International Affairs provides leadership, advocacy, development, and support for all central and college-based international activities. International Affairs works in collaboration with the colleges and regional campuses to promote international education, research, outreach, and service programs. International Affairs is comprised of the Center for Africa and the Diaspora, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, the Office of Study Abroad and Exchanges, and the USF Linkage Institutes. It is also closely allied with the English Language Institute. International Affairs leads the development of academic program offerings (area studies) and services, international exchanges, partnerships with business, industry, and government both in the U.S. and overseas, the development of the international activities, and the development of enhancement of faculty, student, and staff training and development.

Center for Africa and the Diaspora
Location/Phone: SVC 1087, (813) 974-4727
Email: ibl@ibl.usf.edu
Web Site: http://www.usf.edu/ibl

The Center for Africa and the Diaspora is a joint venture between the Institute on Black Life and International Affairs. The Center works with IBL and International Affairs to provide leadership and advocacy for research, program development and community service initiatives that examine and illuminate the contributions of Africans and other peoples of the African Diaspora, as well as problems and issues that affect their lives. Through educational, cultural and economic exchanges, symposia, and other programs, USF students, faculty, and scholars and the local community are linked in tangible and productive ways to the world African community on issues of global relevance. The Center fosters interdisciplinary partnerships and collaborative arrangements with a wide range of institutions and organizations related to Africa and the African Diaspora in Tampa Bay and around the world.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program
Location/Phone: CPR 474, (813) 974-3547
Email: lacs@iac.usf.edu
Web Site: http://web.usf.edu/lacs

The mission of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS) program, as part of the University of South Florida’s strategic plan for internationalization, is to enhance, coordinate and promote teaching, research, and service activities related to Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies. With the College of Arts and Sciences, the office offers a Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies for undergraduate students who want to enhance their major degree program, a graduate certificate in Cuban Studies, and a Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies that emphasizes interdisciplinarity. A B.A. degree is in the planning stages. LACS provides advising and support services to students.

The program offers research grants to USF faculty and graduate students to encourage and support research, conference participation, and course development in all fields related to Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies.

The program fosters greater knowledge of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino issues through partnerships with community organizations as well as university departments to sponsor lectures, cultural programs, foreign exchange programs, and summer sessions. LACS collaborates with more than 40 faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and in Latin American, Caribbean and Latino studies. The staff consults with university administrators on issues related to the Latino community and Latino students to provide good university-community relations.

The University of South Florida welcomes qualified students from all over the world to our campus community. The resulting international educational exchange leads to the enrichment of our common life, the intellectual development of our students, the research endeavors of the University, and mutual understanding between the peoples of the world represented at USF. The ensuing exchange of life stories exposes all USF students, faculty, and staff to the likenesses and differences that exist between cultures, worldviews, experiences, and ideas.

ISSS is the main administrative and advising office for over 1,500 international students and 200 visiting faculty members and researchers at USF. ISSS has many administrative duties, including the issuance and maintenance of all visa documentation for foreign nationals at the University. ISSS staff persons are experienced in cross-cultural counseling and crisis management in a cross-cultural setting. Services offered by ISSS include advising related to immigration matters, adjustment to life in the United States, culture shock, and other personal and academic issues. ISSS also offers programming such as employment workshops, international student orientations, town meetings and culture shock presentations. ISSS staff advises a network of international organizations on campus, including the InterCultural Organization and the American Mentors Program. These organizations help foster cultural awareness on campus and assist international students in adjusting to a new culture. For more information about ISSS, please call (813) 974-5102.

USF offers students the world as their classroom through its programs abroad. Whether a student chooses a short-term summer program, a semester or year at a university overseas, an internship, service learning or international co-op, there is a program for each student need. Studying abroad provides a unique learning environment, which extends and enhances courses taken on the home campus. Students can study abroad at any time in their academic careers. All disciplines offered at USF can be found at partner universities abroad, and so students have a wide range of study options.

USF overseas programs are designed to appeal to a wide audience. Students in any discipline can find a program of study to complement their undergraduate degrees. Courses provide USF credit and thus students can be assured that if they plan carefully, they will continue to make steady progress towards graduation while they are abroad. Students seeking to round out their resumes with experiences abroad, which include internships, service learning, and co-op, will find options for them also. Several programs of overseas study lead to dual degrees, certificates, or double majors.

Many programs include organized cultural excursions, visits to important sites, and opportunities to interact with local people. All include unparalleled opportunities for cultural immersion and in-depth insight into the host country.

USF study abroad programs range in length from one week (over winter or spring break) to a semester. A large number of faculty-led summer programs of 2-6 weeks provide the opportunity to concentrate study abroad in a summer session and help students fulfill the 9-hour summer graduation requirement. All programs are developed as cost-effectively as possible, recognizing the financial concerns of today’s students. Federal and state financial aid can be applied to USF programs abroad, and some additional scholarship assistance is available through the Study Abroad Office.

For additional information or a copy of the individual program brochures, please visit the Study Abroad Office, or check the web site.
The English Language Institute
Location/Phone: CPR 443, (813) 974-3433
E-mail: elimain@cas.usf.edu
Website: http://www.cas.usf.edu/eli/

The English Language Institute, the laboratory program of the Department of World Language Education in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers both intensive academic and non-academic English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to non-native speakers of English as well as language-related mentoring opportunities. Students at the Institute benefit from curriculum and materials development and research initiatives associated with faculty in both the Department of World Language Education and, through the joint Second Language Acquisition/Instructional Technology Ph.D. Program, the College of Education. The Institute serves its students by bringing to its activities the full resources of a research extensive university. Students are given a placement test upon registering for the program. This test determines the proficiency level into which the student is placed, ranging from elementary, low-intermediate, high-intermediate, to advanced pre-university ESL.

Students attend non-credit classes 25 hours per week. International students on a USF I-20, F-2 and J-2 visa holders, as well as permanent residents may enroll part-time in the ELI. The integrated-skill, content-based curriculum includes training in listening comprehension, spoken English, grammar, reading, writing, culture, learning strategies, and a host of test prep elective courses (TOEFL, GRE, SAT, SPEAK) for upper-level students.

The English Language Institute is authorized to issue Certificate of Eligibility (I-20) to students who require a Student Visa (F-1) and who meet criteria set forth by the U.S. Bureau of Citizens and Immigration Services.

The cost of the program is $3,385.00 per semester, including health fee, activities fee, and a non-refundable application fee.