

***Relating to an International Student Advisor (ISA)
& University Staff***
Basic Level – Area/City Director
International Students, Inc.

Module Description and Purpose

Key to developing a strong international student ministry on a campus is a good relationship with the International Student Advisor. It is essential to view this relationship as a partnership with ISI in a servant role to the school. Building a friendship with the ISA office will open many doors for ministry.

Delivery Method

This is done in the context of a team with one individual as point person with the ISA. As Area Director (AD), you will be leading a group process to determine current situation, approach, and plan for the school year.

If you have questions regarding this module, please email your questions to:

Training@isionline.org

Assumptions

It is assumed that individuals beginning this module have already:

1. Completed the support development process and been assigned a ministry position.
2. Been assigned to work with a team and are coordinating with the other ISI staff regarding approaching and working with the ISAs on various campuses in the area.

Topics and Objectives

Module Overview – this module is divided into three (3) segments, or “units,” which include the following learning objectives and tasks:

- Gathering information regarding campus needs and openness of the ISA
- Meeting and building relationships with ISAs
- Developing a plan for launching ministry on a campus or campuses

Materials Needed:

- This module

Unit One – Surveying the Area

As Area Director, you will lead this process with your team in order to get an idea of the current climate of the campus and potential relationship with the ISA. Begin by assessing the campus and anticipated attitude of the ISA office.

Survey Questions:

1. How many international students are on the campus?
2. How many staff are in the ISA office?
3. What other Christian organizations are ministering to international students?
4. What types of activities are they doing?
5. What is the reputation of the ISA especially in regards to working with Christians and volunteers? (Ask other Christian ministers, campus staff, students)
6. What services are they doing a good job providing?
7. What services are not being provided?
8. Is there a Friendship Partner-type program?
9. Is there a Conversational English program?
10. Is there anything offered for spouses and families?
11. Is there an airport pick up program?
12. What resources do you have in terms of staff and volunteers to realistically meet needs of international students on this campus?

Unit Two – Meeting with ISA

As AD, you may want to meet with the ISA personally or you may assign the appropriate staff person to do so. Brainstorm with your team the scenario of walking into the ISA office. What would you, as an ISA, want to feel/hear from this ministry person? What would make the difference between an open and a closed relationship? Here are some ideas to consider (after you've had time to brainstorm).

1. Focus on the person and build a rapport and relationship.
2. Show genuine interest and compassion regarding the challenges and joys faced in that position.
3. Find out what programs they currently offer, who's in charge of each, and how they are going.
4. Ask how you can help.

5. Offer only what your team has previously agreed to provide. Tell the ISA that you will get back to them after you have conferred with your team regarding other possibilities.
6. Be careful NOT to promise more than you can deliver with **quality**. It's always best to under-promise and over-deliver.
7. It may be necessary to meet a need that they have first, in order to open doors for more ministry later.
8. Give a word of encouragement on your departure, even if it has been a difficult meeting.

Unit Three – Developing a Plan

After you have all the information, lead your team in a time of prayer and planning.

1. Honestly evaluate the resources of time and talent you have on your staff and volunteer team in relation to campus needs.
2. Prioritize one or two projects which you can tackle and deliver results at a quality level.
3. Develop an action plan to implement for the school year.
4. Communicate to the ISA what your team is willing to do, how, and by when.
5. If the ISA is not cooperative, don't be discouraged! Although a bit more challenging, this does not stop ministry (particularly on a public campus). Brainstorm creative ways of accessing students into a program that would meet a felt need. Or, determine if there's a more open campus that you should focus on first.