

Bluefield State College J-1 Annual Report for 2017-18

Did you host any J-1 exchange visitors during the period of 07/01/2017 to 06/30/2018? If so, what kinds of activities did they engage in (such as studying, lecturing, performing research, etc.)?

Response: None.

List all active agreements you have with foreign universities that could result in students or scholars coming through our J-1 program and indicate if it's a new (this 2017/18 year) or extended agreement. Please elaborate on how these agreements are facilitating exchange. Please email me scanned copies of these agreements.

Response:

Active institutional partnership/agreements, extended:

1. *Kostroma State Technological University, Russia (KSTU) (extended to 2019)*
2. *National Ilan University, Taiwan (NIU) (2015; extended to 2021)*
3. *William V. S. Tubman University, Liberia (TU) (2015; extended to 2021)*
4. *Holy Cross College-Agartala, India (HCC) (2015; extended to 2021)*
5. *Kazan National Research Technological University, Kazan, Russia (KNRTU) (2015; extended to 2021)*

Active institutional partnership/agreements, new:

6. *Yunnan Vocational College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (YVCMEE), People's Republic of China (2016)*
7. *Universidad Autonoma de Santa Ana (UNASA), El Salvador (2017)*
8. *Universidad de Oriente (UNIVO), San Miguel, El Salvador (2017)*
9. *Sisian State College(SSC), Armenia (2017)*
10. *Ilia State University (ISU), Tbilisi, Georgia (2017)*
11. *UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DO CENTRO-OESTE (UNICENTRO), Brazil (2017)*
12. *University of Oran No.2 (UO2), Algeria (2018)*

Exchanges facilitated by partnerships/agreements:

1. *BSC-KSTU: KSTU's Dr. Sergey Zhigulev at BSC as Fulbright Scholar in Residence in AY 2009-10. In summer 2011, former VPAA Dr. Robin Ware and Dr. Sudhakar R Jamkhandi visited KSTU for original MOU signing.*
2. *NIU at BSC: NIU leadership and Taiwan Washington DC Office at BSC for MOU signing.*

3. *BSC-KNRTU: KNRTU's Dr. Mariya Kharina at BSC as Fulbright Scholar in Residence in AY 2016-17*

December 2018 study abroad featuring Russian Theater History in Kazan, St. Petersburg, and Moscow.

4. *BSC-TU: In AY 2017-18, BSC hosted Fulbright Scholar in Residence Prof. Jackson Tamba of TU who taught electrical engineering technology courses.*

December 9-18, 2018: Up to 5 BSC electrical engineering students will accompany BSC Electrical Engineering Technology instructor Joseph Hazelwood to Tubman University, with scholarships for airfares provided by Appalachian Power Company.

December 9-18, 2018: BSC is planning to host five TU nursing students and a nursing instructor who will be learn about the college's nursing program and the area's health care services.

5. *BSC-UNASA: December 7-16, 2017: BSC hosted a study tour featuring BSC's nursing program and the area's health care services for 5 UNASA nursing students, one faculty, and one administrator.*

May 15-17, 2018: BSC hosted UNASA Rector Sergio Carranza to strengthen partnership between UNASA and BSC-Bluefield Regional Medical Center-Princeton Community Hospital.

6. *BSC-UNIVO: May 13-20, 2018: BSC hosted a week-long study tour on Communications, Marketing, and Branding for UNIVO Director of Communications and Marketing Ariana Silis, her intern Vanessa Martinez, and interpreter Elsy Valladares.*

7. *BSC-UNICENTRO: August 3-18, 2018: Two UNICENTRO students will visit BSC for English language and American culture immersion (with a homestay) and to recruit BSC students to study in Brazil in summer 2019.*

November 17-24, 2018: Dr. Martha Eborall, Professor of Biology, will travel to UNICENTRO, Brazil, to develop BSC's summer 2019 study abroad program featuring Brazil's environmental protection and preservation challenges.

8. *English for International Students: BSC will issue J-1 visas to students from partner institutions to enroll in its English for International Students program.*

Scanned copies of agreements attached in separate files.

Did you have any J-1 exchange visitors come to your institution during the 2017-18 period who came on DS-2019s issued by a third-party (IIE, Fulbright, IREX, etc.)? If so, please elaborate.

Third party Exchange Students:

1 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participants from Germany (Cultural Vistas).

1 Au Pair who enrolled in the English for International Students Program

Third-party Exchange Scholars:

Four Fulbright Scholars in Residence at other US host institutions participated in the IIE-CIES Outreach Lecture Fund:

James Riggall of Tasmania, Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Bellevue College in Washington State delivered presentations on (a) Australian Customs and Traditions and Contemporary Society at BSC, Wyoming East High School and Westside High School and (b) Hackerspaces, Makerspaces and STEAM Education at BSC

Peter Csanyi of Slovakia, Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Stephen F Austin University in Texas, delivered presentations on (a) Slovakia's identity, customs, culture, and traditions at Bluefield State College and Princeton Senior High School and (b) the political systems of Central European Countries (Slovakia, Czech, Hungary, and Poland) at Bluefield State College

Mimouna Zitouni of Algeria, Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Coastal Carolina State University, NC, delivered presentations at Bluefield State College on (a) Algeria, USA, and Prince El Amir Abdelkader: A Shared Myth of a Legendary Algerian Arab Knight; (b) Is English There? Investigating the Electronic Discourse of Young Algerian Users of SMS; (c) A Vision of Education for the 21st Century: The Case of Algeria; and (d) North Africa: Peace and Conflict Perspectives versus Contemporary Muslim World

Vladimir Bogdan of Hungary, Fulbright Scholar in Residence at Coker College in South Carolina, shared presentations on (a) Change of Hungarian Self-esteem Reflected on Forint Bills -- a Short Introduction to Hungarian History at Tazewell High School and Bluefield State College and (b) Behind Everyday Data Science -- Graph Modeling and Algorithms at Bluefield State College

List the various cross-cultural activities you offered on your campus during the 2017-18 period that were attended by international students and scholars and promoted cross-cultural awareness. Elaborate on each activity (one or two sentences at most). Please email me scanned copies of flyers or handouts that were used for these activities.

