

Global Master's in International Education

Welcome Letter 2024-2025

DEAR INCOMING STUDENT:

Congratulations on your decision to begin SIT's Global Master's in International Education (GMLIE) this fall, and welcome to the program—the next step in your academic, personal, and professional development. The IE faculty and staff 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 pre-program materials in the Admitted Students section of our website contain important information about your upcoming studies and should prove useful as you prepare for the program.

YOUR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION 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. In addition to chairing your program to ensure consistency and quality throughout, I also will be teaching one of your first semester courses, Foundations in Intercultural Service, Leadership, & Management.

Your [academic team](#) also includes Dr. Victor Tricot, Co-Chair, Spain; Dr. Thanh Duong, Co-Chair, Vietnam; Dr. Melissa Whatley, Assistant Professor of International & Global Education; Dr. Alla Korzh, Associate Professor of International & Global Education; and others. Their bios can be found online [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, a few months prior to the program start, we will 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 and if desired, consider possible housing and roommate scenarios as well. 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.

ACADEMIC AND GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

SIT's Global Master's in International Education builds on our expertise in experiential and adult learning in global settings. The curriculum combines our demonstrated success working with hundreds of students over the past 20+ years with our strong local ties in Spain and Vietnam, incorporating the expertise gained from years of experience in both locations. The result will be your learning how to develop, implement, and evaluate IE programs from the inside, as you will be living what we are studying in class every day. You will gain a strong foundation in the field from a social justice perspective, skills that employers are looking for as they hire, and contact within one of the largest, most talented IE alumni networks in the world. Although your base studies will be in the classroom, you will learn directly from practice-based activities and projects relating to education at all levels, both formal (credit-granting) and non-formal (not-for-credit). In this respect, it is important to emphasize that, to make the most out of the experiential learning opportunities throughout the whole program, you need to be engaged and actively involved in your learning: this includes readings, writings, open and challenging discussions, reflective practice, and analysis and synthesis of your experiences on the individual and group levels.

Finally, it is crucial to point to the importance of investing in the global nature of the program to hone your cultural competence and collaborative relationships. Because skilled, critical educators work across multiple cultural and social contexts, it is critically important for you to be flexible, open-minded, willing to lean into discomfort and challenge your assumptions, and to adopt some new habits that may seem inconvenient, but which will enable you to better interact with and respect local realities.

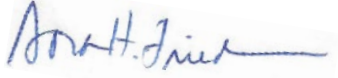
PRE-ARRIVAL READINGS

Information regarding required books to purchase prior to travel (to bring with you) and required pre-reading can be found on the **Preparing for your Program** page in the Admitted students section of our website. Please note that you will have several hundred pages of reading to complete prior to the program start, so be sure to plan ahead to insure you have enough time to purchase the books and complete the readings.

In closing, we know that you are making a huge investment of time and money to pursue your master's degree. To that end, I want to emphasize that my colleagues and I are very excited to begin collaborating with you and supporting your professional development journey. To help you prepare, also on this web site you'll find a calendar for the entire program, visa and travel information, books to purchase and readings to complete prior to the start of the program, health and safety information, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Additional information will be shared in the months to come but in the meanwhile, should you have any questions, feel free to contact Admissions Counselor Maira Tungatarova regarding financial aid, travel and visa questions, and other administrative details, or myself regarding the curriculum, program details, or about working in the field.

I wish you all the best as you prepare for this exciting learning experience, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,



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

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