Dear International Applicants,

I am so excited to share this newsletter with you! And I am even more excited that I may get to meet many of you in person later this year. My name is Linh Dinh, the International Recruitment Intern this year. One of my responsibilities is to maintain a great line of communication between the Admission Office and all of you. So, please feel free to connect with me, as I am more than happy to reply to all of your emails.

A little bit about myself: I am originally from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and I major in Economics. My 3 years at Smith can be summarized in one word: “exciting”. My time here at Smith has never been dull. During my first year, I was busy adjusting to a new environment, taking a variety of courses ranging from Drawing to Mathematics. As a liberal art college, Smith offers us the opportunity to try and explore a variety of courses without thinking too much about our major or majors at least during our first year! In my sophomore year, I was so eager and enthusiastic about joining many student organizations on campus and helping organize events. I made many awesome friends and learned a great deal of leadership skills. During my junior year, I spent a semester in England and traveled around Europe. So, as you can see from my story, my experience at Smith changed over time and I know that every Smithie always has her own distinguished story – for example, all my friends have super interesting stories of their own. Right now, I am enjoying my busy life working at the Admission office, taking some seminars, preparing a thesis, and finding an internship for the summer. Fortunately, at Smith, I am blessed with so many people by my side, supporting me in various ways.

Being an international student at Smith is great because Smith is so very diverse. I have met and made friends with students from all over the world because the international students community here is very tight and supportive. We have events, meetings, celebrations, and many other informal ways to get to know other fellow international students. In general, Smithies are so liberal and they have very diverse backgrounds both geographically and culturally. Therefore, I have to admit that I have been constantly learning new things from my fellow Smithies since the first day I arrived at Smith.

I know a lot of you are curious about a lot of things at Smith since I was in the same boat 3 years ago. Therefore, I have put together this newsletter hoping to provide all of you with some perspectives from some of my international friends. I know they only represent a small group of the students at Smith but you can always reach out to any one of us if you would like to know more about a specific topic. We will help you get in touch with just the right person. All the international students presented in this newsletter are very enthusiastic and excited to connect with you (they asked me to tell all of you this), so please feel free to reach out to them. And, of course, you can always email me your inquiries at ldinh@smith.edu. I look forward to hearing back from all of you. And I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Best wishes,

Linh Dinh, class of 2014
International Recruitment Intern
Which are the best resources at Smith? What shouldn’t you miss?

I would say that the great thing is that everything you need is here and available.” – Isabela

“The biochemistry department is incredibly supportive and has faculty that would go above and beyond to help students understand concepts. The best resources available to Smith students are the infinite opportunities Smith gives through its alumni. Whether it is funding for books or internships for the summer, Smith alumni are dedicated in giving all Smith students the same opportunities.” – Metasebia

“I think the best resource is the study abroad program. Students get chances to go to their dream countries.” – Rui

“Each house has residence life staff members and I think they are very helpful, as they are not only there for you but can also direct you to other resources on campus.” – Rajha

“Smith has so many great resources… hard to choose one! But I really like the music rooms and the libraries. It’s also great that we have a gym & pool.” – Suzu

“I feel that the best part of being a Smith student is that there are always abundant academic resources and supports. Because Smith is a very small liberal-art college, everyone receives attention both in class and within the community. Also, because classes at Smith are pretty small, it is easy for professors to make quick adjustments to their teaching plans according to students’ feedback. Professors are always available during office hours and there are always other tutoring centers where you can get help with your homework and tests.” – Winni

“There are so many resources, faculty, staff and students. Also the great libraries here. My favorite resource is the art library.” – Jiete

“Smith has a very supportive community, from the professors who are always available to help and talk, to the staff. But I believe that the most important for me has to be the tutors who are available almost every night to help you with class material, homework and preparing for tests.” – Wiamme

“In addition to super-nice professors, there are so many awesome tutors willing to help students. Also, you can always borrow laptops, kindles,
The students and staff at Smith are the most helpful resources. The people at Smith are really helpful and supporting. They have helped me settle down and navigate my way through schooling at Smith so far.” – Chichi

“There are so many resources available at Smith that it's hard to figure out which one to talk about. Your advisor is definitely one of the best, and developing a good relationship with them can be really helpful.” – Jennifer

