



# International Applicants E-Newsletter

By Sunwoo (Vivian) Lee

## Will you be among Smith's international student class of 2018?

**WALK TOGETHER, TALK TOGETHER, YE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH THEN AND ONLY THEN SHALL YE KNOW PEACE**

— From the Sanskrit

Smith College is an institution that values diversity. It supports the educational, cultural and social dimension of an environment. There are many resources, support systems, and programs that are offered to the international students so that they can have an easy time settling in, but also so that they can grow as international women leaders of this globalized 21st century.

In this newsletter, you will find multiple opportunities that Smith can provide you with, ranging from academics, activities on campus, and even study abroad opportunities around the world. Smith is a great place for international students!

### All you need to know about Northampton, MA (for now...)

#### Are you worried about being homesick and missing food from home?

Behold. And do not worry!

Northampton is a town with many different types of cuisine and cute little shops. You can find Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Thai, Taiwanese, Indian, Mexican, Italian, French, Greek, and more just in Northampton.

CVS and other local pharmacies are very nearby the Smith's campus. Stores like Acme Plus carries the cheapest (and decent quality!) school supplies.

Northampton's downtown also has many vintage shops and on weekends, you can find various music and play venues in places such as the Academy of Music or Iron Horse Music Hall. Read more about Northampton further down.



### Reach out to International Students at Smith!

Still have questions? Concerns? Want to hear from a current student?

Feel free to contact myself anytime, but if you want to be connected with someone with more common interests, we've listed more students you can be in touch with.

If you still feel that you want to be connected with someone with a specific interest that is not listed, please e-mail me and I will be glad to connect you with a current Smithie (international or domestic student) that you can reach out to.

### International Students Abroad!

Are there opportunities for International Students to go abroad? Of course! In fact, there are numerous programs that students can participate in through not only Junior Year Abroad (to Paris, Florence, Geneva, and Hamburg) but also through Smith approved programs! There are countless opportunities for International students to go abroad on every continent. Read more about some of the experiences from our fellow Smithies below.

**Diversity**

**Leadership**

**Exceptional**

**Individual**

**Insight**

**Global**



WOMEN  
• FOR THE •  
WORLD

# Welcome and Introduction

My name is Sunwoo (Vivian) Lee and I am currently a senior at Smith College double majoring in Government and East Asian Studies. It is my pleasure to be writing this newsletter to you as the International Recruitment Intern of 2014 for the admissions office at Smith College. Hopefully by the time you have finished reading this newsletter, you will have read about the many aspects of Smith College and the great opportunities that Smith can offer to you.

Diversity and global awareness are considered integral components of Smith College. We learn from the American students and from also each other. Throughout my years at Smith, I have interacted with the various cultures and minds of Smith's diverse international student population. Through these interactions, I found my new obsession for Som Tum, unique attraction to Bollywood movies, curiosity for the complex history behind contemporary African politics, and beauty in the Chinese language. In fact, when I decided to spend my summer in Beijing in 2013 to learn Mandarin, with the help of a Smith international student from Beijing, I was able to easily get around and adapt to the city within a week.

Once you come to Smith College, you will understand or be reassured that the world is really a small place. The extremely diverse international student body will allow for you to befriend people from every corner of the world. You will hear their stories and share your story. Before you know it, you will have become best friends with people from the other side of the world. Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that this has happened to me in my first year at Smith when I became best friends with my floormate from my house who was from Mumbai. It is truly amazing what Smith can bring into your life.

As an international student myself, I can tell you that international students at Smith are very active, encouraging, and driven. These students from diverse cultures run and lead various multicultural organizations such as the Asian Students Association (ASA), South Asian Student Association of Smith (EKTA), Nosotras, Smith African and Caribbean Students' Association (SACSA), and more. These active groups of, "Unity Organizations" represent diversity and a support network for their members. They host fine art forums, concerts, cultural celebrations, workshops, and, of course, dance parties. I have held leadership positions for two years in Korean American Students at Smith (KASS), where I met many fellow Korean-American and Korean international students who were great role models, supporters, and friends. At times when you miss home, they will become your home at Smith.

