

InterVarsity Core Values in ISM

Did you know ISM encompasses all of InterVarsity's core values? Here's how...

Multiethnicity

In an increasingly globalized world, we can no longer limit our ME conversation to Americans-internationals from every continent coexist with black, white, Asian, Middle Eastern and Native Americans in our country and even more so on our campuses. **International students bring their diverse global paradigms and experiences of race, ethnicity, and racial conflict from home.** "Internationals raise helpful questions as outsiders looking into US society," said one TL. When Americans and internationals interact in community, both grow cross-culturally. International students help American minorities understand their cultural and family heritage, and Americans understand issues such as white privilege from a global perspective.

ISM elevates our conversation in Multi-Ethnicity.
-a Regional Director

Internationals are leading Americans in evangelism.
-a Team Leader

Evangelism

Internationals often come from countries with heavy persecution. International Christians enter with unwavering faith, modeling boldness in evangelism for Americans, esp. on campuses where Christianity is most antagonized. International students are leading both internationals and Americans to faith. Most international students come from places with little or no access to the Gospel but are extremely curious and comfortable with spiritual conversations and GIGs; they offer Americans the opportunity to "practice" evangelism. One TL shared that after American leaders led international students to faith through GIGs, it gave them the courage to invite their American friends into GIGs as well. **When our goal is to reach all corners of the campus, it should inevitably include international students. What better evangelism opportunity than ISM!**

Leadership and Discipleship

Our discipleship of Americans is incomplete when they're not exposed to the broader global perspective international students offer. Some chapters, particularly on private liberal arts campuses, have been profoundly impacted by international student leaders who serve as key leaders such as chapter presidents. Staff also feel stretched—in a good way—as they develop international leaders and their paradigms for leadership and discipleship broaden. Explaining the gospel or studying scripture with those who are exposed to it for the first time or are from a radically different culture strengthens our own understanding of God. The prayer life, faith, and generosity of internationals have challenged and inspired many Americans. International students can feel intimidated to lead or even speak up with Americans, but when they're given leadership with or over Americans, their confidence and cross-cultural skills grow exponentially. **It prepares them and Americans for our increasingly globalized world**, esp. when more and more internationals are seeking higher degrees and jobs overseas. Being led by international students reminds us all that the center of Christianity is no longer in the west, and steers us away from paternalistic ministry.

The center of Christianity is in the global south.
-Urbana

The world is at our doorstep.
-Missiologist

Global Missions

Urbana and GPs have played a huge role in InterVarsity's history. We know that GPs benefit those we serve *and* our students. When students return from GPs or studying abroad, ISM serves as a natural place of reentry to put their lessons into practice. But, more importantly for those who can't participate in GPs, **ISM is the global missions experience all can partake in**, for the good of the nations as well as the American. We care deeply about justice. Do we ever ponder on the spiritual injustice of hoarding the gospel when most of the world has little or no access to it, even while they're on our campuses? Do we ponder on the injustices international students experience, when they are taken advantage of due to language barriers and unfamiliarity with our systems?