



International Ink INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ESSAY CONTEST

When first arriving at The University of Iowa, every international student encounters a unique set of events and impressions. This transition is part of the value of studying in another country, and the learning that takes place during this period of adjustment teaches important lessons. This essay contest is your chance to share your experiences in **Coming to America**. You are invited to write about your experiences, cross-cultural encounters (good and not-so-good), insights, thoughts, and emotions upon coming to the United States and adjusting to your new life as a UI student.

Tell us your story of coming to the U.S. and The University of Iowa including such things as the high points, low points, pleasant surprises, disappointments, confusing situations, frustrating encounters, and encouraging interactions you have had thus far. Here are suggestions on specific things to consider sharing:

One encounter that surprised you or you that you were not expecting. What were your thoughts and feelings during the encounter? Would things have happened differently in your country? How and why?

Expectations versus reality. How did you think people and things would be when you got to the US and UI, and what did you find when you got here. Is life like you imagined? How and how not?

Lessons learned. If you were going to give advice to a student from your country about how to adjust (eating, traveling, dealing with bureaucracy, meeting people, making friends, etc.) to the US and UI culture what specific things would you tell him/her to be prepared for and to do?

Similarities and differences. Culturally, socially and/or academically what things are similar between life at UI and in your country, and what things are quite different? What similarities make your life here easier and which differences are the most difficult for you to get used to?

Essays will be judged by a committee of volunteers from the University and community. Winning essays will be distributed both on and off campus, and students submitting essays agree that their essays may be used in UI publications and promotional materials.

First Prize: \$200 Second Prize: \$100 Third Prize: \$50

Eligibility: Any full time University of Iowa student holding a non-immigrant visa

Length: No more than 1500 words. Essays should be written in Microsoft Word format and submitted electronically as an e-mail attachment to oiiss@uiowa.edu. Make sure to include your name and email address on your submission.

Due Date: Essays must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2009. No late submissions will be considered.

Sponsored by the Office of International Students and Scholars,
The University of Iowa