I strongly encourage you to consider Smith for these and many other reasons. It will become your source of education and friendship but also, a true home. I will be available as a resource for you if you have any questions about Smith or adjusting to life in the United States. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at any point and I will try to help in any way possible.

Good luck,  
Sunwoo (Vivian) Lee  
Smith College 2014  
International Recruitment Intern of Smith College Office of Admission  
[sunlee@smith.edu](mailto:sunlee@smith.edu)



# Academics and Resources at Smith College

Smith College offers more than 1,000 course offerings with 49 majors and 27 minors to choose from. Students are required to declare one major by the end of their sophomore year. Students are also given the choice to choose a minor or double major. If desired, students are also able to declare a concentration. Smith offers 12 different concentrations. More information on majors, minors, concentrations, and course offerings can be found here:

**Majors:** [http://www.smith.edu/acad\\_programs\\_depts.php](http://www.smith.edu/acad_programs_depts.php)

**Minors:** [http://www.smith.edu/acad\\_prog\\_minors.php](http://www.smith.edu/acad_prog_minors.php)

**Concentrations:** [http://www.smith.edu/acad\\_concentrations.php](http://www.smith.edu/acad_concentrations.php)

**Courses:** [catalog.smith.edu](http://catalog.smith.edu)

## Four Libraries and Three Collections and Archives

**Each library and resource space is unique in its own way.**

**The Sophia Smith Collection is the largest women's studies collection in the New England area, and in Josten Library, you can use record players to listen to old LPs. Explore each library:**

Neilson Library : [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/neilson](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/neilson)

Hillyer Art Library: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/hillyer](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/hillyer)

Josten Performing Arts Library: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/josten](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/josten)

Young Science Library: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/young](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/young)

Mortimer Rare Bok Room: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/rarebook](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/rarebook)

College Archives: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/archives](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/archives)

Sophia Smith Collection: [www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/ssc/](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libr/ssc/)

## Smith Libraries

Looking for research materials?  
Looking for books and magazines for  
leisure reading?  
Looking for a group study area?  
Or even a quiet cubicle for an exam?  
Looking for DVDs, music scores, past  
theses, and more?!

That's right. Smith College can help you find anything and everything you need in terms of resources. From five different English translations and three French copies of Euguene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* to records of United States government agencies, and even both DVD copies of season I and II of *Sherlock*, Smith College has unlimited resources you can find and borrow for free!

You also have free and convenient access to the Five College libraries of University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, and Hampshire College. You can just go online, request for the documents or resources you need, and they will be delivered to you at Smith!

## Q & A with Current International Students: What classes have you taken at Smith that were the most memorable?

*“English 118 is a first-year intensive writing class. It was definitely the best one for me, because it teaches you the concrete skills of writing and reading, which will help you a lot with your other courses since you will be writing papers, either for sciences or social science classes regardless of your major.”*

- Sahra '17, Afghanistan,  
Neuroscience Major

*“First Year Seminar: Reacting to the Past taught by John Patrick Coby of the the government department. It is definitely intense, with a lot of readings about French revolution, King Henry VIII, Church reformation and books like Social Contract. However, it is an amazing class that will improve your speech and writing skills and most importantly, will build up your confidence in public speaking. It is the most exciting course I have ever taken at Smith. You have to take it!”*

- Yumeng Wang '17, China,  
Undeclared

*“ENG 118 - Water: Science and Politics’ was a great class. Especially for me since I am an international student, it introduced me to American colleges’ style of writing in science through engaging with issues related to water in America and in the world. I would especially recommend this class for first year students thinking about studying science at Smith.”*