“The professional people/ The staff (Professors, librarians, advisors, tutors, event and program coordinators, writing counselors). Human assets are worth so much more than any other type!” – Emilia

“The Jacobson center for writing!! For an international student who doesn’t speak English as her first language the Jacobson center is there to help with college writing. For instance, my first language is Portuguese. The Jacobson Center for writing was the most helpful resource for me. I could meet with an English professor and get feedback on my papers before submitting them or I could simply sign up for an appointment with a peer writing tutor and get help.” – Carmen

“There's Jacobson Center where you can make an appointment with a writing tutor to help you with your writing.” – Li

“Office hours with accessible professors who love to teach and truly care about seeing their students grow and succeed; the Jacobson Center for feedback on writing assignments and workshops on study skills; Spinelli Center for help with statistics; the Office of Student Engagement for event-planning by student organizations; the Center for Work and Life's workshops on life skills and communication skills, Women & Financial Independence workshops to improve financial literacy.” – Michelle

“The International Students’ Organization (ISO). The international student body at Smith is very vibrant. We have students representing 70 different countries, and all of them, with their unique experiences, enrich the cultural diversity at Smith. All
international students are part of ISO, which is one of the oldest and biggest organizations on campus. ISO serves as a support system for the international student body, and aims to promote the cultural diversity that they bring to Smith. Therefore, our events are geared towards bringing the international community together and encouraging them to share and exchange their culture with each other and with the Smith community at large. We achieve these goals by hosting events (in addition to the international students' pre-orientation program or "ISP") such as I.S. Day in which international students cook and share delicious dishes from their home countries, a photo exhibition where students share beautiful nostalgic snapshots of their homeland, Rhythm Nations in which students showcase their cultures through dance performances, songs or poetry. For many international students, ISO has become a home away from home.” – Iju

Links to the resources (mentioned above by students):

Smith College Office for International Students & Scholars: http://www.smith.edu/interstudents/index.php

Smith College Wurtele Center for Work & Life: http://www.smith.edu/cwl/

Smith College Spinelli Center for Quantitative Learning: http://www.smith.edu/qlc/

Smith College Center for Women & Financial Independence: http://www.smith.edu/wfi/

Smith College Jacobson Center for Writing: http://www.smith.edu/jacobsoncenter/

Smith College Residence Life: http://www.smith.edu/reslife/

Smith College Office for International Study: http://www.smith.edu/studyabroad/ois.php
Smith College Libraries:  http://www.smith.edu/libraries/

Smith College athletic facilities:

And many more ...
Meet Some Smithies!!!!! Connect with us!!!!

Isabela Pal
From Romania, class of 2013
Majors/reasons: Economics & Mathematics - I chose Econ because I like it; it has opened my eyes to see the world in a different way and placed me in the job market. I had to do Math because it will be helpful.
Coolest thing I did while at Smith: I went on study-abroad to London and interned 2 summers on Wall Street.
Romanian or European applicants can contact me at ipal@smith.edu

My name is Metasebia Aberra and I am from Ethiopia. I am a sophomore. I am a biochemistry major and I love it because I have always been curious about how things worked especially in living systems. Between interests for chemistry combined with my passion for biology I can confidently say that I have found my true calling. The biochemistry department is incredibly supportive and has faculty that would go above and beyond to help students understand concepts. The coolest thing I have done at Smith is rock climbing. I had no idea what it was about until one day I walked into the gym and decided to climb the rock wall. As challenging as it was, I loved every minute of it and now it has become one of my favorite things to do. Connect with me at maberra@smith.edu

Ria Deshpande
From Pune, India, class of 2016.
For me personally, the interaction with the international student was what convinced me that Smith was where I wanted to go!
Coolest thing I did while at Smith: I jumped into a freezing paradise pond off the rope swing over Parents' weekend. Connect with me at rdeshpande@smith.edu
Carmen Augusto
From Mozambique, class of 2016
Coolest thing I did: I went to every restaurant in Northampton. I got to try food from almost all over the world.
Connect with me at caugusto@smith.edu

