

# International Student Services

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## Whale Watch by: Annette Cooper, Belize

I remember being told about the whale watching trip that Bridgewater State University had planned for new students. I was immediately interested. Sure I had seen big fishes in my country, after all, we boast having the second largest barrier reef in the world. We have a place called Shark Ray Alley, where it is possible for us to actually swim with sharks, but whales...that, would be new!

I was glad when Dr. Rawjee presented us with all the do's and don'ts. The big day came and I was ready. I took Gatorade, water and a pack of raisins for a light snack. I was warned that when on the ocean, we would get cold and we were to be prepared. Well I was prepared!

I had on three layers of clothing. I was determined to experience the trip in its entirety. I must admit that I wondered if perhaps I had overdone it with the clothing, everyone else seemed, "not as warm". Anyway I was already there and off we went. The sea was calm and my mind

drifted. I felt like a tourist on vacation!

The boat had two decks and the upper was packed, everyone wanted a clear view. The wind got cold then colder. Little by little students sought shelter on the lower deck. Very soon only a handful remained on the upper deck. Now I was glad I had on my three layers of clothing. Oh yea, I was having a great time.

The trip was spectacular, informative and educational. We had a plan of action, if anybody spotted a whale, the location should be given using time. We had a few sightings but they were far off, more like a big splash. Then we got a good sighting, a large whale, then another one. We thought it was a mother and her baby.

Up it came and down again followed closely by the other. This went on for a while. The pair then separated which

confirmed that it was not as we suspected earlier. The pair was actually two adults. We picked one and followed it for a while until we realized we might have followed the wrong one. We had followed the one who was just swimming and blowing every so often, the other one in the distance was dancing, courting I believe. He did many things with his tail. He seems so nimble, flexible, light and happy. It was amazing to watch him control his huge size and weight.

Given another chance I would definitely go whale watching again. And if I were to do anything differently, it would be to take my own camera.

I thank the organizers for executing this trip so flawlessly and offer a little advice to all new students. Take advantage any opportunity BSU offers us to explore new places and new things. Education is not only what we learn in the classroom or in books. Life is real, live it!

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## International Student Populations for Fall 2011

### New International Students

Exchange: 37

Undergraduate: 12

Graduate: 18

Total: 67

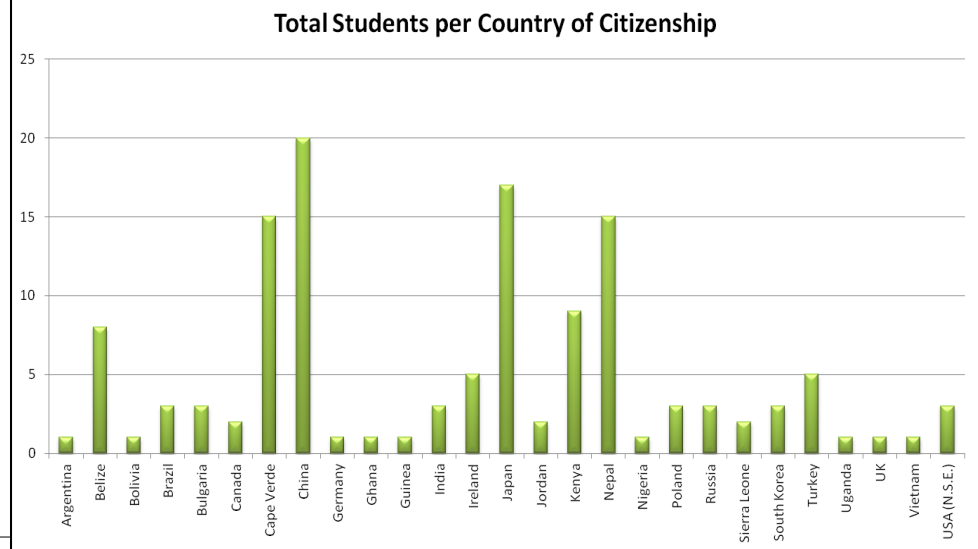
### All International Students

Exchange: 37

Undergraduate: 54

Graduate: 36

Total: 127



## Get Involved and Join the International Culture Club by: Kevin Eam

Welcome to your new journey at Bridgewater State University! My name is Kevin Eam and I am the president of the International Culture Club, but you can call us the ICC.

The ICC is not an academic club but rather a club of social friends who get together, work together, and put on some amazing events and spread the awareness of different cultures that exist in our world.

Some events include trick or treat for UNICEF, International Night, Japanese Festival, and my personal favorite,

World Café. Of course, that may all change. We are always welcome to new ideas so if you have any, feel free to come to our club meetings and give us some input!

We have a lot of different students both internationally and non-internationally which is why everyone always enjoys the meetings. You're able to meet students from literally all over the world including Ireland, England, Japan, China, Cambodia, Belize, and many, many more. I have met a lot of friends through the ICC and that's what began my journey to study abroad in Japan!

It was because of the students in the ICC that influenced me so greatly and helped me even more to have an opportunity to study abroad and believe me, it was one of my dreams being accomplished.

