



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE DIVISION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Fall 2021 Newsletter



Inside the Issue

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We talk to exchange student Louise Hamon-Mérand about her experience studying in the School of Music at UL Lafayette.

STUDY ABROAD 2022

Find out what UL Lafayette is doing to celebrate international education and exchange during International Education Week.

OPT AND CPT APPLICATIONS

The DGE is currently accepting OPT applications for Fall 2021 graduates and CPT applications for the Spring 2022 semester.



APPLYING FOR OPT AND CPT



Optical Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) hold great opportunities for our international students. If you are graduating for Fall 2021, the earliest day USCIS will accept an application for OPT is **September 18th** and the latest day USCIS will accept an OPT application is **February 15th, 2022**. The application process can be lengthy, so it is important to apply early! Click [here](#) for information on the OPT application process. CPT applications for the Spring 2022 semester will be accepted through **January 19, 2022**. Our staff meets with students virtually to discuss work authorization. Click [here](#) and select 'Work Authorization' to make an appointment.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS

The Division of Global Engagement is still discouraging F-1 students and J-1 students and scholars from traveling outside of the U.S. during the University's winter break due to changing immigration regulations and safety concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who wish to renew their visas should visit the [U.S. Department of State's website](#) to determine visa wait times. Additionally, many airlines around the world are canceling flights to help combat the transmission of COVID-19. Please note that DGE staff cannot guarantee your return to the U.S. All students who decide to travel should be fully vaccinated and be prepared to present a negative COVID test (1-3 days) prior to reentering the U.S. For more information, please click [here](#). To request a travel authorization, click [here](#). Before submitting, make sure to register for SP22 classes.

If you do decide to travel and are unable to reenter the U.S. in January 2022, you can:

- lose your assistantship (Graduate students cannot hold assistantships while they are outside the U.S.)
- lose scholarships and/or on-campus employment
- be unable to complete your degree program (not all classes are offered remotely)
- lose a semester of eligibility for OPT and/or CPT
- owe rent that you may be legally bound to pay even if you are abroad
- be required to reapply for admission - Students who skip a major term (Spring or Fall) are required to apply for readmission

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LOUISE HAMON- MÉRAND

Meet your classmates!



Louise Hamon-Mérand is an exchange student from University Rennes 2 in Brittany. There, she studies Traditional Music. Her time at UL will be spent learning how to play Cajun and Zydeco music.

Why did you choose to study abroad as an exchange student?

I chose to study abroad as an exchange student because I wanted to learn how to play different styles of music and to meet and play with other musicians.

What is your favorite part of studying at UL Lafayette's School of Music?

My favorite part of studying at UL Lafayette's School of Music is that I can take Fiddle, Cajun Ensemble and Vocal class at the University. In France, I have to take these courses in the conservatory, in addition to, my university ones.

How did you get into playing the fiddle?

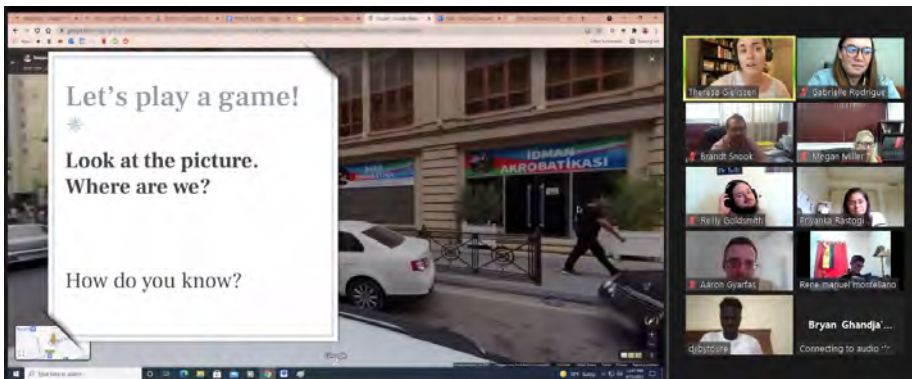
I got into playing it because my father is a singer and my mum works for artists so I was born surrounded by Breton traditional music.



IN MEMORY OF KATIE LOUVIERE

The Division of Global Engagement mourns the loss of its brightest star, Ms. Katie Louviere, who tragically passed away on July 31, 2021. Known for her infectious smile, love of origami, travel, three-legged raccoons, boudin, cross-stitching, game night, and any and all things cat-related, Ms. Katie was a joy to all who knew her and was our resident work authorization (OPT & CPT) guru. She spent countless hours meeting with students, answering their questions, and providing guidance that assisted them in their transition from academics to employment in the United States. We will always treasure her memory and the University is a better place because of her efforts and achievements. Our thoughts and prayers are with her loved ones.

