

MA in Intercultural Service, Leadership & Management

Welcome Letter 2023 - 2025

DEAR INCOMING STUDENT:

Congratulations on your decision to begin SIT's part-time, hybrid master's degree program in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management (ISLR) this summer! I would like to welcome you into the program—the next step in your academic, personal, and professional development. The SIT faculty look forward to supporting you throughout this exciting journey. I'd also like to take this opportunity to share some important information about the program and to answer some of your questions regarding what to expect. This letter and start-of-program website contain important information about your upcoming semester and subsequent studies and should prove useful as you prepare for the program. Please be sure to review them thoroughly.

YOUR FACULTY

My name is [Bruce W. Dayton](#). As Chair of ISLM I will work closely with you throughout the program, teaching several classes, serving as one of your advisors, and solving problems. I have been working in the field of peace and conflict studies for over fifteen years. My research and training focus on intermediaries in conflict transformation, citizens' diplomacy, identity and conflict, and political leadership. My books in that field include *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution*, now in its 6th edition, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022), *Perspectives in Waging Conflicts Constructively* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017), and *Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation* (Routledge, 2009), all co-authored with Louis Kriesberg. My previous academic appointments include Associate Director of the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Research Co-Director for Intra and Inter-State Conflicts at the Program for the Advancement of Research on Collaboration and Conflicts, and Executive Director of the International Society of Political Psychology.

Your team also includes faculty in our Humanitarian Affairs & Crisis Management, International Education, Sustainable Development, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages part-time, hybrid programs. Please see their bios on our web site [here](#).

GET TO KNOW YOUR COHORTMATES

Because of privacy laws, SIT is unable to share personal information about future students with other future students. However, we will soon ask a member of your cohort to set up a Facebook page just for the group so that you all can start to get to know each other. We will send this information once available; please note that it is not intended to duplicate or replace official information and is for personal purposes only.

SUMMER TERM 2023

The summer semester officially begins on **Monday, May 22, 2023**, and ends on **Friday, August 11, 2023**. Some classes might start or end one week earlier or later, depending on the program and professor. Here are more details:

- SIT will hold a synchronous virtual orientation to SIT on **Monday and Tuesday, May 22-23, 2023**, from **9:30 to 11:00 am EDT**, for new students in all of SIT's part-time, hybrid programs. Please join the faculty, dean, and

president to learn more about the institution and your classmates. Call-in details will be provided in advance and for those of you unable to join in, we will record the session and forward the link to you afterwards.

- The ISLR program will hold an additional synchronous virtual orientation that week as well. The day and time will be confirmed closer to the start of the summer term once we know where all of our new students are located so that we can best accommodate your various time zones. As above, call-in details will be provided in advance and for those of you unable to join in, we will record the session and forward the link to you afterwards. We will ask that if you are unable to call in, you plan to watch the recording that evening or early the next day so that you are prepared for the following day's work. Also, there will be homework to complete between the two sessions!
- All new students in the ISLR program are required to attend a **10-11-day face-to-face seminar this summer**. Please plan to arrive to our Vermont campus on **Sunday, June 18, 2023**, in time for a **5 pm EDT Welcome Dinner**. If you are taking only Foundations, you can depart after **12:30 pm on Wednesday, June 28, 2023**. If you are also taking Practitioner Inquiry, you can depart on **Saturday, July 1, 2023, by 10 am EDT**. You will be fully engaged with your coursework during this time so please plan not to work and not to 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. Details about housing and other logistics are coming soon on the pre-program materials page on our website.
- Your required course this summer, Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management (FISLM) will be taught by Dr. David Shallenberger. David will be participating in the ISLR degree orientation and will share details about the structure of the course at that time. The course will begin virtually at the start of the semester, will include intensive work during its on-campus residency June 19-28, and will require virtual work after the residency is completed through the end of the term. Information regarding textbooks to purchase and pre-reading can be found below. Once you purchase the texts, please allow some time for pre-reading as doing so will ease your adjustment to the first few weeks of class.

The following is information about program schedules, courses, and required readings to complete prior to your arrival on campus. This will allow you to make the most of the limited time available for face-to-face interactions with your colleagues. (This list may make more sense to you if you review it along with the tentative schedules posted to each arrival site.) Books can be purchased or rented online from sellers such as Amazon.com.

For those of you taking **Foundations of Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management** and/or **Practitioner Inquiry** (both offered within the International Education degree) this summer, please continue [HERE](#).

For those of you taking courses in the **Humanitarian Affairs & Crisis Management** program, please continue [HERE](#).

For those of you taking courses in **Sustainable Development**, please continue [HERE](#).

For those of you taking courses in the **Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages** program, please continue [HERE](#).

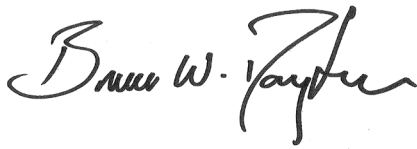
Each of the links above will take you to detailed information about degree content, pre-readings, and other information about your Summer 2023 courses.

HOW WILL ADVISING WORK?

If you have not already done so, you can expect to meet with me in the coming weeks to discuss your professional interests and course options. After one or two conversations, based on those interests, you will be assigned your academic adviser, with whom you'll meet either prior to the semester or during the first week of classes.

ISLR colleagues, we are pleased that you will soon join us to take the first step toward completing your master's degree in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management. We look forward to meeting you this summer and to starting to help you to achieve your learning goals. It is sure to be an exciting journey! Until then, please don't hesitate to be in touch with any questions, and best regards from your international education faculty and SIT administration.

With best wishes,



Bruce W. Dayton PhD
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Associate Professor, Diplomacy, and International Relations
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