

MA in International Education Welcome Letter 2024 - 2026

DEAR INCOMING STUDENT:

Congratulations on your decision to begin SIT's hybrid (part-time) master's degree program in International Education this summer! I would like to welcome you into the program—the next step in your academic, personal, and professional development. The IE program faculty and administration 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 the pre-program information found in the Admitted Students section of the SIT 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 [Dr. Sora Friedman](#). I'm a Professor of International & Global Education and have worked in the field for about 40 years, focusing on the preparation of new professionals in the field, management training, exchange program management, public diplomacy, and international policy advocacy. I joined SIT as an adjunct faculty member in 2002 and became full-time faculty in 2005. (I also received my MA from SIT in the mid-1980s!) Currently, I am responsible for teaching, advising, and serving as chair of two master's degree programs. Recent publications include the book [Careers in International Education: A Guide for New Professionals](#) (co-authored,; NAFSA: Association of International Educators) and a chapter exploring gender parity at the senior leadership level in international education (in *The Wiley Handbook of Gender Equity in Higher Education*). My current research focuses on women's leadership in international education.

Your IE faculty team also includes [Dr. Alla Korzh](#), Associate Professor of International & Global Education and Program Chair of our doctorate in Global Education. Dr. Korzh is an educator, researcher, and practitioner in the field of comparative and international education with a focus on Eastern Europe and education development. She holds a doctorate in international educational development from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Korzh's research focuses on education access, quality, and equity issues, and educational transformations in post-Soviet contexts. She has conducted qualitative research with socio-economically disadvantaged children, youth, and adults, namely orphans and incarcerated women in Ukraine, as well as formerly incarcerated women in New York City. Her collaborative research project examined transnational young adults' participation in social movements and informal citizenship education. Dr. Korzh's most recent research investigates educational aspirations of incarcerated women in a minimum-security prison in Ukraine and barriers they face post-incarceration. She has been involved in nonprofit start-ups, program design, implementation, and management with Sublimitas, where she serves on the board. She is a member of the Comparative and International Education Society, serves on the American Association of

University Women selection panel, and co-edited the book [*Reimagining Utopias: Theory and Method for Educational Research in Post-socialist Contexts*](#) (Sense Publishers).

Also on our team is [Dr. Melissa Whatley](#), Assistant Professor of International & Global Education. Dr. Whatley holds a doctorate in higher education from the University of Georgia. Her research applies quantitative and mixed methods approaches to improve our understanding of policies and practices that impact access and equity in U.S. international education for underrepresented and marginalized student populations, particularly the community college context. Her recent research has explored topics such as international student enrollment and gun violence in the United States, how international student enrollment impacted university and college reopening plans during COVID-19, accent reduction programs at U.S. higher education institutions, and access to and outcomes of virtual exchange participation among community college students in North Carolina. She teaches courses in quantitative research methods, theoretical foundations of comparative and international education, and advanced concepts in international education in our master's and doctoral programs. Dr. Whatley is the author of [*An Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for International Educators*](#) (Springer), co-editor of [*Digital Internationalization in Higher Education: Beyond Virtual Exchange*](#) (Routledge), and associate editor for the *Journal of International Students*.

We also are delighted to work with various adjunct faculty each year; they will be confirmed semester by semester. Bios of our adjunct faculty can be found on our [website](#).

GET TO KNOW YOUR COHORT

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 WhatsApp group 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 2024

The summer semester officially begins on Monday, May 20, 2024, and ends on Friday, August 9, 2024. Some classes might end one week later, depending on the program and professor. Here are more details:

- SIT will hold **synchronous virtual orientation to SIT on Monday and Tuesday, May 20-21, from 9:30 to 11:00 am EDT** each day, for new students in all of SIT's hybrid, part-time 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 International Education program will hold an additional **synchronous virtual orientation to the IE hybrid program on Monday, May 20, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm EDT**. 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! 😊

- The International Education program also will hold a **required face-to-face seminar** this summer! Please plan to arrive to [our Vermont campus](#) on Sunday, June 16, in time for a 5:30 pm EDT Welcome Dinner. Departure will be on Saturday, June 29, by 10 am EDT. 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. Details about housing and other logistics are coming soon on the [pre-program materials](#) page on our website.
- Your required courses this summer will be taught by Dr. Alla Korzh (Practitioner Inquiry, PI) and a faculty member to be determined for Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management, FISLM. All teaching faculty will participate in the IE degree orientation and will share details about the structure of their respective courses at that time. Both courses will begin virtually at the start of the semester, will include intensive work during the on-campus residency, and will require virtual work after the residency is completed through the end of the term. Information regarding textbooks to purchase and pre-readings 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.
- In addition to your two required courses, you will have the option of taking a 1-credit elective, Training Design. The course is a hybrid format that will require pre-reading and preparatory work, face-to-face involvement the weekend of June 21-23, and follow-up virtual work as well. We will share more information about the course during the May orientation and you can decide that first week of the semester in conjunction with your adviser if you'd like to take the course.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

Following is information about **books to purchase now** and **readings that we (strongly 😊) suggest you complete prior to the start of the semester**. Because starting graduate school is akin to entering a new culture, any reading you can accomplish beforehand may ease up some of the possible challenges related to starting a new, intensive experience. Books can be purchased or rented online from sellers such as Amazon. You will have some additional readings to complete during the face-to-face seminar as well.

Background Readings on General SIT Philosophy

Become familiar with the following people and their ideas, as they are the basis of SIT's educational philosophy. Note that these are places to start, and you will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge by reading the authors' original works later on.

- [John Dewey](#)
- [Paolo Freire](#)
- [David Kolb](#)
- [Kurt Lewin](#)

Books and Readings for Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management (FISLM)

- Halverson, C. and Tirmizi, A. (2008). *Effective multicultural teams: Theory and practice*. Springer. (Please read chapters 1-4 prior to the start of the term.)
- Bolman, L. and Deal, T. (2021). *Reframing organizations: Artistry, choice, and leadership* (7th ed.). Jossey-Bass. (Please read chapters 1 through 5 prior to the start of the term. Note: Do NOT purchase the 8th edition!)
- King, M. L. (1963). [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#).

Books and Readings for Practitioner Inquiry (PI)

Required:

- Marshall, G. & Rossman, C. (2016). *Designing qualitative research* (6th ed.). Sage Publications.
- Please complete the readings [HERE](#). The password is <pi2024>.

Recommended:

- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G. & Williams, J. M. (2008). *The craft of research* (3rd ed.). University of Chicago Press. It is available electronically (once you have your SIT Graduate Institute ID bar code, which you'll receive shortly before the start of the program).

Please read the following in this order; they will be covered in the first two weeks of the course:

- Marshall, G. & Rossman, C. (2016). *Designing qualitative research* (6th ed.). Sage Publications. Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.
- Peshkin, A. (1988). In search of subjectivity-one's own. *Educational Researcher*, 17(7), 17-22.
- Agee, J. (2009). Developing qualitative research questions: A reflective process. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 22(4), 431-447.

A libguide with additional reading will also be provided closer to the start of the term.

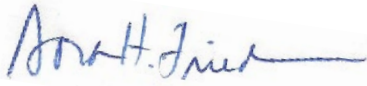
HOW WILL ADVISING WORK?

You will learn who your adviser is during orientation and will have the chance to set up a one-on-one virtual advising session with them during the first week of the summer semester.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I PLAN FOR?

IE colleagues, we are pleased that you will soon join us to take the first step toward completing your master's degree in international education. 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.

Sincerely,



Sora H. Friedman, PhD
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Chair, MA in International Education
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