

Dear Student

We would like to welcome you back to the University and hope you have had a great start to 2015.

It's been a cold start to the year, and if you were lucky then you may have seen snow over the festive season. If you built a snowman we would love to see the photos! If you had a Christmas or New Year adventure, we would also love to hear about it. You can send us your stories to international.advice@southwales.ac.uk and we will publish the best ones.

And finally, we are still running our International Welcome Programme video competition. All you have to do is video yourself (or each other!) for no more than 30 seconds, starting with your name/nationality and course and talk about the International Welcome Programme – tell us why students should attend and why they will enjoy it. We will enter all submissions into a prize draw. We would like to wish you all the best for 2015, and we hope it is a fantastic year for you all!

Emma, James, Kath, Sarah, Sue and Tim
Immigration and International Student Advice

Global Disco

On the 9th February 2015 the Students' Union, in conjunction with IISA, will be hosting a Global Disco to welcome the new February start students and to raise money for a good cause.

Tickets for the event will be £5, and can be purchased from the Students Union. Proceeds from the night will be donated to the Future Sense Foundation.

Why not join us for a great night, where you can welcome our new students and give to a great charity.



Who's Who?!

Let's meet one of your student colleagues...

Q: What's your name?

A: Shen Teng, but everyone calls me Max

Q: Where are you from?

A: China

Q: What do you study?

A: MBA

Q: Why did you decide to study at the University of South Wales?

A: From a friend's suggestion.

Q: What do you like most about the UK?

A: The clean air and polite people.

Q: What has been the biggest adjustment for you coming to the UK?

A: The biggest adjustment has been the food. I don't know how to cook Chinese food so I've been eating a lot of pizza and pasta and that contribute to the 10 KG weight I have put on.

Q: What's the coolest thing you've done since coming to the University of South Wales?

A: I have made many international friends. Best thing ever!

Q: If the University could put on one trip for you, where would you want to go?

A: I would like to go to Ireland in the summer.

Q: What do you miss most about your home?

A: People who speak my language, real Chinese food and sunny days. The chaotic and noisy streets and the fact that there are people everywhere, which makes me feel alive.

Q: If I were to travel to your country, where would you recommend I visit?

A: Spend a week in Beijing. It's the best city I've ever been to. There's so much to see, and do. And make sure you come at summer. Don't listen to your western media and experience it yourself. It has the friendliest Chinese people in the world!

Q: If you could give advice to future students who come from your country, what would your best advice be?

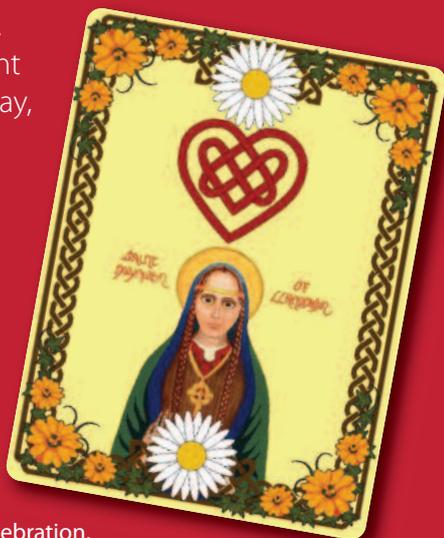
A: Firstly, Study hard do not ruin the reputation of this university when you go back. Secondly, take this opportunity to learn western culture, make more foreign friends and be more independent. Last but not least, enjoy your life here.



Saint Dwynwen's day

This month the IISA hosted a social event for St Dwynwen's Day, or 'Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen'!

Dwynwen was Wales' patron saint of lovers, and this day is the Welsh equivalent to St Valentine's Day. The event gave international students the opportunity to learn more about the Welsh Valentine's Day celebration.



There was the opportunity for students to make some love birds and cards. Some students showed really good creativeness and ability in crafting which resulted in making amazing cards and crafts. Towards the end of the evening we decorated the office with the crafts and cards that we made. We also took some photos in the evening since it was the first event for 2015. It was a really a nice evening and everyone enjoyed sharing information about different ways of celebrating Valentine's Day in their countries, which was really an amazing experience to share with our fellow international students.

We would like to show our special gratitude to all the students who came over and also who were helping out on the event. The event was really nice and everyone enjoyed it. We are looking forward to having some more events like this.



Meet the Global Assistants

Have you ever wondered who and what the Global Assistants are and where they come from? Read on to meet one of them and find out...



Name: Hadi Ali

Course: MSc Computer Science

What is your nationality? Malaysian

Which campus are you based on? Treforest

Why did you choose to study at USW?

I chose to study here because of its location, which is not in the city, and because of its status as the biggest university in Wales.

Why did you decide to become a GA?

I am a very extrovert person, and first thing I realized when I arrived here was the friendliness of the staffs and the helpers during the Welcome Week. They made me feel like I belong here, and that sense of belonging made me interested to apply for a GA position. I finally belong to the GA family now, and it has been a great adventure so far.

What do you do as a GA?

I provide assistance to new students during the Welcome Week. I also help students during Uni trips to interesting places in the UK, and I organize events for the International Office.

The best thing about being a GA is....?

We are one big happy family here! The staffs are our mentors and they treat us like equals, and give us kind advices. The other GAs are cool and friendly as well. As a GA you will be able to go to Uni trips for free or for a discount. And the best part of being a GA is the people that you get to meet! Be it new or old students, or even other university's staffs, the possibility is endless!

Why should students become a GA?

Because it is cool @

Personally, I believe that being a GA is great for networking, and the GA position could act as impetus for me to build new connections. It also provides a way for me to "escape" from study's stuffs (at least for a while). I'm also a Super Mentor and both positions add up to my university's life. And I know I could include these experiences in my resume as they are also creditable as part of Grad Edge program for future employability.

Any USW student can apply to become a Global Assistant. If you are interested in becoming one please email the IISA team at international.advice@southwales.ac.uk