



2025-2026 Two-Week International Professional Exchanges with the Netherlands Program Overview

Overview

The Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2025-2026 Two-Week International Professional Exchange Program.

This program is established each year with specific dates in order to allow planning with coordinating colleges, activities, and insurance. It is understood there may be unexpected conflicts that arise where a participant or the international partner may need to deviate from the exact dates established, but this is a rare exception. Participants should not make plans for alternate dates without first consulting their ICISP representative and ICISP and allowing ICISP committee chairs to obtain official approval from overseas coordinators that the change would be permitted.

**US Hosting Dates: October 11-25, 2025, Netherlands participants travel to the U.S.
Visiting Dates: May 9-23, 2026 ICISP U.S. participants travel to the Netherlands**

This innovative international exchange program matches U.S. faculty and administrators with counterparts from Finland and the Netherlands with the goal of engaging in intercultural understanding, professional development, and promoting global understanding. Research suggests that participants in this program increase their knowledge and understanding of a foreign educational system, with particular emphasis on the systems and structure, faculty work, and insights into the student experience; realize and experience daily life in and gain insights into a foreign culture; and develop long-lasting, meaningful relationships with their exchange partner (Nehlsen, 2018). Furthermore, participants may also demonstrate gains in global citizenship and transformative learning as a result of participation in the program (Nehlsen, 2018). Participation is also an excellent way to complement existing internationalization efforts on campus.

Applicants will be matched as closely as possible with an overseas participant with similar job responsibilities. Other factors such as age, gender, personal interests, and family composition will be incorporated into the matching process when possible. The two-week period will allow for approximately nine days of professional exchange, three days of weekend time, plus a day for orientation upon arrival. English is spoken in most exchange locations, which enhances both the professional and personal aspects of the exchange. During the exchange, matched participants reside in their host's home to help defray some costs of the exchange and to provide increased opportunities for exposure to the cultural aspects of the exchange.

Arrangements for the exchanges are made by ICISP in cooperation with the home college. In October 2025, ICISP participants will first host their partners from the Netherlands, and they will complete the exchanges when they visit their partners in the EU. In May 2026.

Qualifications

To qualify for and participate in the program, all applicants must:

1. Be a full-time or part-time faculty or administrator (or similarly classified) employee of an ICISP member college at the time of application and remain in that status for the duration of the program. Please note full-time applicants will be given first consideration.
2. Complete the application form and agree to the terms and conditions of the program;
3. Complete any home college procedures for application;
4. Make a commitment to share the experience upon return; and
5. Upon return, make a commitment to complete an evaluation for ICISP about the experience

Exchange Location

Participants will be able to study and observe students, faculty and administrators in post-secondary settings, similar to American communities and technical colleges. The sites provide vocational career education to both full-time and part-time students of all ages, and may also provide a third or fourth year of study for students in particular fields. General education courses are offered in all of these vocational programs thus enabling us to provide some exchanges for faculty teaching general education courses.

Exchange Matching Variables

A thorough completion of the application form is very important to the exchange process. The professional objectives for the exchanges are the primary criteria for making a match; however, factors such as age, gender, and personal interests will be taken into consideration because of the homestay exchange aspect. In order for exchange partners to enjoy the homestay as well as the professional study part of their exchanges, factors such as smoking and diet preferences will also be taken into consideration.

Exchange matching is arranged by ICISP exchange contacts and communicated by ICISP staff to ICISP representatives. Other arrangements or changes are not permitted without involvement and approval of the ICISP Office.

Each year the applicant pool varies. Applicants who are not matched are strongly encouraged to reapply the following year.

Timetable

February 2025	Applications made available
April 1, 2025	Application with all additional forms and appropriate college signatures due to ICISP, sent electronically
April-May 2025	Preliminary matches made
End of May 2025	Notification of successful matches
August 2025 (TBD)	Mandatory Virtual orientation session for ICISP participants
October 11, 2025	Arrival of Netherlands partners in the U.S.
May 9, 2026	Arrival of U.S. participants in the Netherlands

Costs and Obligations

ICISP College's Obligations (per participant)

- Air fare to travel to exchange destination, approximately \$1,200, unless there is a pre-arranged understanding between the participant and home college as to how airfare costs and other program fees will be paid;

- ICISP administrative fee, \$150.00 per participant (includes mandatory insurance coverage through CISI);
- And ordinary professional expenses (conference and other fees).