Cross-cultural activities attended by international students and those which promoted cross-cultural awareness on campus:

Fall 2017:

Welcome reception for international students attended by BSC staff, faculty, and administrators

BSC's Annual Humanities Challenge, which promotes the study of literatures (and cultures) from around the world attended by students of BSC and area high schools (Princeton Senior, Graham, Tazewell, Richlands, and Narrows High Schools)

October 23: Annual United Nations Day during which BSC's international student set up table top displays about their countries. Also featured KEI study abroad programs.

October 24: Celebrated World Polio Day in collaboration with Bluefield Rotary International [Speaker:

Established Rotaract (Dr. Bonnie Reese, Faculty Advisor) and Engineers without Borders Student Club (Joseph Hazelwood, Faculty Advisor) which include Americans and international students

Spring 2018:

International Women's Day: Roses presented by international students to BSC's female staff, faculty, and administrators

Presentations by Fulbright Scholars in Residence (through Outreach Lecture Fund) to BSC students and faculty indicated in the section above.

Rotary International meeting in February: Dr. Sudhakar R Jamkhandi spoke about the area institutions and the community's roles in promoting world peace through their participation in capacity and democratic building activities

BSC's Annual Agora-A Celebration of Creative Expression featured internationally renowned Spanish poet Margarita Merino, soprano Alexa Schlimmer, classical pianist Harold Brown and his doctoral student Connor Mautner, and Canadian flutist Jesse Rehwald

Annual Cultural Immersion Weekend in Washington, D.C. for 18 international students, April 2022, 2018

Supervised by Dr. Colin Cavell, several students engage in SOLIYA, an activity which promotes real time conversations with students in other countries.

Applicable scanned copies of flyers or handouts attached.

Discuss some of the issues you have encountered as you implemented the J-1 program on your campus. For example, you may want to discuss: 1) how you went about providing orientation to new international students and scholars; 2) how you used the Exchange Visitor Handbook which is now available online at <http://www.globalwv.org/evp/>; 3) how you dealt with insurance coverage. Please email me scanned copies of any documents you created or used for administering the program, such as a copy of your orientation slides or handbook specific to your campus.

Response:

Orientation for new international students, including 3rd party sponsored J1 visa holders: This annual event is held on the Friday before classes start. No specific orientation for J-1 visa holders since we did not have anyone participate through this WV HEPC activity.

Use of Exchange Visitor Handbook: *Did not use this resource in 2017-18.*

Insurance coverage: *Will use the tool at this web site when needed:*

<http://www.insubuy.com/international-student-medical-insurance/?affiliateid=overture>

Discuss what has been your biggest difficulty implementing the J-1 program.

Visiting Faculty:

Identifying English-speaking faculty from partner institutions in non-English speaking countries who can spend up to an entire academic year at BSC.

Foreign partner institutions have the same challenge faced by US institutions, namely, releasing full-time faculty to go abroad for scholarly activities and finding substitute (adjunct) faculty who will teach their courses in their absence. Reciprocal exchanges will be a rare occurrence.

Appropriate housing for exchange scholars along with the cost of such housing (i.e., who will cover rental costs?)

How can substitute (adjunct) faculty salaries be paid/justified and from what funding source?

Partner institutions' students: In-state tuition payment policy being considered but should be indicated as acceptable by WV HEPC.

Absence of financial support from WV HEPC to support salaries for exchange scholars from partner institutions or engagement in two-way student mobility with international partner institutions.

Discuss your plans for the future.

Existing and future Agreements: Design study abroad curricula in different fields for students of partner institutions, possibly after approval to issue visas to Visiting International Students is authorized or by using the J-1 visa for customized short-term study at BSC.

Custom design study abroad for BSC students at partner institutions (e.g., KNRTU, UNASA, UNICENTRO, TU)

New Agreements: The possibility exists of engaging in 3 more partnerships (thereby bringing the total number to 15). These will be strategically selected (to enhance BSC's capacity and to increase international scholars and students presence at BSC).

Third Party Exchange Students:

Approved: 1 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participant, Theodor Schell, from Germany (Cultural Vistas) in 2018-19

Third party Exchange scholars/professors (CIES/IIE Outreach Lecture Fund):

Dr. Jacques Bou Abdo of Lebanon, currently Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Kentucky, is approved to visit BSC August 15-18, 2018 at which time he will deliver presentations on (a) Lebanon's identity, customs, culture, and traditions; (b) Cyber-security, recommender systems, privacy and mobile cloud computing; and (c) the feasibility of developing a degree program in cyber-security at BSC.

Anticipate grant application submission in August/September 2018 to host at least two Fulbright Scholars at BSC and area schools in October and early November and up to 4 Fulbright Scholars in spring 2019.

Plans underway to visit El Salvador in late November 2018.

Exchange Scholars: If financial support from WV HEPC is made available, BSC anticipates issuing J-1 visas to faculty from at least two partner institutions to teach at BSC for one or two semesters in 2018-19.

Exchange students: BSC anticipates issuing J-1 visas to partner institutions' students to enroll in the English for International Students program. They will pay tuition at the in-state rate when enrolled in this autonomous program.