-Nanami Kono '17, Japan,  
Undeclared

*“Engineering for Everyone (EGR 100). This class incorporates almost all fields of study and is very instrumental in providing a learning experience that includes many fields of studies. This class is very helpful if you are seeking to identify your passion.”*

-Elsie Odhiambo '17, Kenya,  
Engineering and Economics



# Guide to the Office of International Students



CONTACT THE OFFICE OF  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Phone: (413) 585-4943

Fax: (413) 585-4906

## The Office for International Students and Scholars provides the following support services:

1. Advises and assists students through the complexities of the U.S. immigration, visa and travel regulations, both prior to their arrival and throughout their stay at Smith.
2. Assesses the needs of international students and facilitates their smooth transition to life at Smith and the U.S. Conducts programs and workshops on various topics throughout the year.
3. Acts as a liaison and an advocate with governmental agencies and various college offices. Maintains links with departments and various college offices who work with international students.



## THE HANDBOOK

The International Student Handbook is an important resource for international students at Smith. It contains helpful information, from important emergency contact numbers to listings of resources at Smith. The handbook acts as a guide to customary practices for international students in the United States, and discusses customs and expectations, from drinking alcohol, holidays international students may not be familiar with, and expectations in the United States around "tipping" for services. It even includes a brief guide on converting sizes for clothing.

The handbook is a useful resource that can be referred to, especially when the staff at the international students office aren't available. We strongly recommend every international student take the time to read it.

Use this link to access the handbook: <http://www.smith.edu/interstudents/docs/Handbook2011.pdf>

# Q & A with Current International Students: What is it like to be an international student at Smith?

*"I have met people from all over the world and experienced a taste of many different cultures and experiences such as snow and living independently."*

-Maria Paula Largacha '17, Ecuador,  
Undeclared



*"My experience as an international student at Smith has been a tremendous and invaluable experience. Having made friends with other international students as well as American students, I have had the chance to learn so much in a small, safe, close-knit environment. Living so far away from my family and in a culture so strikingly different has been challenging, but it has made me more open-minded when making decisions and facing new challenges.."*

- Krithika Venkataraman '15, Bangalore,  
Biochemistry Major, Neuroscience Minor



*"There is a lot of diversity, so I don't feel like I'm in the minority at all, and everyone is curious and open to learning about other cultures."*

-Avita Streatfield '17, Bangladesh,  
Undeclared



*"I always feel grateful for being an international student at Smith. I feel welcome and respected by all people. I am so glad to have the opportunity to meet people from all different cultures and to share my own story with them. I definitely miss my home, but being at Smith makes that feeling exceptionally tolerable."*

- Mariem Ines Mabrouk '17, Tunisia,  
Chemistry



*"Smith offers me a lot of opportunities to explore and learn. I am one of the happiest people you will see on the campus."*

-Yuri Kang '16, South Korea,  
Sociology



# Meet the Current International Students

**Name:** Jiaying (Cory) Liang

**Hometown:** Shanghai, China

**Class Year:** 2017

**Majors:** undecided but probably English or Government

**About Me:** I intend to major in either English or Government because literature, history, the use of language to express ideas as well as the different ideologies behind the structures of government is what really amazes me.

**Significant Experience at Smith:**

- 1) International Student Pre-Orientation with International Student Organization
- 2) Moon Festival and Lunar New Year Celebration Performance with Chinese Inter-regional Student Cultural Organization
- 3) \$50 Challenge sponsored by Center for Women & Financial Independence  
Click on this link for more information: [http://www.smith.edu/wfi/entrepreneurship\\_50.php](http://www.smith.edu/wfi/entrepreneurship_50.php)
- 4) Community Service with the Interfaith Council

Feel free to ask me any questions: [jliang@smith.edu](mailto:jliang@smith.edu)



**Name:** Sahra Ibrahimi

**Hometown:** Afghanistan; currently my family lives in Mysore, India.

**Class Year:** 2017

**Majors:** neuroscience and minor in international relations

**About Me:** I intend to major in neuroscience and minor in international relations. I plan to combine my love of policy, science, and social justice in a fulfilling public health career. As I continue my undergraduate studies at Smith, I hope to become more involved in leadership, to do more health internships and to make connection with people working in public health. My particular fields of interest are medicine, reproductive justice and women's rights, but I am eager to explore more and be open to try other studies too.

