PRE-DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Student Handbook/Pre-Departure Communication
The student handbook received lower marks than the other materials on the survey and we want to make sure that students don’t get confused about where to get information.

- Create a comprehensive book that covers everything from pre-departure info to info about Loyola and New Orleans (students will receive with their I-20 or DS-2019).
- Send a “what to do if you move in early” email and include in book (especially for LIEP students).

Airport Pickup
Mariette and I both spent far too many hours coordinating the airport pickups for the students.

- If we get a student worker next summer they can coordinate the pickups.
- Send out notice to inBUS and ISA members about getting certified to drive starting in the fall semester.
- Guarantee pickup on certain days between certain times to encourage them to arrive on those two days and have a shuttle that goes back and forth (the day before the F-1 orientation starts and the day before the J-1 orientation starts).
- Pay a student to run back and forth on those two days every 2 hours or so.
- If possible, arrange for pickups that fall outside of that time frame.
- Work with any special groups that require additional assistance (i.e. LIEP students).

Arrival On-Campus
Some students said that they did not have temporary linens in their rooms even though they were supposed to have them along with a note that said to return them once they had purchased their own linens. However, Craig did a much better job of notifying staff of international students’ arrivals.

- Speak to Craig about making sure that temporary linens are in the rooms.

Communication with International students’ roommates

- Send “Congratulations…you have an international roommate email along with a culture gram
- If a LIEP student, include paragraph that mentions initial problems with English and advice on how to communicate with them.

Photos

- Give Wadner advance warning so that he can come and take pictures at events

Student IDs
Exchange students’ info was not downloaded properly onto the student IDs (meal plans and residence hall access).

- Work with Rachel in Parking and Res Life over the summer to make sure that things go more smoothly next time.

ORIENTATION
(based on student evaluations, student assistant input and CIE staff input)

EVALUATIONS
Overall, the orientation received positive reviews with almost all of the categories getting a score between 3 and 4 (highest possible score).

F-1 Evaluations (8 evaluations)
Issue: The F-1 orientation had very low attendance and so we did not get very many evaluations.
Higher scoring: Almost all of the activities received the highest possible score of 4.
Lower scoring: Introduce your partner (will change icebreaker for next orientation), Scavenger Hunt (but was also listed as a favorite for some).

Comments from students on evaluations
- Organizing people and recommending a guide to teach us (?)
- It was all good.

Suggestions
- Instead of “Introduce your Partner” a game that would require the whole group to interact.
- Scavenger Hunt: I only follow my group on scavenger hunt because they have good English. Therefore, other people should give some chance to use English. Even I give scavenger hunt very unsatisfactory, it is helpful when international students live in campus. I think that everything is helpful. It was fun and helpful. ☺

Least Favorite
- Lydia Voigt’s introduction
- SEVIS
- Nothing
- Nothing, but orientation was a little bit boring. It made me sleep..lol. 😞

Favorite
- Student Panel
- Student Panel: very informative, student panel was a nice different perspective.
- The orientation is very open, people can say what they want to say.
- Go out to complete our classwork.
- Realize the school.
- Student Panel
- I met some people different countries’ people.
- Scavenger Hunt

J-1 Evaluations (17 evaluations)
Sessions (average = 3.70)
Student Panel (3.94), Health & Safety (3.82), Important Topics (3.75), SEVIS (3.62), Loyola & New Orleans (3.56), Q&A (3.53)

Activities (average = 3.52)
Shopping Trip (3.8), Campus Tour (3.58), Introduce your Partner (3.44), People BINGO (3.25)

Materials (average = 3.73)
Pre-Departure info, emails, etc. (3.83), Orientation packet (3.76), Student Handbook (3.58)

Comments from students on evaluations
- Campus Tour: guy didn’t know places
- Everything was just great 😊
- Thank you for answering all the (also silly) emails before departure. Thank you for all your help!!

Suggestions
- Student organizations could be presented by students who are already involved.
- Do a part outside, play music.
- Talk more about culture shock (even it’s written in the handbook) & homesickness
- More clear information about health insurance

Least Favorite
- SEVIS
- SEVIS
- That it’s a lot of information
- Introduce your partner
- SEVIS
- Police and SEVIS

Favorite
- Jeopardy
- Q&A Session
- Games & Student Panel
- Getting to know new people
- Campus Tour & People BINGO
- Activities
- Campus Tour & People BINGO
- The first day
- Breakfast and lunch 😊 and the games and trip to the french quarter
- Student panel, People BINGO
- Meeting the other students & info of New Orleans

**ORIENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS** (if not mentioned then can remain the same)

**Attendance at Orientation**
F-1 attendance was very low due to Co-Curricular’s orientation schedule and CIE’s lack of clear communication as a result. As well, students don’t seem to read their emails or they get confused by all the different emails that they receive
- Meet with Co-Curricular in October to get orientation schedule for coming fall.
- Send brightly colored paper with orientation dates & times, the move-in date allowed for international students, etc. (what else?)
- Add orientation dates/times to book that we send??