Rajiha Mehdi
From Lahore, Pakistan, class of 2013
I'm an Engineering major. Coming to college, I did not have any math or science background and I was definitely thinking about choosing a major in the humanities. However, at Smith I realized that I never gave math and sciences a chance and that I wanted a challenge, so I tried out engineering. I have not looked back since the day I took my first engineering class. I love the department because everyone is very helpful and there are a lot of resources available for those who want to learn. All my professors are very engaged and engaging, and want to get to know their students better. I love the support the department provides and also really enjoy the challenge the major presents.
Coolest fun thing: I went to a haunted hay ride with my house and to a corn maze (Mike's maze) with my friend on her birthday.
Coolest academic thing: For my capstone engineering project, I am working with the Northampton Department of Public Works (DPW) on a project to improve storm water management by using green infrastructure, such as using a rain garden as opposed to upsizing drain pipes to absorb rainwater. I am particularly excited about this project because I get to work in a less academic setting and actually have my design implemented. Furthermore, I am very excited to be able to make a difference in the community we live in, and to be able to work towards environmental sustainability.
Connect with me at rmehdi@smith.edu

Suzu Sakai
From Japan, class of 2016
Majors/reasons: I am looking into Theater, Film, and Architecture. Also Economics.
Coolest thing I did while at Smith: I joined the Chorus and being a part of theatrical performances.
Connect with me at ssakai@smith.edu
Wiame El Bouhali
From Rabat, Morocco, class of 2014
Majors/reasons: Engineering Major, math minor. I have always enjoyed physics and mathematics in high school and I decided to try engineering in college. I loved my first engineering course because it opened my eyes to a new field that I knew nothing about. I love the fact that engineering uses math and science to solve real life everyday problems. The most exciting thing I have done at Smith was build a tornado simulator as part of a research group for a mechanics class which studied the effects of tornadoes on structures and people.
Connect with me at welbouha@smith.edu

Yingying Deng
From Chengdu, China, class of 2016
Majors/reasons: I haven't decided yet but I will definitely major or minor in Psychology. It is interesting to me and Smith has some of the best psychology professors and resources. I also like art. Coolest thing I did: I made a group of American close friends.
Connect with me at yideng@smith.edu

Zoe Le
From Vietnam, class of 2016
Majors/reasons: Undecided, but I am thinking about Economics. I like that you can apply economics principle to a lot of situations. Financial literacy is also relevant and useful. Coolest thing I did: Kayaking in Paradise Pond in the fall.
Connect with me at tle@smith.edu
Zin Min Aye
From Burma, class of 2013
Majors/reasons: I study engineering science with a minor in architecture. I chose to study engineering because I have always loved science and am interested in the applications of science. The Smith Picker Engineering Program is unique and different from other typical engineering schools in that we study general engineering science, instead of one specialized engineering discipline. We get to take classes in fundamental foundation classes in all disciplines and are given flexibility to explore the fields we are interested in for our electives. Then in senior year, we get to work on real-life projects with companies to practice the engineering design process and build on the broad technical foundation we have gained over the years at Smith.

I feel that everything I have done at Smith has been a new and fun experience for me. Smith has really helped me push boundaries and get out of my comfort zone to try out several new things, whether it be academic achievements, such as doing research, going on the Smith-Princeton Exchange Program for Engineering Students, studying abroad and getting to play with sand and concrete in engineering labs, or fun and silly things like screaming at the top of my lungs during convocation and collaboration, jumping off the rope swing into the paradise pond, riding a scooter up and down the hall in the engineering building, apple picking on Mountain Day, making a snow bear with friends, running around the campus at night on a scavenger hunt with housemates, seeing my professors in awesome costumes for Halloween and stuffing myself with ice-cream sandwiches. Smith is a place where you both work hard and play hard and where you’ll find yourself going through many difficult challenges in your life, most of which were made easier and more enjoyable due to the company of amazing Smithies, whose friendships you’ll cherish for your whole life.

Connect with me at zaye@smith.edu

Iju Shakya
From Nepal, class of 2013
I am the current President of Smith’s International Students’ Organization (ISO). Please do not hesitate to contact me!