My hobbies are reading novels, doing modern dance and playing volleyball. I have traveled to Germany, Holland, India and about 7 states of the US.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [sibrahimi@smith.edu](mailto:sibrahimi@smith.edu)





**Name:** Naomi Ito

**Hometown:** Yokohama, Japan

**Class Year:** 2014

**Majors:** Biological Sciences and Education

**About Me:** On top of enjoying biology in general (genomics fascinate me), I've been doing a lot of work related to teaching and education, so a biology teacher seemed to be the dream job for me.

**Significant Experience at Smith:** During IS Day, which is an event hosted by the International Students Organization, I cooked several traditional Japanese dishes. Although they weren't entirely authentic (due to the lack of ingredients available), many people approached my booth and showed interest in my dishes. The whole event was significant because it was an opportunity for everyone to promote and experience various cultures, and it was one of the times that I felt strongly privileged to be an international student at such an accepting environment.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [nito@smith.edu](mailto:nito@smith.edu)

**Name:** Jennipher Musa

**Hometown:** Luanshya, Zambia

**Class Year:** 2017

**Majors:** Economics and Mathematics and a concentration in Global Financial Institutions

**About Me:** I decided to study economics and mathematics because that is what ignites my interests. I also believe that those are the types of expertise needed in my country. I want to eventually return to Zambia and head the Financial sector using all the skills that I would have acquired by then.

**Significant Experience at Smith:** My most significant experience has been meeting people from all over the world, it's as if the world is at Smith! Smith is rich in culture and diversity, I wouldn't trade it for any other.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [jmusa@smith.edu](mailto:jmusa@smith.edu)



**Name:** Krithika Venkataraman

**Hometown:** Bangalore, India & Brussels, Belgium

**Class Year:** 2015

**Major:** Biochemistry (Molecular Biology) and Minor in Neuroscience

**About Me:** I'm interested in pursuing a career in medical research and global health education. Understanding how living systems function at the most fundamental level fascinates me immensely and this combination of major and minor has been the perfect first step for me towards finding my passion and being closer to achieving my long-term goals.

**Significant experience at Smith:** Being a Smithie has been an eye-opening experience filled with opportunity, personal growth and intellectual stimulation. From being given the chance and freedom to work at the cutting edge of science in top-notch research facilities with dedicated professors and motivated peers, to forming life-long bonds with incredible women from across the globe, Smith has let me build dreams, and realize them. Last but not least, I have made friends for life here, and it is the small everyday interactions that have showed me how everyone has a unique story to tell -- you only have to take a moment to listen.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [kvenkata@smith.edu](mailto:kvenkata@smith.edu)



# International Students Studying Abroad



## CONTACT THE STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

Phone: (413) 585-4905

Fax: (413) 585-4982

E-mail: [studyabroad@smith.edu](mailto:studyabroad@smith.edu)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Office for International Study provides learning opportunities through study abroad experiences so students may acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare them for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.

Smith College, through the Office for International Study, is a member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the Institute for International Education (IIE), the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) and the Forum on Education Abroad. The office adheres to the NAFSA Code on Ethics and Statements of Principles in International Educational Exchange.

## Goals of Study Abroad

To promote study abroad opportunities that are in keeping with the educational aims of the college.

To provide program options that offer outstanding academic content, instruction, language learning and cultural immersion opportunities in the host countries.

To ensure other first-rate study abroad opportunities that accommodate a range of disciplines and include diverse regions of the world.

