International Student Services

A vibrant group of more than 170 international students—including a large community of “third culture kids”—comprises 12 percent of Reed College’s overall student body. International students come to Reed from more than 37 countries around the world.
Immigration Advising and Support

ISS helps F-1 and J-1 visa students with immigration regulations and related procedures, provides guidance on maintaining visa status, and helps students navigate work authorization post-graduation. ISS is the primary liaison between international students and the federal government and local agencies for immigration-related matters.

International Orientation

ISS organizes an International Orientation Odyssey to welcome new international students to campus and help them transition to life at Reed and in the U.S. International Orientation is open to any incoming student who identifies as international, regardless of visa status, and participation is free. Sessions include introductions to important campus staff members and resources; important information about working on campus and maintaining visa status; abundant opportunities to connect with peers and mentors; and activities like dessert socials, a city tour of Portland, a shopping trip, and a Host Family Program orientation event.

International Student Services (ISS) supports the academic and personal well-being of all of these students. The mission of ISS is to

- help students acclimate to life at Reed and in the U.S.;
- act as a point of referral for on- and off-campus resources, including the Office of Academic Support, the Center for Life Beyond Reed, peer mentors, and faculty advisers;
- support students in sharing their cultures and their perspectives with the Reed community.
InterConnect Peer Mentor Program
The InterConnect program matches new international students with a current Reedie and a cohort of their peers. The goals are to develop community, ease the transition to Reed, and provide leadership opportunities. Participants engage in frequent individual meetings with their mentor as well as monthly events with their peer mentor groups.

Discover PDX
Once a month, ISS provides international students an opportunity to get off of campus to see a new part of Portland or experience a unique side of U.S. culture through the Discover PDX series. Past trips have included Broadway musicals, hiking trips, stand-up paddle boarding, and professional basketball and soccer games.

Summer Experience Award
The Summer Experience Award offers students on F-1 visas the opportunity to pursue an unpaid summer internship. The award grants students funding to cover their expenses because they are often not able to take paid summer internships due to work restrictions related to their visas.

International Student Advisory Board (ISAB)
The International Student Advisory Board is a group of international student volunteers who create opportunities for international students to interact outside of the classroom, share perspectives, engage in conversations about culture, and celebrate international diversity at Reed. The ISAB organizes events throughout the year, including the International Festival each spring.
Host Family Program

Reed’s Host Family Program is a nonresidential program designed to introduce international students to a local family who will welcome them to the Portland community, support their experience at Reed, and enjoy the opportunity for cultural exchange. Many say that having a local host family is a highlight of their time in the U.S.