**Presentation of Information**
The activities consistently get listed as students’ favorite part of orientation and students often say that they are overwhelmed by the amount of information.
- Make the sessions more interactive (as we did with Jeopardy for the New Orleans session)
- Have other people present to keep things interesting (i.e. more than the health and safety presenters and Mariette)
- Some things don’t need to be covered in the session, but rather we can refer people to the information in the comprehensive book that we will create (i.e. transportation, etc.)

**Information Sheet**
- Include J schedules, but note that the schedule may have changed since the sheet was printed
- Include info for LIEP students about testing

**Schedule (F & J)**
It is exhausting for CIE and redundant for other presenters to do two completely separate orientations.
- Bring the two groups of students together on Wednesday morning (co-curricular permitting), but carefully select which sessions will be joint.
- Joint activities: Dean’s Welcome, Icebreaker, Health & Safety, Loyola & New Orleans, Academic Preparedness (?)

**Welcome from President**
- Ask Fr. Wildes to present at next year’s orientation

**Loyola & New Orleans**
- Figure out how to play music (i.e. if it doesn’t work in powerpoint use the boombox and CD)
- Do an interactive “tour” of New Orleans using google maps
- Add Athletics info
- Add Volunteer info
- Add where can use meal plans and wolfbucks, hours, etc.

**Health & Safety**
- Continue to have Counseling & Health Services and University Police speak
- Don’t have Lewermark come (not engaging and some students said they were confused)

**Icebreakers**
The introduce your partner and people bingo icebreakers both received lower marks (even though some people also listed them as their favorite activities).
- Select more interactive and stimulating icebreakers next year (i.e. circle game for the day that F and J come together)
- Select icebreakers that help students connect on a deeper level (i.e. mingle, mingle)
Food
- Buy non-perishables over the summer
- Order more food for exchange students especially (25 mini pastries for 25 students plus fruit was not enough)
- Bagels from Stein’s were cheaper than one on St. Charles (get much less cream cheese)

Orientation Leaders
- Have one student start the weekend before orientation to help with students’ arrivals (especially any LIEP students), one student work the week of orientation, one start on Tuesday or Wednesday and work through the weekend after orientation.

LIEP Students
- Ensure that LIEP students do not come to the regular international student orientation (only pilot)
  - Make sure that LIEP students understand some of the most important matters:
    - Health Insurance requirement, waiver and insurance card
    - Immunizations requirement
    - Immigration information
    - Christmas plans (they cannot stay in the residence halls) – Christmas International
    - High school records go to Admissions (or collect them) – only for admitted students
    - Cell phones and bank accounts
    - Student IDs: meal plans, athletics
    - Student Finance
- Do a “visual” orientation that involves walking around campus on the first day of classes in afternoon and scavenger hunt in afternoon on second day
- Find out from Craig if it’s possible to add a question on the housing contract about whether students want to be paired with an international roommate or based on wanting to learn a language (LIEP students).

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Scheduling of Events
- Schedule inBUS pairing for first week of classes
- Schedule LIEP pairing party for second week of classes
- Schedule ISA meeting after retreat

Multicultural Orientation
- Work with Co-Curricular to ensure a better turnout for this great workshop.
- Promote in pre-departure info to international students.

Welcome Reception
- Food:
  - 1 bag chips with salsa (increase to 3 bags)
  - 2 containers of cookies (increase to 6 containers)
  - 6 pints hummus
  - 2 pints baba
  - 6 dozen falafel (increase falafel to 10 dozen)
  - Get bigger punch bowl or serve a different beverage (too labor-intensive)
- Continue to promote via word of mouth, facebook, emails and flyers to all staff/faculty
- Print flyers at Print Services (better for such a large number of flyers)

RA Training
- Contact Amy Boyle (Res Life) earlier in the spring/summer about being involved in the RA training (BARNGA or cross-cultural conflict styles)
- At the very least we should have a session like we did this year that covers who the international students are, what they may be experiencing, and LIEP.
- Who to contact if something comes up over the first weekend with an international student.