

MA in Intercultural Service, Leadership, & Management (ISLR) 2023

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR SUMMER RESIDENCY IN VERMONT

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ISLR LEARNING OUTCOMES

SIT's teaching and learning philosophy is grounded in the experiential learning theory developed by Robert Kolb (1984; 2015) and informed by scholars such as John Dewey, Jean Piaget, and Kurt Lewin. Experiential learning theory recognizes that learning is an active process that expands beyond formal curricula and that involves both content (what you learn) and process (how you learn).

What does this mean for the part-time/hybrid student? By the conclusion of the program, students can expect to have achieved the following Learning Outcomes:

- incorporate theories of intercultural service, leadership, and management into their professional work;
- design and carry out an intentional plan of study and professional development; and
- design and implement original research, including the writing of a final paper.

To achieve these Outcomes, you will participate in a wide variety of learning experiences (e.g., readings, lectures, discussions with professors in class and with local experts, research, visits to local sites of practice) and opportunities for reflection (e.g., in-class discussions, preparing projects and presentations, writing papers). Your learning also will benefit from the vast diversity of cultural backgrounds, training, and teaching styles of your faculty.

Please note that as an accredited institution, all SIT courses are required to meet minimum regulations regarding the earning of graduate credit. Thus, over the course of the semester, students will spend approximately 45 hours of time for each credit earned.

ISLR ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Once accepted to the ISLR program, each student will meet with the Degree Chair one-on-one to discuss their individual learning goals and course options for the Summer 2023 term. Expect these conversations to be scheduled sometime during the first two weeks of May, 2023.

Student can find details of all degree requirements in the SIT Catalog online. In their first semester, incoming ISLR students are required to take MPIM-5045 Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, & Management (FISLM, 3 credits) and ISLM-6701 Reflective Practice 1 (1 credit). You may also wish to take your required Practitioner Inquiry course over the summer to get it out of the way. Note: a portion of Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership & Management and Practitioner Inquiry courses will occur in a **face-to-face setting** on our campus in Vermont between June 19th and June 30th. See details below for more information about the Vermont residency.

VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

An online orientation to SIT and the International Education degree will take place on **Monday, May 22, 2023 from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT** (overall introduction to SIT, student interaction, President welcome) and from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm EDT** (introduction to the International Education program), and **Tuesday, May 23, 2023 from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT** (SIT administrative offices will overview their services). Students are strongly recommended to join those sessions live but in the event you are unable to do so, each session will be recorded. A detailed orientation schedule will be released within three weeks of the start date.

SUMMER TERM 2023

The summer semester officially begins on Monday, May 22, 2023, and ends on Friday, August 11, 2023. Some classes might end one week later, depending on the program and professor.

Summer 2023 Residency

Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management (required) and Practitioner Inquiry (optional) will begin virtually at the start of the semester on May 23rd, 2023. Both will also include intensive work during an **on-campus residency** which will take place between Monday June 19th – Wednesday, June 30th. After that, the virtual format of the class will continue through the end of the summer semester.

Please plan to arrive to [our Vermont campus](#) on Sunday, June 18, 2023 in time for a 5 pm EDT Welcome Dinner. Departure will be on Thursday, June 29, 2023 by 10 am EDT for students only enrolled in Foundations of Intercultural Service, Leadership and Management and Saturday, June 30th by 10 am for students enrolled in that course and Practitioner Inquiry. You will be fully engaged with your coursework during this time so please plan to not work and not bring family members who might need your support during this period. More details, including a detailed schedule, will be provided as the seminar draws closer.

Students staying on campus should arrive on **Sunday, June 19, 2023 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm**. Staff will be in the International Center to check students in and escort them to their accommodations on campus.

All students (including those staying off-campus) are required to attend the evening meal in the SIT International Center cafeteria at 5:30 pm. Directions to campus can be found [HERE](#). (Please note that the closest airport is Bradley International Airport in Hartford, CT.)

- Students taking only FISLM will be in seminar until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2023.
- Students taking FISLM and Practitioner Inquiry (PI) will be in seminar until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 29. Students taking both classes are encouraged to stay on campus until Saturday July 1st to take advantage of an advising session and closing banquet on Friday June 30th, 2023.
- Classes begin at 9:00 am each morning and finish at 4:30 pm. There will be a 90-minute lunch break between the morning and afternoon classes. Students will also be involved with group meetings during what appear to be unscheduled blocks of time. Thus, students should not plan to conduct work or engage in other activities during their time on campus, as free time will be very limited.

FAMILY & PARTNERS

SIT Graduate Institute recognizes that, on occasion, students may wish to have a “companion” (defined as an immediate family member, or partner, to include dependent children) accompany them on their residency. It is important to recognize that the academic components require extensive time and energy. Students are expected to engage in every program activity including classes and evening/weekend group meetings. There are long days of classes and rigorous academic assignments. If students would like to bring family members to the residency, please book accommodation off campus since the dormitories are not suitable for families.

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

Reflective practice is a structured approach in which students apply learning from their coursework to ongoing professional activity. You'll receive course credit for documenting the integration of your knowledge and skills in a professional context while remaining engaged with faculty and other students. More details will be provided during orientation.

CAPSTONE

Upon completion of their coursework and during their practicum, students demonstrate, assess, and synthesize their learning through the preparation of a capstone project and participation in a one-week capstone seminar held multiple times each year. Researching and writing the capstone paper takes students deeply into the experiential learning cycle, where they'll explore the meaning of their reflective practice experience, integrate theory and practice in a written and oral presentation, and make a contribution to the field of international education.

SIT EMAIL - LIBRARY – CANVAS ACCESS

Approximately 30 days before the start of the program, all students will receive an encrypted message from SIT's IT department with their SIT email address and login. Once students log into their account the first time, they will find an email from the SIT library with information about how to log into the library and Canvas, SIT's learning management system.