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Comm 320-50, Dr. Selene Phillips
Feature Pitch
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Pitch

For the past two years, the pandemic has affected the world drastically, causing countries to close their borders, halt travel, and go into lockdown. For universities, this meant that there would be less international students, where according to Pew Research Center, there was at least a 15% decrease in enrollment from international students from 2020 to 2021. And for international students, this means deciding on pushing through and completing their education, or giving up and delaying the opportunity to study abroad. Universities then adapted to the situation and shifted many courses and programs to online learning. Now, countries are opening up their borders and recovering from COVID-19, but will the pandemic continue to impact the education system and future enrollments?

The feature will focus on the university's outlook on the education system as the world is recovering from the pandemic, and view the story of experiencing the pandemic from the perspective of both university staff and international students. This story will feature interviews with staff from University of Louisville's International Student and Scholar Services to explore how the education system has shifted, and if there will be any long term impact. There will also be interviews with a selection of international students from within University of Louisville and other universities in the United States, to find out how the pandemic has affected them and explore some reasons that made them stay to complete their studies amidst the pandemic. Interviews with students that moved to the United States during the pandemic will also be conducted to explore their choice of attending in-person classes instead of taking other options.

Individuals to Interview

Dr. Paul Hofmann, Assistant Vice President for International Center

Maria Martinez, International Student Coordinator

Janice Kim, Director for International Student and Scholar Services

Seyda Muratova, International Student Coordinator

Aljair Rezex, student from Panama at University of Louisville

Gabriela Nicolas, student from Panama at University of Louisville

Brian Gallego, student from Colombia at University of Louisville

Tu Le, student from Vietnam at University of Louisville

Dr. Mahendar Kadari, Postdoctoral Associate from India at University of Louisville

Tomas Pegorari, student from Argentina at University of Louisville

Alicia Chiang, student from Taiwan at Penn State University and intern journalist with WPSU

Rose Chen, student from Taiwan at Penn State University

Leo Chen, student from Taiwan at The Savannah College of Art and Design

Ivan Pai, student from Taiwan at The University of Utah

Interview Questions

Dr. Paul Hoffman, Assistant Vice President for International Center

Janice Kim, Director for International Student and Scholar Services

1. How long have you been working in ISSS?
2. Could you describe a little about what your job consists of?
3. What percentage of the students are international students?
4. Where are the demographics of the international students?
5. How has the pandemic impacted the number of international students in the past 2 years?

6. Throughout the course of the past 2 years, what has the university done to help international students during the pandemic?
7. Looking back, has there been anything that you could have done better?
8. How do you think the pandemic will impact future enrollments?
9. Have there been courses or an entire degree program that was moved to online learning?
10. Has online learning affected students' decision on attending in-person courses?
11. Now that the pandemic is becoming more normalized, what is the university's outlook on the number of international students for both online and in-person programs?

Maria Martinez, International Student Coordinator

Seyda Muratova, International Student Coordinator

1. How long have you been working as a student coordinator in ISSS?
2. Could you describe a little about what your job consists of?
3. What were some concerns applicants or students had about the pandemic?
4. Was the admission process and the enrollment rate of the university affected by the pandemic? By how much?
5. From the question above, has any enrollment from specific countries or areas decreased?
6. Has the pandemic affected in-person attendance of the university or intimidated students from coming to the United States to take the program?

Alicia Chiang, intern journalist at WPSU and an international student from Taiwan

1. How long have you been in the United States?

2. When the pandemic started, have you considered or been asked by family members to go back to your home country?
3. What made you stay within the United States?
4. What do you think of your decision?
5. Have you been afraid of what might have happened when you chose to stay here?
6. You covered two articles back in 2020 about COVID-19. What were your thoughts on that?
7. Now that we are slowly recovering from the pandemic, how do you think this experience has impacted your way of learning?

International students that stayed during the pandemic

1. How long have you been in the United States?
2. When the pandemic started, have you considered or been asked by family members to go back to your home country?
3. What made you stay within the United States?
4. What do you think of your decision?
5. Have you been afraid of what might have happened when you chose to stay here?
6. If you had the opportunity to complete your degree online, would you have returned to your country? Why?

International students that came to the United States during the pandemic (within last 2 years)

1. How long have you been in the United States?
2. Were you present in the United States during the pandemic?

3. If yes, why did you choose to travel out of your home country to pursue this degree or program?
4. What helped you make that decision?
5. Were there any difficulties and challenges?
6. If there was a chance your program could be completed entirely online, would you still have chosen to attend the courses in person? Why?

Contact Information

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Tzu-Yu, student and intern journalist at WPSU

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