International Scholar Academy
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The University of Arizona | 2018 - 2019

International Scholar Academy is sponsored by UA Global (International Faculty & Scholars, International Partnerships, and Study Arizona: Short-Term Programs), the UA Graduate College, and UA Research, Discovery & Innovation — with support from the Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP).

Robert Côte, Ph.D.
Director, UA Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP)
SEPT 11, OCT 2 Workshops: Public Presentation Skill; Professional and Scientific Writing Skills

Côte received his Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition & Teaching from the University of Arizona, majoring in sociolinguistics and minoring in pedagogy and program administration. He began his career 20 years ago when he taught ESL at a farm workers’ camp for Literacy Volunteers of America. Since then, he has worked as an administrator, teacher trainer, and classroom instructor in university IEPs, community colleges, adult education centers, and public high schools in Miami, Florida; Nogales, Mexico; Madrid, Spain; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Guangzhou, China.

Côte is also a book-review editor for LINGUIST List and the associate editor of Arab World English Journal. He enjoys teaching all aspects of the English language, and his research interests include teaching, writing, peer review, Generation 1.5 students, CALL, and special needs.

Nadia Alvarez Mexia, Ph.D.
Director, Study Arizona: Short-Term Programs, UA Global
OCT 30 Workshop: Scientific and Academic Poster Development

For over a decade, Alvarez has developed and managed intensive programs that bring international students to the UA for up to ten weeks to conduct research, attend workshops, practice English, and learn about U.S. academic culture. Alvarez’s research programs have been awarded by the UA and NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and have received funding from CONICYT Chile, the Institute of International Education (IIE), the 100K Strong in the Americas fund, and COECYT Sonora. Before joining the UA, Alvarez worked for a decade in Mexico’s higher education system as an instructor, mentor, and administrator with Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) in Monterrey and Mazatlán.

Alvarez is a frequent speaker at academic conferences, as well as a published author. A native of Sonora and raised in Sinaloa, Alvarez earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from ITESM and her Ph.D. in Teaching & Teacher Education with a minor in Language, Reading & Culture from the UA. The city of Tucson and the UA have awarded Alvarez for her personal and professional contributions to higher education and society as a whole.

Adrián Arroyo, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Study Arizona: Short-Term Programs, UA Global
OCT 30 Workshop: Scientific and Academic Poster Development

Arroyo is a higher education expert with a background in chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences. He has over a decade in program management experience, which he utilizes daily as he coordinates short-term programs at the UA for international students. His specific research interests are geopolitical transactions and economic forces in higher education.

Arroyo completed his Ph.D. at the UA from the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the UA as a fellow of the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology. The UA has awarded him not only for his contributions to international education, but also for his pursuit of social justice. Arroyo previously worked in the Latin American pharmaceutical industry and has completed research in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe. He belongs to the Editorial Commission for the Research and Education Journal of the University of Sao Paulo. Originally from Mexico City, Arroyo earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences from La Salle University.
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Emily Kotay, M.P.A
International Partnerships Manager, UA Global

MARCH 12 Workshop: Marketing Yourself

Prior to joining the international partnerships team at UA Global, Kotay assisted UA students applying for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, along with other nationally competitive scholarships. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine, where she acted as an English teacher conducting youth development and community engagement projects for more than two years. Kotay holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas, and a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College in cultural anthropology. In her spare time, she sings with a community chorus, enjoys reading, and spending time with family and friends. She is originally from Kansas.

Shelley Hawthorne Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Director, Office of Fellowships and Community Engagement,
UA Graduate College

MARCH 12 Workshop: Marketing Yourself

Shelley lived and worked in New Zealand, Peru, Bolivia, and South Africa before settling at the University of Arizona. She is currently the Assistant Director of the Graduate College Office of Fellowships and Community Engagement. She works with over 200 UA graduate students annually, helping them find and apply for external funding opportunities.
Kim Patten, M.S.
Director of Research Development Services, UA Research, Discovery & Innovation
FEB 12 Workshop: Global Research Grant Development

At the University of Arizona, Patten specializes in proposal assistance for the Environmental & Data Sciences. She brings more than 10 years of experience managing projects and programs in conservation, renewable energy, and distributed data systems both nationally and internationally. Most recently, she was Associate Director at the Arizona Geological Survey where she managed and conducted research on a more than $30m portfolio, including Co-PI on a $3.6m National Science Foundation funded project and project manager of a $22m U.S. Department of Energy funded project. Prior to her work at AZGS, she was Programs Director at a science-based non-profit organization where she helped expand the organization’s research portfolio.

Dale LaFleur, Ph.D.
Senior Director of International Partnerships, UA Global
APRIL 16 Workshop: Making International Connections

Dale has over nineteen years of professional experience in international education focusing on the development of institutional partnerships and student mobility and leadership programs. She received her M.A. in student development administration from Seattle University and her Ph.D. from the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona with an emphasis on international education and partnerships. She has held various volunteer roles for NAFSA: Association of International Educators and her alma mater, Smith College, and has presented at NAFSA national and regional conferences, as well as at CONAHEC and the Association of International Education Administrators annual conferences.

In 2013, Dale was selected as a member of the Fulbright International Education Administrator Program to Japan, and in 2014 was invited to participate in the Baden-Württemberg Administrator Seminar in Germany. Dale has also served as an instructor for a Leadership Strategies undergraduate course and as a guest lecturer for a Comparative Education graduate level course at the University of Arizona.