

Is the International Student Orientation Program for Me?

A Guide for Class of 2023 Admitted International Students

WHY ISOP?

The primary goal of the International Student Orientation Program (ISOP) is to help prepare international students who have limited experience in the U.S. to transition into the U.S. culture both inside and outside of the classroom. If you are exploring whether to attend one of the three optional pre-orientation programs, this document will help you determine whether ISOP is a good choice for you.

NSOP (New Student Orientation Program) is the required orientation program for all first-year students. NSOP does not require an application.

Below are the **OPTIONAL** pre-orientation programs for first-year students that take place one week before NSOP. The following require an application:

Columbia Urban Experience (CUE): www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/orientation/CUE

Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program (COÖP): www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/coop/about

International Student Orientation Program (ISOP): www.cc-seas.columbia.edu/ISOP

Email **ISOP@columbia.edu** if you would like to speak with someone about whether ISOP is the right choice for you!

Question Set #1: Language and Background

- Is your first language something other than English?
- Was the language of instruction in your high school something other than English?
- In the last three years, have you spent most of the time in your home/passport country?

YES ↓ TO ANY

Question Set #2: Educational Background

- Is undergraduate study at Columbia your first exposure to the U.S. education system?
- Are you the first in your family to attend a university?
- Is this your first time in the U.S.?

YES ↓ TO ANY

Question Set #3: Transition to Columbia

- Will you be traveling alone to Columbia?
- Are you the first in your family to study outside of your home/passport country?
- Will you need additional assistance in setting up a cell phone, a bank account and other life essentials in the U.S.?

YES ↓ TO ANY

**NO
→
TO ALL**

ISOP may not be the best choice for you.

It looks like you already have a great set of prior experiences and skills that will help you transition to your new life at Columbia. If you are looking for a community-building experience prior to NSOP, you may want to explore CUE or COÖP. If you choose not to apply for CUE or COÖP, you may still participate during NSOP in the programs tailored for international students.

**NO
→
TO ALL**

ISOP may not be the best choice for you.

Consider applying to attend CUE or COÖP, which provide opportunities to connect with a community beyond international students. Regardless of whether you choose to attend any pre-orientation program, your transition will be well supported during NSOP. If you feel that you need additional transitional support that is just for international students, ISOP can still be useful to you. However, some of the sessions in ISOP may present information you already know. Once admitted to ISOP, you are required to attend all sessions.

**NO
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TO ALL**

ISOP is a great choice for you!

If you are not able to attend ISOP, we highly recommend that you participate in all programs for international students during NSOP and connect with International @ Columbia during your first three weeks at Columbia.



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