To integrate study abroad into the student's four-year plan of study to the fullest extent possible.



# What is it like to be abroad?

**Name and Major:** Ingrid Brioso-Rieumont '15, Brazilian Studies and Portuguese

**Hometown:** Havana, Cuba

**Where are you studying abroad?:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Best part of going abroad?:** I am writing this statement from the city of Rio de Janeiro while studying abroad at PUC-Rio. As a Brazilian Studies major at Smith College, I must say that there could never have been a better career path for me. I am finally fulfilling my dream of becoming a future connoisseur of Brazilian Literature. My life has begun.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [ibriosorieumont@smith.edu](mailto:ibriosorieumont@smith.edu)



**Name:** Dipshikha Mahajan '15, Economics and Global Financial Markets Concentration

**Hometown:** Botswana

**Where are you studying abroad?:** London School of Economics, London

**Best part of going abroad?:** Studying in busy central London has been a blast thus far. The food, the nightlife, the sightseeing, the history, and the people have created the perfect atmosphere to live and learn in. As for LSE, although the curriculum and the self-study structure have been very challenging, I am certain that my general knowledge on the topic of economics has grown immensely and I really appreciate having the opportunity to delve into a new academic structure and environment.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [dmahajan@smith.edu](mailto:dmahajan@smith.edu)



**Name:** Elysia Hung '15, Psychology major

**Hometown:** Taiwan

**Where are you studying abroad?:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Best part of going abroad?:** I find it easy to adjust to living in Geneva and learning the culture here. But that's possibly because I already had a Genevan friend before I came, or perhaps because this is a Smith program and they guide us through the process. I'm enjoying my time here so far.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [ehung@smith.edu](mailto:ehung@smith.edu)



**Name:** S. Ayla Ahmed '15, Economics

**Hometown:** Pakistan

**Where are you studying abroad?:** London, UK

**Best part of going abroad?:** Studying at the LSE, I have grown, not just academically but personally as well. I am taking some courses that I could not have taken at Smith but at the same time, I have also learnt the value of a Smith education. I miss the interactive and engaging classroom environment at Smith.

Feel free to ask me any questions: [saahmed@smith.edu](mailto:saahmed@smith.edu)



# Welcome to the One and Only Northampton



CLICK BELOW TO SEE SMITH'S  
IMPACT IN NORTHAMPTON

<http://www.smith.edu/impact>

The City of Northampton is full of fun little shops and various cuisines that are special to downtown Northampton. You will find almost anything you need and want to have for a fun night out with your friends in, as Smithies call it, 'Noho.' Hear from the current international students at Smith what they have to say about Northampton:

It's such an ideal college town (definitely the best in the Pioneer Valley) with an amazing variety of restaurants, hipster cafes and sports bars to choose from - be it Thai, Greek or Tibetan food, Northampton has it all!

It has great restaurants, including foreign restaurants such as Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Moroccan, Thai, etc.

Best part of Northampton is the froyo (frozen yogurt) places.

*I think the best part about Northampton is that most people are very nice!*

Northampton is a comfortable small town with many cozy places to visit to de-stress. My favorite places are the frozen yogurt stores and Harrell's ice cream.

Northampton is small but safe and pretty. The downtown is a five-minute walk depending on where you live.

Downtown Northampton is a safe area and a lively place at the same time.

Northampton is a small, peaceful and artistic town which creates a quiet place for students to focus on their studies and also is famous for New England buildings and culture.

There are many interesting art galleries and CD stores!!!!

Northampton offers a great variety of activities, which makes going downtown a fun experience. My favorite aspects of Northampton are the cute little coffee shops and independent bookstores, where I enjoy spending the weekend.

I'm not into shopping, but I'll gladly do it in Northampton because of the variety of interesting things you can buy. Shops like Faces and Hospice always give me ideas for things I want to do.

Northampton will never leave you bored: it has plenty of interesting places including cute cafés and interesting shops.