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM



The teachers of the Intensive English Program (IEP), host a series of conversation hours throughout each session. Conversation hours allow all students enrolled in the IEP to practice their English and cultivate friendships. During the Fall I Session, ESL Specialist Theresa Gielissen, hosted a GeoGuessr conversation hour. GeoGuessr is an online geography game which takes you around the world using a virtual map. The challenge is to recognize your surroundings and guess where you are. Students from all levels of classes had to use clues and their own knowledge to guess where they were in the world. It was so much fun! All international students are always welcome to join the IEP for conversation hour! Email iep@louisiana.edu for more information.

Do you have any advice for students wanting to study abroad as an exchange student?

If I could give any advice to a student who wants to participate in an exchange program, it would be to never give up. Administrative procedures and leaving family and friends can be really hard but there are more good things than bad ones in studying abroad and it's only for a few months!

What is one difference between education in France and education in America that you've noticed since being here?

One difference between education in France and education in America is that there are less in-person classes but a lot more work to do alone, lectures for instance. It takes time to adjust to it, but it's great to learn in another way!

What's been your favorite meal in America?

My favorite meal in America has been jambalaya!

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

If I could be any animal, it would be any little bird.





STUDY ABROAD 2022

The Study Abroad Office is thrilled to announce its two new faculty-led programs in Tokyo, Japan and Rabat, Morocco. This is in addition to the long-standing programs in Costa Rica, England, France and Italy. Applications for Summer 2022 faculty-led programs are now open. Instructions on how to apply and how to make the \$500 deposit are located on the UL Study Abroad Program Moodle Site and [website](#). The deposit does go toward the cost of your program, and the initial deadline is **December 15th**. A \$100 late fee will be charged for applications after this time.

With COVID-19 still being a concern, the University will follow the guidance of the State of Louisiana and the CDC regarding international travel. The health and safety of our students and faculty remains our top priority. If you want to learn more or schedule a meeting with Ms. Patricia Mouille through her virtual office hours, access the Study Abroad website [here](#).

There will also be a virtual Student Alumni Panel for interested students on **Monday, November 15th, 2021, at 6pm**. [Register](#) to hear from our Student Alumni about their experience studying abroad with our faculty.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK



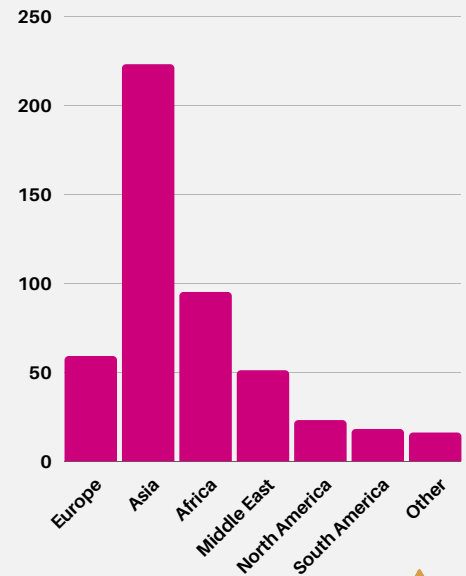
International Education Week (IEW), **November 15-19, 2021**, is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. We are pleased to celebrate International Education Week on UL Lafayette's campus.

Dr. Rose Honegger will be presenting on her Fulbright host country--the country and people of Japan--to 5 freshman classes during International Education Week. The Fulbright Association's Fulbright in the Classroom program aims to teach students about other countries, help them appreciate cultural differences, understand our common humanity, and see the value of travel and international education.

Stay tuned for events that the International Student Council will be planning for International Education Week.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The DGE was delighted to welcome a total of 120 new degree seeking students to our university this semester! Now, we have 485 international Ragin' Cajuns representing 73 different countries.



CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving is a National holiday in America that commemorates a harvest feast shared by English colonists and the Wampanoag people in 1621. It is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November, which is on November 25, 2021.

The most popular Thanksgiving tradition is the Thanksgiving meal. People usually share a large meal with loved ones where everyone reflects on what they are thankful for. This meal typically includes turkey and a variety of side dishes. To learn how to make mashed potatoes -- a classic side dish -- click [here](#).



HOMECOMING COURT: ANJOLAOLUWA ONI

Congratulations!



This Fall, Anjolaoluwa Oni was selected to be a part of UL Lafayette's Homecoming Court. Anjolaoluwa is a senior from Lagos, Nigeria, majoring in civil engineering. He was nominated by the African Students Association.

Oni is president of the African Students Association, Community Director for Agnes Edwards Hall, and secretary for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was vice president of the student chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and served on the society's Region V board. He has performed more than 250 hours of community service.



SPRING 2022 ADVISING PERIOD

October 18th marks the beginning of academic advising for the Spring 2022 semester. Advising is a crucial component of keeping students on track to graduation. Advisors assist students in course selection each semester and help them navigate through their college years. Prior to registration, an advising hold is placed on student accounts. Advisors lift this hold after they have been advised. Keep an eye out for an email from your major advisor or your department on how to schedule an advising session. If you have not heard from your advisor or reached out to them by now, you should do so right away! Registration opens as early as November 1st, but your personal registration date is listed under your profile on ULink.

IEP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Here in southwest Louisiana, we are all about comfort food: gumbo, jambalaya, king cake, oh my!

