WHY ACES AT ILLINOIS?
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U of I) consistently ranks among the top public universities in the United States, with 44,000 students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. As a result of its global engagement and reputation, Illinois has the second largest contingent of enrolled international students among all U.S. universities. In addition to its 15 colleges and schools, the U of I has over 150 research centers and institutes.

The College of ACES at Illinois has a distinguished track record of sustained engagement in many countries around the world. ACES is actively engaged in research, teaching, and capacity-building in fields including applied biology (plant, microbial, animal, and human), chemistry (soil chemistry, food chemistry, and water chemistry), natural resources (soil-water dynamics, climate change modeling, ecosystem restoration, and wildlife ecology), and engineering (water management, agricultural mechanization, biological engineering, and food processing). In addition, the College of ACES is a leader in the fields of human nutrition, food security, and international economics and development.

The ISIP has been repeatedly named as the “Best Study Abroad Program” by Zhejiang University.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
Autonomous University of Mexico
Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi, Mexico
Chungnam National University, South Korea
Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China
University of Ghana, Legon
University for Development Studies, Ghana
Zhejiang University, China

CONTACT INFORMATION
SUZANA PALASKA
Associate Director, Office of International Programs
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Phone: 217-244-2295 | Fax: 217-333-4511
E-mail: spalaska@illinois.edu
Structure

The six-week International Summer Immersion Program (ISIP) introduces promising undergraduate students from selected partner institutions to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois. Through direct mentorship by a faculty member, students complete a research project. Students also participate in cultural activities on campus and beyond. At the completion of the program, students have achieved the following:

• A completed research project and research poster
• Relationships with faculty members and researchers at the University of Illinois
• An understanding of ACES graduate programs and admission process
• Knowledge of the culture and history of the State of Illinois and the United States of America
• Improved English language competency

Requirements

The ISIP is highly competitive. The application process is initiated through the student’s home university, which must be a partner institution of the program. Applicants should demonstrate these criteria:

• English language proficiency as demonstrated by TOEFL results or an equivalent. (Minimum requirement: 80 electronic, 550 paper-based test)
• Completion of at least two years of university work in good academic standing
• Demonstration of basic research knowledge and skills
• Clearly articulated research interests

Cost

The per-student program fee includes the cost of the program, housing, and meals as well as all expenses for day trips.

Program fee does not include the cost of travel to the U.S. or the cost of the visa application process. Also, students must arrange for health insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in the U.S.

Email aces-oip@illinois.edu for current costs.

Timeline

→ FEBRUARY
Application process starts.

→ END OF MARCH
Deadline for applications; applicants are selected at home institutions.

→ MID-APRIL
Illinois chooses finalists from applications selected by the home institutions.

→ END OF APRIL
Cohort is announced.

→ MAY AND JUNE
Accepted students apply for entry visas and make travel arrangements.

→ EARLY JULY
Program starts.

→ MID-AUGUST
Program ends.

Since the creation of this unique program in 2010, more than 130 students have graduated from ISIP.