022. Please visit [our website](#) and follow the instructions to apply for CPT. [Virtual advising](#) is also available.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LIONEL FOGANG TAKOUTSING



Meet your classmates!



Lionel Fogang Takoutsing is a graduate student from Buea, a city in the Southwest region of Cameroon, pursuing a PhD in Mathematics at UL Lafayette.

What is your favorite part of the program you're studying?

I love mathematics in general so much; I love the rational thinking involved and the possibility of deriving interesting conclusions from seemingly innocent premises. Also, I love to explain math to others, making it easy to understand.

What has been your fondest memory of your time at UL Lafayette?

I have had so many great memories here, and they keep adding up! But, I would probably say my best memories are the times I and some great people spent at the Chi Alpha International Nights playing soccer, games, watching movies, and so many other fun things during early Spring 2020 and a handful of times during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Do you have any advice for other international students?

Define your goals clearly, give your best as you pursue them, and enjoy every step of your journey.



INTRODUCING VINCA DUHON!

The Division of Global Engagement is proud to welcome the newest member of our family, Vinca Rampen-Duhon! After over 15 years of service at UL, we are very happy that she will be moving down the hall from the bookstore into our offices as our Administrative Assistant. She was an international student athlete from Indonesia who was a tennis star for the Ragin' Cajuns. She earned a BA in Public Relations from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and served as the Accounts Receivable Supervisor at our University Bookstore for the past 17.5 years. We're so excited to welcome Vinca to the Division of Global Engagement team!



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MEET AND GREET

On March 16th, students and faculty were invited to join for an informal meet and greet with UL Lafayette international students. Taking place at the Alumni Center, this was the first event of this kind since the beginning of the pandemic. We were so happy to see everyone's faces and get to know the many wonderful students who make up our international student body.

Why should other international students choose to attend UL Lafayette?

The mild weather here in Louisiana makes it easy to adapt if you are coming from a country where temperatures are not very harsh as well as the hospitality of people here are two great reasons to study at UL Lafayette (not forgetting the fact that we are now a R1 University).

If you could be any animal, which one would it be?

If I could be an animal, I would love to be a lion! The reason is simple: my first name, Lionel means "lion cub."

Share one of your favorite quotes!

My favorite quote is about mathematics, but I think you can apply it to any other discipline. It is the following by David Hilbert: "A mathematical theory is not to be considered complete until you have made it so clear that you can explain it to the first man whom you meet on the street."

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE



The people of Ukraine are facing an ongoing crisis where millions have been forcibly displaced from their homes, their lives, and their families.

The Division of Global Engagement stands and supports them in the face of this global conflict. As a safe space for our students all over the world, it is important to us that we keep Ukraine in our thoughts, prayers, and actions.





FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL

Festival International is a premiere international music and arts festival known for bringing a variety of unique and emerging performers to Louisiana. The family-oriented event is held each year in downtown Lafayette. This year, they are celebrating their 35th annual celebration! "Festival International was conceived as a multi-faceted cultural event of international scope and significance. In broad terms, the mission was to "develop a unique, spectacular forum for cultural expression, exchange and enrichment, and to create an opportunity for sustained economic growth and diversification." This vision statement was written by Herman Mhire, Festival International's Conceptual Visionary, on its 10 year anniversary in 1997. This year, the Festival runs from **April 27th to May 1st**, and we encourage you to stop by and enjoy the diverse cultural experience!



CAMPUS CUPBOARD

The Campus Cupboard is a resource for UL Lafayette students who require short-term assistance to meet their food needs.

The pantry provides free, nonperishable items to students. It is located in UL Lafayette's Intensive English Program building at 413 Brook Avenue near Old Tyme Grocery. Pick-up service is available from 2-5 p.m. on Tuesdays and 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Fridays. To ensure orders are ready for pick up and to minimize face-to-face interactions, customers should complete the Campus Cupboard To-Go Bags form.

You must show your Cajun Card to shop at the Cupboard. No other identification or information is needed.

CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE



It was an amazing opportunity to host the Consul General of France at our University. UL Lafayette, along with The Division of Global Engagement, participated in a networking meeting between French and Louisiana universities hosted by The Consulate General of France in New Orleans. We look forward to expanding our international footprint through this collaboration with the French government.

