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BY: BAILEY KUZMA

THE MAN IN CHARGE: JACOB CZELUSTA

Jacob Czelusta is the Assistant Director of International Student Services at SUNY Fredonia. Czelusta advises international students on visa-related matters, life in the United States and a plethora of other issues.

He is also responsible for implementing programming for international students to help create a stronger connection with Fredonia and other students. Czelusta is from Buffalo. He graduated from the Student Affairs Administration Program at Buffalo State College.

“Before I started here, I was working at a college in Texas. This position opened up and one of my former classmates from my grad program emailed me and said ‘Hey this position is open and I really think you should consider it.’ So I sent in my resume and saw if I could make things work, and they did.” Czelusta said. Jacob has been with Fredonia in this position for four years now.

“Going to college I started to appreciate the collegial environment. Being surrounded by students and professors and the idea of the pursuit of knowledge made me realize that’s a good environment to want to be in. I thought it would be nice to work in that kind of field,” Czelusta said.

Czelusta really fell in love with the field when he traveled abroad to the United Kingdom.

“In 2005 I studied abroad in the U.K. and I remember meeting with the international student advisers and thinking, ‘Oh wow, this seems like a really cool job. How do I figure out how to get into that type of position?’ After that experience, I started doing some research and figuring out how I could find myself into that kind of role,” said Czelusta.

During Czelusta’s time here he has noticed some struggles all international students experience while studying here in Fredonia.

“Students specifically struggle with pretty much all the same things American college students struggle with. The international students, though, may be a little more sensitive to those problems though, and they may have additional issues,” Czelusta said.



“These additional issues would include a more profound home sickness, not being able to connect back home as easily as somebody in America could because of the time differences. Also many may deal with visa issues, restrictions on employment and mainly they have to deal with

using a language that isn’t their first one. This may make it harder for them to make friends and develop a social network. So there is a variety of things that they deal with,” said Czelusta.

Fredonia does offer many programs and activities to help the international students feel more at home and become more comfortable with their surroundings. The most known one would be the coffee break hosted every Wednesday at 4 p.m.

“We do a number of social events. We try to create a community for students to be a part of and try to connect them to other students, especially American students. One event would be the mentor/ mentee we do every semester. During this, we pair international students up with American students and encourage them to spend time together. We do other events such as trivia and karaoke. Just a variety of things you see in colleges for social events,” Czelusta said.

Each year it varies how many students travel abroad here and also where they come from. Currently Fredonia has about 105 international students. There is always a bigger intake in the fall semester than the spring.

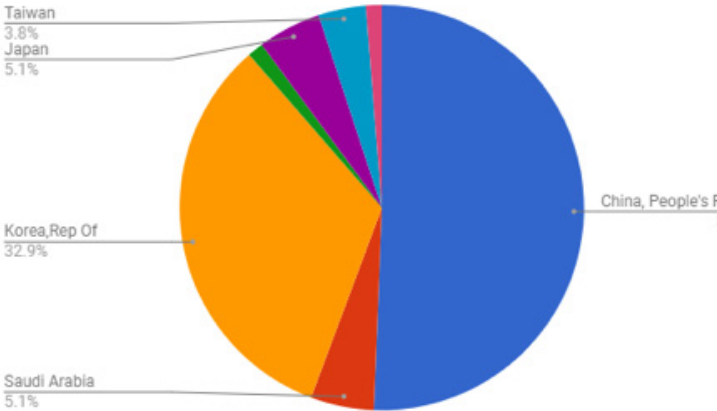
“We would like to have more students come in the upcoming years. When I first started here, there was about 220 students. So in the past four years it has dropped off, but in the last two semesters the enrollment has gone up” said Czelusta.

WHO CAME FROM WHERE TO STUDY HERE AT FREDONIA?

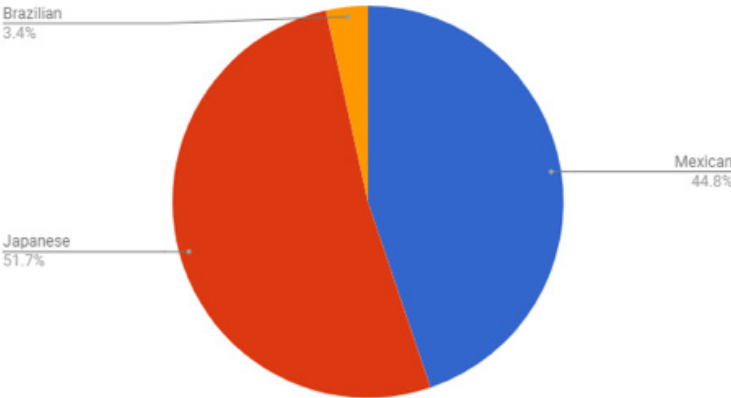
Here are our spring 2018 numbers for student visa holders enrolled at Fredonia.