I highly recommend studying abroad but I even more highly recommend that you all join the ICC so you can broaden your horizons with different cultures, meet new friends, experience new things, and be apart of something so great; the International Culture Club!

## Alumni Spotlight: Miyuki Abe

**Where are you from?**

Japan

**What was your major?**

Economics

**When did you graduate?**

May, 2011

**Where are you now?**

I'm living in New York City.

**What are you doing after BSU?**

I am working for a company while on OPT.

**How has your life changed since leaving BSU?**

I have a lot of responsibilities now and more than I expected.

**What was your best memory of being a BSU student or what do you miss the most about being a BSU student?**

I miss everything. The best thing I had at BSU was meeting new students from all over the world, become friends with them and spend time together sharing our culture.

**What advice do you have for new international students?**

Please do not hesitate to get involved or do something new! :)

**What advice do you have for American students?**

I think it is really interesting things for everyone to talk with someone from different countries or area. You might get some new information which you didn't expect to hear!



Miyuki Abe: Class of 2011

## Meet the New ISS Staff



**Karen Huntington**  
Assistant Director

**What are you the most excited about with regard to your work with international students?**

I am most excited about getting to know the students and learning more about different cultures. In addition, I look forward to the opportunity to assist them with understanding immigration regulations so that their stay here is problem free.

**What has surprised you the most since you have been working for ISS?**

I think what has surprised me most is the number of different countries that are represented by international students here at Bridgewater.

**What is one country you have always wanted to travel to and why?**

I hope to have an opportunity to travel to many countries but if I had to pick one I would say Greece. I have always been interested in the significance that Greece plays in history and think it would be wonderful to be able to go there and see some of some of the historical sites first hand.

**Do you have any advice you would like our international students to know?**

I would encourage them to make the most of their time in the United States. While there is a lot to learn in the classroom they will also learn so much by trying to experience as many things as they can, seeing as many places and by meeting as many people as they can.



**Kara Thurston**  
Administrative Assistant

**What are you the most excited about with regard to your work with international students?** Learning about several different cultures around the world and also sharing with the international students American culture and traditions.

**What has surprised you the most since you have been working for ISS?** Just how truly dedicated each individual international student at BSU is about their education and future. Their interest level to study and learn as much as they can during a semester or four years is so incredible. They

take on the many challenging tasks and opportunities offered. They all have such great motivation for success.

**What is one country you have always wanted to travel to and why?**

I have always wanted to travel to Italy because it is a beautiful country. I would love to experience the many historical places, the culture and of course authentic Italian food!

**Do you have any advice or final thoughts you would like our international students to know?**

You should all get involved in some way or another during your time here at BSU. Whether its to attend an event, activity, join a club, or work on campus, its a great way to meet different students and staff.

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programs for international  
students and scholars.*



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## A Message from International Student Services by: Justin Casey

Hello, my name is Justin Casey and I am the graduate assistant for International Student Services. My international journey began during my first year as an undergraduate student. A friend of mine, Aya; an international student from Japan, had the courage to reach out and ask to join my friends and I for lunch. This single act changed my life and literally opened my world to the vast global connections that there are to be made on campus at Bridgewater State University. I want to encourage you all to get involved, take a risk and show some courage like Aya did.

It may be intimidating approaching someone from another culture and it may be difficult to make the first move, but just keep in mind that you came to this campus to learn. So, remain open to the global possibilities around you. Make friends with students from another culture and attend culturally themed events. It might change your life, or at the very least you'll learn something new!

## Director's Corner by: Dr. Roopa Rawjee

I hope you enjoyed the first ISS newsletter. ISS staff members work closely together to bring various learning experiences and opportunities to our international students and scholars. The newsletter is an opportunity for students and scholars to submit articles about their experiences or about their native countries and cultures. I hope many of you will contribute to it. We look forward to hearing from you. Articles, questions and comments can be submitted at [iss@bridgew.edu](mailto:iss@bridgew.edu)

## Mark Your Calendars For These Events

**Nov. 8th– World Café: Community Service Center, RCC, 004. 3-5pm.**

**Nov. 14th-18th– International Education Week.**

**Nov. 16th– World Café: Middle Eastern Studies, RCC, 004. 3-5pm.**

**Nov. 17th– Culture Series: Ireland, RCC, 004. 5-7pm.**

**Nov. 18th– MaCIE Conference, Westfield State University.**

**Nov. 29th– World Café: TBD, RCC, BDR. 3-5pm.**

**Dec. 2nd– First Friday of Service: Community Service Center, ECC, 112. 12:30-2pm.**

**Dec. 2nd– Asia Festival: International Culture Club, RCC, Ballroom. 5-8pm.**

**Dec. 9th– International Graduation and Farewell Ceremony, RCC, 201. 3-5pm.  
International Culture Club's Potluck Dinner, RCC, 004. 5-7pm.**

**\*The International Culture Club meets weekly on Thursdays from 5 to 6pm.  
Find them on Facebook for more up to date information.**