OTHER COUNTRIES, OUR CLASSROOMS



All UL Lafayette students are eligible to participate in the University's Study Abroad Programs. It presents a wonderful opportunity for a unique study-travel experience while earning 3-9 hours of credit. Programs include Costa Rica, England, France, Italy, Japan, and Morocco. Contact studyabroad@louisiana.edu for more information.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Year of the Tiger

In multiple Asian cultures, Lunar New Year began on February 1st, starting with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and lasting until the first full moon.

While cultures vary in tradition, the celebration of the new year and new beginnings is a shared sentiment, along with big meals and religious ceremonies.

In terms of Chinese zodiac, this year is the year of the tiger, specifically, the year of the water tiger. The water tiger represents strength, bravery and clearing away evil.

HOLI

March 17th - 18th

Holi (होली) is a Hindu festival celebrated to welcome the arrival of Spring in India. The celebrations are based on legends of the Hindu religion and the triumph of good over evil. It is a day filled with new beginnings and the blossoming of friendship.

In India, Holi celebrations begin on *Holika Dahan* where people gather around a fire, called the *Holika pyre*, and perform rituals and prayer along with singing and dancing.

RAMADAN

April 2nd - May 2nd

Ramadan, the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, is observed worldwide by Muslims. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection and is considered one of the holiest months of the year. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate *End ul-Fitr* where they break their fast and celebrate.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PANEL

On Thursday, March 24th, international students Faryal Atif, Noor Ali Al Ansari, and Syeda Batool Maura hosted a panel at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Women's Leadership Conference. These inspiring women presented, "Break the Bias: Shattering the Stereotypes & Celebrating the Achievements of International Women." Each woman shared her own experience with biases and how they overcame hurdles on their unique journeys. It was wonderful to witness such power and perseverance. In the future, we hope to see more inspiring international women thriving here at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



FINALS WEEK STUDY TIPS

- Eliminate distractions: Start small. All it takes is turning off the TV, or locking up your phone, and walking away from anything that doesn't help you with test prep.
- Know your schedule: Plan your finals week schedule ahead of time and mark down checkpoints for you to complete work as due dates approach.
- Start studying early. Don't procrastinate: Spreading material over multiple days (even weeks) will make the study process far less painful. Time management is the key to success!

STUDENT RESOURCES & IMPORTANT DATES

Take advantage of these campus resources.

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Spring Break - April 15th - 24th

Last Day of Classes - April 29th

Exam Week Begins - May 2nd

Spring 2022 Commencement - May 13

Last Day to Apply for OPT - July 11th

Last Day to Apply for CPT - June 8th



SEVP has not yet released guidance on online classes for the 2022-2023 academic year. When there is an update, our office will email all students. For now, we recommend that you enroll in mostly on-campus and hybrid courses.

SAVE THE DATE

May 9 - Farewell Reception from 10am to 12:30pm at the Alumni Center

All 2022 graduates and their families are invited to attend this event honoring new alumni of the University.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Handshake - Looking for a job as a student worker? Create a free account on the Handshake website and fill out a profile to find jobs specifically suited for you.

Free, walk-up COVID-19 testing and vaccinations on campus - Testing and vaccinations for COVID-19 are available to students, faculty and staff members, and the public. The site is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays in the former University Bookstore building at 210 E. St. Mary Blvd. For more information, see the University's [website](#).

Library Hours for Finals - Open 24 hours until the end of finals.

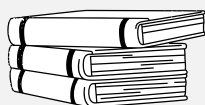
Monday, April 25 | Open at 7:00 a.m.

Monday, April 26 - Thursday, May 5 | **Open 24 Hours**

Friday, May 6 | Close at 4:30 p.m.

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM SESSION DEADLINES

2022 Sessions	Deadline for Students outside the U.S.	Deadline for Students inside the U.S.
Summer 2022 (June 2 – July 29)	April 15, 2022	May 27, 2022
Fall I 2022 (August 11 – October 7)*	June 30, 2022	August 5, 2022
Fall II 2022 (October 13 – December 9)*	September 2, 2022	October 7, 2022



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