



Pittsburg State University

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PSU Kicks off Fall Semester with International Student Orientation



Pittsburg State University welcomed students from 21 different countries across the globe in the Fall 2021 intake.

To prepare them for success in their first semester at Pitt State, the new international students attended a New International Student Orientation the week before the start of classes. The Orientation, which ran from Aug. 10 to Aug. 13, provided students with relevant insights into college life and Pitt State through small-group activities, informational sessions, meetings with academic advisors, and ended with enrollment.

Serving as a student's official introduction to Pitt State, the Orientation Program also served as a time for students to have fun, meet new people, and learn about the campus and community with free meals provided by various campus and community organizations.

"I loved each and every thing during the whole orientation," said Saatvik Sabarwal, of India, a freshman in Computer Information Systems. "(I) got to learn many new things about the university as well as about Pittsburg."

The information sessions were focused on many important areas of interest such as academic and social matters, registration, enrollment, immigration issues, shopping, banking, housing, campus life, student clubs/activities, cultural adjustment, transportation, safety, health insurance, on-campus employment and other matters particularly useful for international students.

"At Pitt State, we care about the student's success in every area of life, not just academics," said Brenda Hawkin, Immigration and Advising Coordinator, who plans and coordinates the International Orientation. "That is why we plan an Orientation that is able to have information sessions and activities that touch on a wide variety of topics ranging from academics, to housing, to ways to become involved on campus."

During the Orientation, students were divided into smaller groups and put with an orientation leader that is an International Advocate (IA). These groups provided students the opportunity to meet other new students as well as have an experienced international student, the IA, available to answer any questions they may have. The IA's were able to then provide advice for new students based on their own experiences as an international student.

Yu-Hsuan 'Claire' Chen, an exchange student from Taiwan studying Advertising and PR, found it helpful having the orientation leaders available to share their advice.

"The (favorite) part (was) when all the orientation leaders shared their experiences and some useful school life hacks," Chen said. "It did help a lot."