Hosting Participant's Obligations

- Hosting the entire **two consecutive weeks** of the program (if not fulfilled, reciprocal travel options should be discussed with participant's home institution exchange coordinator)
- Room and board (all meals during stay)
- Local transportation
- Ordinary entertainment or entertainment at the host's invitation
- US participants will be expected to arrange to pick up their exchange partner at the mutually agreed to airport (i.e., in Appleton, WI; Chicago, IL; Detroit or Grand Rapids, MI; Madison, WI; or St. Louis, MO) when they arrive in the US, and to return or provide transportation to the airport for the partner's departure when they leave the U.S.
- Comply with ICISP's international travel policy, whereby participants are encouraged to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19; must meet their home institution, host-country or program provider health and vaccination-related requirements; and must be prepared to cover any costs associated with vaccination, testing, travel disruptions, and quarantine.

Obligations to Visiting International Participants

- Optional travel related to visit (for participants electing to extend their travel, all costs will be the visiting participant's personal responsibility)
- Gifts
- Obtain or possess a passport valid 6 months after travel period
- Have health insurance coverage valid for the duration of the travel period (ICISP provides all participants with insurance through CISI to cover only the dates of the program).
- Comply with ICISP's international travel policy, whereby participants are encouraged to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19; must meet their home institution, host-country or program provider health and vaccination-related requirements; and must be prepared to cover any costs associated with vaccination, testing, travel disruptions, and quarantine.

Orientation

A few weeks prior to the program's start date, all ICISP participants will receive information about the mandatory virtual orientation. This orientation will provide ideas and detailed information about hosting and visiting.

Schedule of Activities

To make this a valuable experience, a schedule of activities will be arranged for the overseas participant by the US host, taking into consideration the expressed interests of the overseas participant. The following are some of the types of activities participants may elect to participate in: lecturing or giving lab demonstrations on pre-arranged topics, speaking to faculty or community groups, observing the programs offered to learn about a different system of education, visiting other colleges or universities, visiting community-based professional, business, industrial, or social organizations, having a chance to socialize with people of another country, and seeing some of the local area.

Housing

During the exchange, participants are expected to provide room and board for their international guest for

the two weeks he/she is in the country, and U.S. participants will stay with their counterpart for two weeks in his/her country. Accommodation does not need to be elaborate, but separate sleeping facilities and appropriate bathroom facilities are a necessity. Shared bedrooms are not acceptable. Consideration should also be made regarding laundry, phone usage, and weekend activities.

Assistance during the Exchange

To ensure the best possible exchange, participants are asked to work closely with their home college ICISP voting representative, and the exchange committee contacts. The home college ICISP representative is available to both the host and the exchange visitor if questions or problems should arise while in the US.

Travel

The short duration of this visit does not allow for extensive travel in the host country. Participants can gain a great deal from spending weekends with their host family during both parts of the exchange.

Participants must recognize that it requires commitment to providing a meaningful and rich experience to their visiting partner and should set aside adequate time to fulfill all hosting requirements. The effort must be collaborative in which it is expected that both parties communicate effectively. In order to achieve a mutually beneficial exchange, participants are encouraged to get to know their partners and establish a program, both at the academic as well as personal level, via Skype, email or phone prior to the arrival of the visitor on campus. Participants should be prepared to meet the hosting obligations of the entire two-week time frame and understand the time commitment required by the exchange prior to applying for the program.

Note: This is a professional exchange: Spouse/children/significant others are not allowed to join participants during this exchange. We encourage participants to invite others to join them before or after the professional exchange, if so desired.

Insurance

All participants will be enrolled in the mandatory insurance plan through CISI. The cost is included in the program fees of \$150 paid by the participant's home college. The insurance coverage will only be inclusive of the two weeks overseas with the program. This is more than a medical insurance policy. It also includes, but is not limited to, emergency medical and security evacuation, and repatriation, and does not include trip cancellation or delay coverage. A copy of what is covered, a medical card, and the claim form will be provided to all participants when enrolled in the plan in the Spring 2026.

If optional travel is done before or after the program dates, participants are responsible for securing insurance to cover the personal travel time, including coverage for trip cancellation or delays.

Evaluation

Following the exchange, participants are asked to complete an Evaluation of the Program, which will be provided in June 2026. This information will assist ICISP in improving the program in subsequent years.

Additional Information

Participants should consult with their home college ICISP representative or another faculty or administrator on their campus who has participated in the program.

ICISP Two Week Exchange Program Coordinator for the Netherlands: Sangeeta Kumar, South Suburban College, skumar@ssc.edu.