- Canada - 14
- China - 42
- Hong Kong - 2
- India - 4
- Japan - 6
- South Korea - 21
- Saudi Arabia - 6
- Sweden - 2
- Taiwan - 2
- Turkey - 4
- UAE - 1
- Uzbekistan - 1

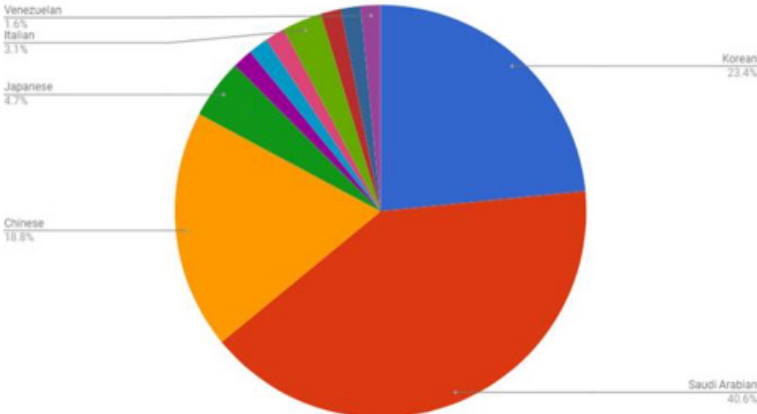
Count of Country of Citizenship



Count of Nationality



Count of Nationality



FROM JAPAN TO HERE: MIHO MUTO TAKES ON FREDONIA

Miho Muto has been studying at Fredonia for two semesters and is currently on her last one. She is from Japan and, according to the Japan school standing, she is considered a senior. While studying here, she is fulfilling an English major.

“When I move back to Japan I will graduate in September and will become a teacher. I will work for a private school,” said Muto.

Muto said while studying here she has gathered a lot of ideas she wants to take back to Japan. When she finally does graduate from college, she will be teaching the lower grade students in Japan.

“In Japan, we tend to all try to be similar. We do similar things and it’s a good and bad thing. It’s good because we know what everyone is thinking and how they act, but also bad because I want my students to know it is OK to be different. That’s what I like about here, everyone is carefree and different. I want to bring that lesson back to Japan. I want to tell my students they can be different and carefree” said Muto.

Muto has been here for nine months now.

“I like Fredonia because our international office has a lot of events that involve students who are international ones. They have events that take trips to Buffalo, they do karaoke night and they a coffee hour which they call coffee break to help the students feel more comfortable. Sometimes we are so worried about what is going on in this strange country, and these things help us understand,” Muto said.

Muto didn’t have many choices when it came to where she could study abroad in the U.S. Fredonia was the only choice for her because it had her major and a program on what she specifically wanted to focus on. Muto’s transition hasn’t been as hard as someone might imagine, being so far away from their family.

“Especially here at Fredonia, it is such a safe place, compared to another school in like a big city. Japan is also a safe country so I don’t have to worry about going out at night here or there. Technology is a huge thing. I am so grateful I can just FaceTime my family whenever I want. I could not imagine back in the day without technology not being able to talk to or see any of my family,” Muto said.

Although every college student has their struggles and worries when coming to college, international students face these but feel 10 times more anxiety towards them.



“I think the hardest part is definitely the classes. They are hard because the language barrier is sometimes hard to understand. I’ve been studying English for almost over 10 years in Japan. I had to get used to talking to teachers and my friends, but once I overcame communicating, I didn’t feel as much anxiety” Muto said.

Many of the international students say what the hardest part about adjusting to Fredonia was the food.

“Here has a small choice for us when it comes to food, especially for Asians and other country’s people. It’s hard to eat our country’s foods. I’ve tried the Buffalo sauce on chicken wings though and I liked it. Just a little too spicy for me”, said Muto.

Muto cant wait to finish up her time here at Fredonia, but she is forever grateful for all the memories and education it has given her.



Courtesy of
Administrative Division of Japan-

A NEW COLLEGE AND A NEW COUNTRY: A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE ON FRESHMEN YEAR

Starting college is scary for everyone, but imagine starting college in a different country with a different language than yours as its main one. Kate Sun is a freshman from China who is currently completing a major in BA theatre arts.

“I love my major because my classmates are so creative and they’re so interesting, so it makes it so enjoyable to be in class with them,” Sun said.

As like most freshmen Kate does not know what she completely wants to do with her major yet. She knows that this is what interest her, but she is still trying to figure it all out.

