



# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE DIVISION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



*Fall 2022 Newsletter*



## *Inside the Issue*

### **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

We talk to the Rizk brothers about their experiences in the College of Engineering at UL Lafayette as PhD students from Lebanon.

### **CAMPUS RESOURCES**

We list important dates you need to know for this semester and provide important resources you might need in the near future.

### **OPT AND CPT APPLICATIONS**

The DGE is currently accepting OPT applications for Fall 2022 graduates and will accept CPT applications for the Spring 2023 semester starting on October 17.





# APPLYING FOR OPT AND CPT



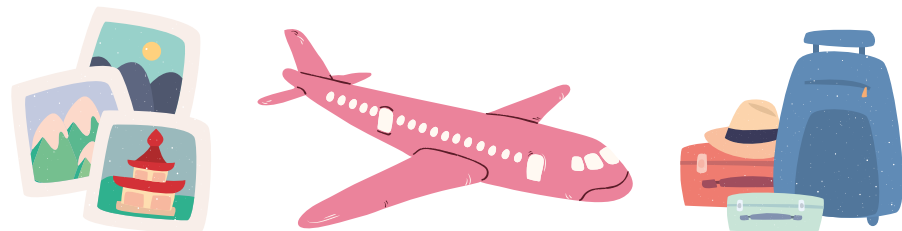
Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) hold great opportunities for our international students. If you are graduating for Fall 2022, the earliest day USCIS will accept an application for OPT is **September 19th** and the latest day USCIS will accept an OPT application is **February 14th, 2023**. The application process can be lengthy, so it is important to apply early. **REMEMBER:** the OIA must issue your OPT I-20 before you complete the online forms. CPT applications for the Spring 2023 semester will open on **October 17th, 2022** and be accepted through **January 18th, 2023**. Please review all the regulations for CPT and OPT on [our website](#) and then, click [here](#) and select 'Work Authorization' to make an appointment with our staff.

## TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS

If you choose to travel for the winter break, you must make sure that you are registered full-time for the Spring 2023 semester and have no debt holds. After you register for your classes, please complete a [Request for Travel Authorization Form](#) and email it to [ويا@louisiana.edu](mailto:ويا@louisiana.edu). Please note that DGE staff cannot guarantee your return to the U.S. All students who decide to travel should be fully vaccinated and realizes that delays may occur. Students who travel to countries other than their home country are responsible for determining if they have the correct visas to enter.

If you do decide to travel and are unable to reenter the U.S. in January 2023, you can:

- lose your assistantship (Graduate students cannot hold assistantships while they are outside the U.S.)
- lose scholarships and/or on-campus employment
- be unable to complete your degree program (not all classes are offered remotely)
- lose a semester of eligibility for OPT and/or CPT
- owe rent that you may be legally bound to pay even if you are abroad
- be required to reapply for admission - Students who skip a major term (Spring or Fall) are required to apply for readmission



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

### THE RIZK BROTHERS

*Meet your classmates!*

Dominick, Frederic, and Rodrigue Rizk are three PhD students from Lebanon. The brothers are each part of UL Lafayette's Computer Engineering program.



### DOMINICK RIZK

**What is your favorite part of the program you're studying?**

The favorite part of the PhD program in Computer Engineering is that we deal with the cutting-edge tools and contribute to the advancement of technology.

**What has been your fondest memory of your time at UL Lafayette?**

The fondest memory of my time at UL Lafayette was the Big Event where I had the opportunity to volunteer in the community through a variety of service projects while promoting a Ragin' Cajun spirit.

**What's your favorite meal?**

My favorite meal is a crawfish boil. Although it is a lot of work for a small amount, I enjoy the whole process and the company.

**What's your favorite book movie?**

My favorite book is "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran.



