

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
To: [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)
Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:14:12 PM

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Group name (if applicable):

International Division

What is your affiliation with UW-Madison? For group submissions, please respond for main contact.

- Academic Staff

Describe the concept. If already in use here or elsewhere, please indicate this.

The International Division would like to host/facilitate a forum on the life-cycle of international students on our campus. The forum would be a morning or afternoon where we would gather all the units that touch the lives of international students.

ISS is the primary unit handling students' official paperwork and focused on assisting international students, but many units--from housing to career services to academic dean's offices and University Health--work with our students from abroad. We'd like to understand the challenges they identify when working with overseas students AND let them hear the challenges and frustrations that international students have expressed. These can range from peers not engaging with them to feeling that they do not fit in due to cultural or religious background, or language skills.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

We believe by better understanding the unique issues faced by the intersection of international students and campus units, we will then be able to develop resources and responses that increase understanding, elevate behavior on all sides, and increase support all around.

For new ideas, how would you propose piloting this idea to see if it would work? If the idea is already in use at UW-Madison, how would you propose expanding or altering this program for greater impact?

We propose a pilot this summer bringing together ~50 representatives from Schools/Colleges, student life units, advising units, etc. for fact-finding, brainstorming and discussion.

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

The International Division is willing to take the lead on organizing the event but it would be important for leaders of the Schools/Colleges and administrative units to send representatives with interest and authority to discuss the topic and make change happen.

We would need a room for half a day probably (Union South) and would want to provide refreshments/lunch so that it can be an extended meeting.

Facilitators from OQI or another office could be helpful to assemble the thoughts and help with a post-event plan of action .

If this proposal was developed in partnership with any other organizations, please list them below.

We have had an initial discussion with ISS (Jason Jonely) who indicated support for the concept.