“At first I wanted to do some film thing. But it is hard to start with a film major, so that is why I started with a theater major. After coming here, though, I have realized there is a huge difference between a theater major and a film major. When I graduate, I guess I will try to do some back stage or back ground thing for theater or film,” Sun said.

Regarding Fredonia, “I like the environment here because it’s very quiet and safe, but it is also kind of boring. I have nowhere to go because I am 19 so I am very limited on what I can do on the weekends,” said Sun

Fredonia was Sun’s only option, to study in the U.S. She already had one year of college in China and they told her she should travel to the U.S as soon as possible and that’s when she went through an agent who set her up with going to school here. Sun isn’t sure how long she’ll stay here in Fredonia, but she would like to travel to other schools in the U.S as well.

According to Sun the hardest transition about coming here from China would be the language barrier.

“I really love talking when I speak my own language. When I speak English, I am kind of limited to find some topics. It takes me awhile to find the right words sometimes,” Sun said.

Sun said that the events the international office puts on have helped her make some friends so far. She hasn’t gone to a lot of them, but the ones she’s been to, she has enjoyed. Sun doesn’t think the coffee hour is for her but she knows people who have gone to it weekly who have made some really close friends.

When asking Sun about the food situation, she said she also enjoys Buffalo chicken wings.

“They are so delicious. They are my favorite American food I have tried so far. It is hard to eat on campus, though, because almost everything is greasy and fried. It’s hard to eat healthy unless you are having a salad. It’s too much oil for me” Sun said.

Although Sun thinks Fredonia is boring, she has faith that it will get better and is inspired to join more clubs to meet more people and have more to do in her spare time.



“I love my major because my classmates are so creative and they’re so interesting so it makes it so enjoyable to be in class with them”

- Kate Sun

QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH JOANN HUANG

Where are you from?

- I am from Taiwan.

What year are you here at Fredonia?

- This is my first semester here at Fredonia and I am a graduate student.

What is your major?

- Music Performance

What do you want to do with that once you finish school?

- I either want to become a teacher or perform in an orchestra.

How do you like Fredonia so far?

- I like Fredonia so far. It's a very safe place. I can focus on my studies.

What made you come to Fredonia?

- Fredonia was my only choice at the mission program I was going through to study in the U.S. Before I came here, I studied in Los Angeles. It is really different from here. It was much bigger there and the weather was warm. (This was Joanne's first time seeing snow, she likes it for now!)

How has the transition been from your home country to here?

- It hasn't been too bad since I've left my home country before. The hardest part is not having a car because I can't go to the places I want when I want. I have to wait for the shuttle bus to take me.

What has been the hardest part about being in Fredonia?

Definitely the food. I feel like there is a lot of junk food here such as pizza and hamburgers. I usually just cook by myself in my apartment lots of noodles.

Do you live on or off campus?

- I live off campus in an apartment in Brigham.

Is it hard to talk to your family since there's such a big time difference?

- Yes, it is hard because of the jet leg. I usually talk to my mom on the weekend when I have more free time.



Courtesy of: Deposit Photos

STUDYING ABROAD: A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Not only does Fredonia give students from different countries an opportunity to study here, it also gives students the chance to go abroad. They have a wide variety of chances to travel to many paces around the world.

Sarah Busch a senior, biology major, studied abroad in Australia for four months last year. She studied marine biology at the University of the Sunshine Coast while there.

When asking her what the hardest part about being away was she said, “Definitely the 13 hour time difference. Staying in touch with everyone from home was really hard. I really had to plan out times at weird parts of the day that me and my family were able to talk.”

When going abroad you learn and experience many different things you wouldn’t experience while staying here.

“My favorite part about being there was having the ocean be 10 minutes away from my school and always having a new place to adventure to. Oh, and also the warm weather. It was always so nice there and I didn’t have to worry about snow,” she said.

“The most interesting thing about Australia would be seeing kangaroos everyday. That was one of my favorite parts of my day. Also seeing koala bears was amazing. On a different note, the people there are very laid back and relaxed. Sometimes they don’t even wear shoes in public like the grocery store or mall,” Busch said.

When abroad, some students may be afraid to do schooling in a different country. They may think it’ll be harder or unfamiliar. Busch said, “It was easier for me. However there was less grades, so if you didn’t do well on one assignment, it could have impacted your final grade greatly.”

While abroad, Busch tried and traveled to some interesting places.

“We went to all the major cities in Australia, the Great Barrier Reef and Bali. I also tried a small amount of vegemite, a spread that Australia is known for, and it was terrible,” said Busch.

Going abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You can have the chance to learn many different things and experience many different cultures.

“Definitely go abroad, even if you don’t know anyone going. I made some of my best friends abroad that I still stay in touch with today!” Busch said.



