

San Mateo Colleges International Education Newsletter (No. 2)



San Mateo Colleges in Asia

Vice Chancellor **Jing Luan** will be visiting China, Vietnam (HCM), Indonesia, and Macau in March. In April, he will be visiting China, Taiwan (Taipei), Jakarta, and Thailand (Bangkok). In addition, our College Rep, Mr. **Greg Chen** will be visiting Mongolia in March.

Our college personnel will be attending NAFSA in May and EducationUSA in June. Hope to see some of you there!

Great News on Transfers

UC Berkeley Accepts 100% of Our Transfers!

Since 1997, our international students applying for UC Berkeley have never been rejected. Maggie Skaff, a longtime expert in helping international students, said: "Of all of our (College of San Mateo) international students who applied to Berkeley, none have been denied!" Please meet Maggie and other outstanding international service staff on the next page.

Our First Int'l Transfer Day Was a Success!

Our first Int'l Transfer Fair was a success with 44 colleges and universities attending. Students from all three colleges were able to speak with representatives from Columbia University, Purdue University, and UC Berkeley, among other well-known institutions.

More Universities Joined Our Transfer Pathway!

[Notre Dame de Namur University](#) - a private university has joined our Transfer Pathway. [San José State University](#) Vice President Bill Nance informed Vice Chancellor Jing Luan that his university is joining San Mateo Colleges' Transfer Pathway.



Welcome to both universities! We now have 15 universities in our Transfer Pathway to issue **university conditional letters of admission**.

Important Program Changes

Online Application Going Live!

Beginning March 1, 2012, San Mateo Colleges has added an online application to go hand in hand with its printable pdf form. The online application form is at: <http://www.smccd.edu/international/apply>

Students and counselors will find the new online form very handy and notice a convenient link to The Global Beca Foundation Scholarship application. In addition, applicants can select one of the Top Universities that issue conditional letters to go along with our I-20s on the application site as well!

Enrollment Fee Increase

The California State Legislature has passed a law increasing enrollment fees from \$36 to **\$46** per unit. Incoming freshmen for the fall 2012 will need to pay the increased amount. We have updated the cost information on our multilingual international education website:

<http://www.smccd.edu/international/english/about.php - costs>

Removal of \$500 Deposit and Institution of \$50 App Fee

Starting March 1, we no longer require applicants to pay a \$500 deposit. In its place, we require a non-refundable application fee of \$50.



Cañada College

caninternational@smccd.edu
www.canadacollege.edu/international



College of San Mateo

csminternational@smccd.edu
www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/international



Skyline College

skyinternational@smccd.edu
www.skylinecollege.edu/international

Meet Our Staff

We are pleased to introduce you to the college representatives you will be working with to complete your student applications. We hope you become well acquainted with each other!



Mario (Mario Mihelcic) is the first person you will “meet” when you apply to **Cañada College**. He is very warm and helpful and can be reached at 1-(650) 306-3481; email: caninternational@smccd.edu



Maggie (Maggie Skaff) is one of the longest serving employees at **College of San Mateo**. Students call her “Mom.” She is very caring and knowledgeable and can be reached at 1-(650) 574-6525; email: csminternational@smccd.edu



Jaye (Jaye Akin-Taylor) was an international student herself some years ago. She is excited to help int'l students apply to **Skyline College** and is very fast in responding to student needs. She can be reached at 1-(650) 738-4430; email: skyinternational@smccd.edu

Placement Testing!

Meeting the English proficiency requirements (i.e. TOEFL) does not guarantee a student access to all classes. Entrance into college level classes is determined by our own math and English placement tests.



Visa Approvals - ELS

Many factors are outside the control of a student's journey to the U.S. One of them is visa approval. ELS Language Centers, a key partner of San Mateo Colleges, has an outstanding record of success assisting students with the visa approval process. ELS Shanghai graduates (through Level 109) have a perfect record. These students are approved to finish their ELS program, through Level 112, at a center in the US before attending a U.S. university.

ELS AEC visa approval rates 100% (since inception in October 2007).

ELS visa approval rate in 2011 was estimated to be 96% pending final tally.

This represents much a higher rate than the average 80-85%.

For more information, please visit: www.ELS.edu

From College of San Mateo to Harvard University



Mao Yan-yan graduated from College of San Mateo before attending **Harvard University**. She was born in Shanghai. At the age of 14, she immigrated with her parents to the US. She

attended College of San Mateo while she was still in high school and explored many subject areas including: biology, astronomy, and art. She excelled in the sciences and art. She graduated cum laude from **Harvard** in Visual and Environmental Studies.



Skyline College Rocks!



Doug Wong from Hong Kong did not choose San Mateo Colleges initially. His first choice was a neighboring California community college that is more known in Asia. He was disappointed by what he saw and experienced

and was so happy to discover Skyline College – near San Francisco. Why Skyline? In his own words: “Awesome! The admission office is very responsive. My professors are always glad to help with any of my questions. The counselors are very helpful in the course selection.” What also attracted him were the opportunities to transfer to Top Universities including

UC San Diego and UC Davis.

Doug just told us that he wants to transfer to **UC Berkeley** with a major in Political Economy. We wish him luck!



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