## STUDY ABROAD 2023

UL Lafayette students are eligible to participate in our Study Abroad Programs. These programs present wonderful opportunities for unique study-travel experiences while earning 3-9 hours of credits. Non-UL Lafayette students may also participate. However, they must apply for admission to the University as a non-degree seeking student with an academic major of *summer visitor*. Financial aid, loans, and scholarships are available! Find out more visiting [our website](#) or by contacting or visiting the Study Abroad Office. The office is open from 8am to 5pm Monday - Thursday and is located in the Student Union, Room 136. Call the office at (337) 482-5438 or email at [studyabroad@louisiana.edu](mailto:studyabroad@louisiana.edu) for any inquiries. Virtual appointments are also available. Click [here](#) to schedule.

## HAVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH?



The Intensive English Program (IEP) is a unit within the Division of Global Engagement and a part of UL Lafayette. The program prepares non-native English speaking students for admission to the University through intensive non-credit bearing English courses designed to meet the basic requirements for most universities.

The IEP staff provides instruction and services, including advising and on-campus assistance to international students enrolled in the program. The IEP offers classes in 8-week sessions. The curriculum includes grammar, writing, reading, and listening/speaking/pronunciation (LSP) classes. For more information, please visit [our website](#) or contact our office at [iep@louisiana.edu](mailto:iep@louisiana.edu) or +1 (337) 482-9028.



## FREDERIC RIZK

**What do you plan to do after you graduate from UL Lafayette?**

I want to pursue an academic career since teaching has always been my passion considering it is the art of giving a priceless gift. The academic freedom of doing research in my area of interest and helping students in their careers give me the motivation to be a professor. I would dedicate my career on teaching new generations of students an up-to-date curriculum and promote research for undergraduate students, especially for the underrepresented ones.

**Why should other international students choose to attend UL Lafayette?**

I encourage other international students to apply to UL Lafayette for being a Carnegie R1 university. The campus is friendly. UL is a very diverse university and very welcoming for international students. It offers great education with very diverse options of developing yourself socially and professionally through organizations and events.

**What's your favorite meal?**

My favorite meal here is pastalaya since it is like jambalaya but made with pasta instead of rice.

**Can you tell us a quote you live by?**

"Life is a game. If you know the rules, you will always win." – Rodrigue Rizk.





## THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Thanksgiving is a national holiday in America that commemorates a harvest feast shared by English colonists and the Wampanoag people in 1621. It is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November, which this year is on November 24th, 2022.

The most popular Thanksgiving tradition is the Thanksgiving meal. People usually share a large meal with loved ones where everyone reflects on what they are thankful for. This meal typically includes turkey and a variety of side dishes. All students are welcome to celebrate Thanksgiving with a special lunch on Tuesday, November 22. More information will be disseminated by email and social media.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL (ISC) BOARD MEMBERS 2022-23

The Division of Global Engagement would like to congratulate the newly elected board members of the **International Student Council**:

**President** - Faryal Atif, MA English (Pakistan)

**Vice Presidents** - Aminah Zailoum, BS Mangement (Palestine)

Amanda Kporwofa, MS Communication (Ghana)

**Secretary** - Nahin Mahmood, PhD Engineering (Bangladesh)

**Treasurer/Event Management** - Olu Ogundiran, MS Engineering, (Nigeria)

**Public Relations** - Zidane Tan, BS Accounting (Malaysia)

Elissa Harb, BS Biology (Lebanon)

**Events Committee** - Leila Gheisi, MS Communication (Iran)

Koumba Diarrassouba, MS Communication (Côte D'Ivoire)

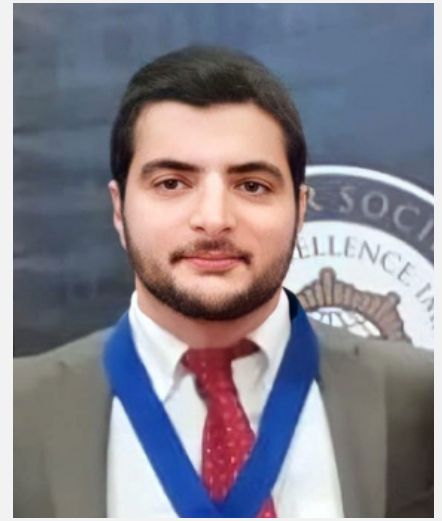
Md Abdul Kadir, PhD Mathematics (Bangladesh)