The Intensive English Program at UL Lafayette features students of all ages from all around the world who love sharing their cultures through food. IEP Student, Priyanka Rastogi shared with us her favorite comfort food recipe: Indian rice pudding, otherwise known as Kheer. You can access Priyanka's recipe video [here](#). Follow Priyanka's Instagram [@indiancuisine_culture](#) for more delicious recipes!



HOMECOMING WEEK

OCTOBER 25-30, 2021



What is Homecoming?

Homecoming is a celebration to welcome former members back to a community. Schools and universities throughout the U.S. welcome back their alumni during homecoming, which usually takes place after a football team's longest stretch of away games. There are some fun traditions like the elected homecoming court that recognizes students' contributions to their community and a fun parade, as well as, a home football game. This year the Ragin' Cajuns football team defeated Texas State University 45-0 on Saturday, October 30th.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Bourgeois Hall, our recreational center, is now open to the public and offers a variety of ways to have fun and get a good workout in! You will find a number of ways to stay active from pick-up basketball to group exercise classes, as well as, ways to relax and unwind by getting mindful through yoga or getting some "you" time by the pool.

Group exercise classes began a few weeks ago and give students the opportunity to get fit together in a fun and inviting group setting with classes taught by certified instructors.

For more hours, to sign up for group exercise classes, or for more information, click [here](#).

NOVEMBER GAME SCHEDULE:

Football:

vs. Georgia State (Nov. 4th, 6:30 pm)
at Troy (Nov. 13th, TBA)
at Liberty (Nov. 20st, TBA)
vs. ULM (Nov. 27th, TBA)

Volleyball:

vs. ULM (Nov. 6th, 2 pm)
vs. UT Arlington (Nov. 12th, 6 pm)
vs. Texas State (Nov. 13th, 6 pm)

Sunbelt Conference Tournament (Nov. 18th)

Men's Basketball:

vs. West Florida (Nov. 9th, 7:30 pm)
at Southern Miss. (Nov. 12th, 7 pm)
vs Xavier (Nov. 17st, 7:05 pm)
at Indiana (Nov. 21th, 6:30 pm)
at Marshall (Nov. 23rd, 6 pm)
vs Jackson State (Nov. 27th, 7:05 pm)

Women's Basketball:

vs. Mississippi College (Nov. 5th, 6 pm)
vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville (Nov. 9th, 5 pm)
vs. Rice (Nov. 13th, 2 pm)
vs. LSU (Nov. 18th, 6 pm)
vs. New Orleans (Nov. 20th, 2 pm)
at Southeastern (Nov. 24th, 7 pm)
at McNeese (Nov. 28th, 2 pm)



@ragincajuns



@louisianaragincajuns



LEARN ENGLISH IN THE HEART OF ACADIANA



INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Intensive English Program provides academic English-language training to non-native English speakers, preparing them for success in an American community.



2022
SESSION DATES

Spring I	January 6 - March 11
Spring II	March 17 - May 20
Summer	June 2 - July 29
Fall I	August 11 - October 7
Fall II	October 13 - December 9



UNIVERSITY of
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L A F A Y E T T E

**Intensive English
Program**

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STUDENT RESOURCES & IMPORTANT DATES

Take advantage of these resources our campus provides.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving Day -
Thursday, November 25

Last Day of Classes -
Friday, December 3

Last Day of the Fall 2021 Semester -
Friday, December 10

Winter Intersession 2021: Class Begins -
Monday, December 20

Spring 2022 Classes Begin -
Wednesday, January 12

OPT Application Deadline (FA21 Grads) -
Tuesday, February 15



EVENTS TO ATTEND

Study Abroad Panel- Monday,
November 15 @ 6 PM



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.

Campus Cupboard- Hours are on Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. - 5:00p.m. and on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Students who visit the Campus Cupboard will be asked to present their University IDs.

Free, walk-up COVID-19 testing on campus - Testing for students and faculty is open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays in the former University Bookstore building on E. St. Mary Blvd.

Career Closet - Located in Room 104 of Agnes Edwards Hall, the Career Closet provides students with free, gently used professional clothing items for interviews and career fairs. Current students can visit the Career Closet during business hours to shop for suits, ties, belts, shoes and other professional items.

The Writing Center- Located in Room 108 of Griffin Hall, the Writing Center helps students improve on their writing skills.

Learning Center- Located in Lee Hall on the 2nd floor, this center offers free individual or study group tutoring and many other services to help students succeed in their area of study.

IEP SESSION DEADLINES

<u>2022 Sessions</u>	<u>Deadline for Students outside the U.S.</u>	<u>Deadline for Students inside the U.S.</u>
Spring I 2022 (January 6 – March 11)	November 19, 2021	December 17, 2021
Spring II 2022 (March 17 – May 20)	February 11, 2022	March 11, 2022
Summer 2022 (June 2 – July 29)	May 6, 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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UL Lafayette Division of Global Engagement

International Student Council at UL Lafayette



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