

Dear incoming IDSC student,

Welcome to Clark University's International Development and Social Change (IDSC) program in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment (IDCE). We are delighted you will be joining us at the end of August. In light of your transition to Clark, we've enclosed several items that may be of interest to you. Much of this and other information is also available to you online at www.clarku.edu/departments/idce/admAdmitted.cfm. Below are some logistical and academic issues you to assist you in preparing for your first semester at IDCE.

If you haven't already, it's time to start thinking about housing arrangements for the fall. You should plan on arriving early, by the second week of August or before, to secure housing. Some students have already visited campus and toured the surrounding area looking for apartments or made arrangements to stay in University-owned graduate housing. Graduate students usually share an apartment with two or three other students to reduce residential costs. During the summer months, the Residential Life & Housing Office will update apartment and roommate listings. In the past, students have been able to locate accommodations for about \$400+ a month (shared apartment), although it usually takes several days and a little energy to find the best arrangement. If you are interested in University-owned graduate student housing (11-month contract), or wish to receive their lists of apartments advertised by local landlords, you should contact the Housing Office directly at 508-793-7453 or online at www.clarku.edu/offices/housing.

If you need an I-20 form to obtain a U.S. visa, please return the appropriate international student information form to Paula Hall, c/o the IDCE Office. If you are an international student, this form was previously sent to you in the packet with your appointment letter.

You might also be interested to know a little about Worcester, hometown to Clark. Worcester was one of the centers of the U.S. Industrial Revolution, and as such, has a fascinating development-environment history. It also has an ethnically diverse population: on the streets you can hear Spanish, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Polish, and many other languages. For many reasons, IDCE is fortunate to have Worcester as a context to study many interesting socio-economic and environmental issues.

As a way to prepare for Fall 2009 IDSC courses and research, we recommend that you read Maggie Black's *No-Nonsense Guide to International Development* (2002), and Barbara Thomas-Slayter's *Southern Exposure: International Development and the Global South in the Twenty-First Century*, Kumarian Press (2003). Both offer excellent overviews of development, as well as issues of socio-economic change facing both North and South today.

You may want to review the reading lists (especially the background readings) for IDCE360: Development (a required seminar for IDSC/MA students), which will be taught by myself and Professor William Fisher. The reading lists and the preliminary course syllabus will be posted on the Admitted Students webpage. We also suggest that you take an introductory economics course (microeconomics or macroeconomics) this summer, or familiarize yourself with basic economic concepts by perusing an introductory economics textbook. Finally, we strongly urge you to brush up on quantitative and computer skills: Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. Familiarity with this software will serve you well in your graduate coursework and research.

If you have a particular research interest, you might want to start a literature review before you arrive at Clark. We also encourage you to consider possible sources of fieldwork, internship opportunities, and funding. We will help you with this when you arrive, but it's a good idea to get a head start. IDCE alumni and current students have a strong track record of receiving prestigious awards and grants such as the Fulbright and Compton Fellowship. Over the summer, you may want to research these awards and find out the deadlines ahead of time, as you may need to begin your application materials in early fall.

IDCE staff will be in the office during most of the summer. Do not hesitate to call or write to them for additional information. Please remember to check the Admitted Students webpage regularly to help you prepare for your arrival and view questions asked by your peers in the FAQ section.

We look forward to seeing you in August to welcome you to a lively and productive year at IDCE.

Sincerely,

Anita Häusermann Fábos, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator
International Development and Social Change