Connect with me at ishakya@smith.edu.
Additional Smithies You Can Contact:

Momoha Takahashi
From Japan, class of 2016.
Majors/reasons: I am thinking about majoring in engineering because I have always liked creating something new.
Connect with me at mtakahashi@smith.edu

Chinomso Ezeh
From Nigeria, class of 2016
Majors/reasons: I'm currently undecided, but I'm interested in Economics and Computer Science.
Connect with me at cezeh@smith.edu

Ji Ah Lee
From South Korea, class of 2015J.
Majors/reasons: I am majoring in economics and math. I love those for they seem so logical!
Connect with me at jialee@smith.edu

Jennifer Holliday
From Cape Town, South Africa, class of 2013
Majors/reasons: Engineering, I like that we get to apply the theory that we learn in the labs that we have.
Coolest thing: This last J-term I got to take a class on Applied Prototyping and Design, and for the class I made a spice rack using the machines and materials in our machine shop.
Connect with me at jhollida@smith.edu

Michelle Yeo
From Singapore, class of 2013
Majors/reasons: Psychology. I want to become a psychologist in the future.
Coolest thing: Participated in a flash mob put on by Smith Christian Fellowship on Chapin lawn while people were eating lunch.
Connect with me at myeo@smith.edu

Emilia Arguello
From Ecuador, class of 2016
Majors/reasons: No official major yet but definitely Biology/Biochemistry/Chemistry. It is simply fascinating to get to understand yourself in the micro- and nanoscopic level, and this is what these disciplines are all about!
Connect with me at earguello@smith.edu

Rui Huang
From China, class of 2016.
Majors/reasons: I’m thinking of computer science and economics.
Connect with me at rhuang@smith.edu

Jiete Li
From Beijing, China, class of 2015
Majors/reasons: Art History, because I love art.
I took acting and did a performance in front of the public. I traveled to Puerto Rico. I’m going to Paris next year...
Connect with me at jieteli@smith.edu
Yu Ni
From China, class of 2015.
It feels great to know that the school really cares about international students and is making a great effort to improve international students' college experience here at Smith. I will be more than happy to talk with a prospective student.
Connect with me at wni@smith.edu
AND THE LOVELY TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON ...What’s It Like???

“Northampton is a great place to relax and go take a break with or without friends. It is packed with restaurants and little shops that have things one can only find here and that are also reasonably priced. There are all kinds of people and it is so easy to feel like you belong.” – Metasebia

“Northampton is a really quiet and relaxing town.” – Rui

“Northampton is a small, quirky town. The town has a very distinctive personality and is definitely worth exploring. I love going to the local cafes and restaurants. I especially enjoy being able to take a nice stroll around campus, by Paradise pond, or just downtown. I miss Northampton and my friends when I’m home. It is also nice that Northampton is only a few hours away from Boston and New York for the times that I want a more big city experience.” – Rajiha

“Peaceful and safe place. A great place for concentrating on your studies while having fun!” – Suzu

“I think Northampton is a very liberal and beautiful town. Even though it is completely different from those metropolitan areas and to a certain degree less developed, there are plenty of fun things to do here. There are coffee shops, restaurants specializing in different cuisines, CVS (a drugstore) and a number of cute shops that are artistically decorated.” – Winni

“A small town, very friendly and cozy. There is a home-like feeling here. Very liberal.” – Jiete

“It is a lovely town, everything is accessible by foot. It is very different from the city environment which I am used to, but I love the quietness and the nice people.” – Wiamme

“It’s an artistic little town with great resource. Unlike most big cities, the town is unique and very different from anywhere in China.” – Yingying

“It is small, but has many nice shops and restaurants. I enjoy it a lot.” – Momoha

“Such a beautiful and safe town.” – Ji Ah Lee

“Coming from a big city, I thought I would get bored of it quickly, but I soon discovered that I was wrong. Northampton is such a culturally-rich and interesting town. There are so many interesting independent shops and cafes that change their product range often that I have never become bored with it. There are also some great restaurants, art galleries and music venues.” – Michelle

“It’s a very liberal City, you feel free to be whoever you wish to be and you can speak your mind.” – Carmen

“It’s a very pretty small town with plenty of things to do for fun!” – Emilia

“I love Northampton, the town has an amazing collection of restaurants and it’s only a short walk from Smith.” – Jennifer

“Northampton is a small bundle of art, delicious food and interesting things. The main street of Northampton contains almost everything from pharmacies, stores, cafes and offices to boutique shops and a wide variety of restaurants that serve several different types of international Cuisine. It also has interesting and cool stores that one can spend all day browsing through and shopping
in. But the main thing I love about Northampton is its proximity to Smith. It is less than a 5-minute walk from center campus to Main Street and all the stores are accessible via walking. It is also a bike-friendly town and has easy bus transportation to nearby cities.” – Zin Min