Ipek Kaya, MS Informatics (Turkey)

Prosper Nekekpemi, MS Informatics (Nigeria)

Ghadir Almeheleb, PhD Comm. Disorders (Saudi Arabia)

Fatimah Azeez, BS Nursing (Nigeria)



## RODRIGUE RIZK

**Why did you choose to attend UL Lafayette?**

Being a Francophone myself, I have an affinity for Francophone culture, and UL Lafayette serves as the institutional protector and embodiment of the Cajun and Francophone culture. It also has a rich history in the fields of computer sciences and computer engineering. It established the first Association for Computing Machinery student chapter in the country, initiated the first for computer science masters program in the nation, as well as, the first Ph.D. program in the state.

**What has been your fondest memory of your time at UL Lafayette?**

My fondest memory of my time at UL Lafayette is that time when I received the Richard G. and Mary B. Neiheisel Endowed Graduate Dissertation Award. Receiving that award motivated me to have more dedication and work harder. It is a reminder that the work I do matters.

**What's a fun fact about yourself?**

I am a polyglot and am ambidextrous. I know many languages and can use either hand to write.

**What's something you're passionate about?**

I am passionate about learning languages, especially the ancient and dead ones. I also like history of ancient civilizations.

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# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK



International Education Week (IEW), **November 14-18, 2022**, is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. We are pleased to celebrate International Education Week on UL Lafayette's campus. During this week, the Study Abroad Office will be hosting an interactive Student Alumni Panel on Wednesday, November 16th at 3:00pm in Moody 103 to help prospective travelers learn more about studying abroad. Stay tuned for more events that the International Student Council and DGE will be planning for International Education Week.

## SPRING 2023 ADVISING PERIOD

October 17th marks the beginning of academic advising for the Spring 2023 semester. Advising is a crucial component of keeping students on track to graduation. Advisors assist students in course selection each semester and help them navigate through their college years. Prior to registration, an advising hold is placed on student accounts. Advisors lift this hold after they have been advised. Keep an eye out for an email from your major advisor or your department on how to schedule an advising session. If you have not heard from your advisor or reached out to them by now, you should do so right away! Registration opens as early as October 31st, but your personal registration date is listed under your profile on ULink.

## FALL COMMENCEMENT



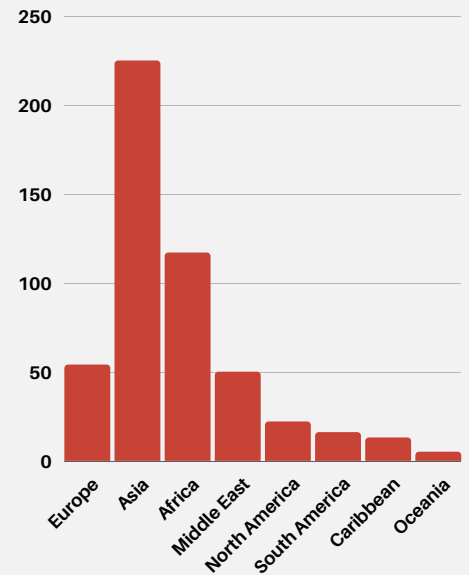
Congratulations to our Fall 2022 graduates! We wish you much success on your next adventure! Please don't forget to order your caps and gowns if you have not done so already. The Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremonies will take place on Friday, December 16th and Saturday, December 17th. All ceremonies will be held at the Cajundome Convention Center or the Cajundome. For more information on locations and times visit the [Registrar's website](#).

Whoever wishes to foresee the future must consult the past. The past can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future. That's why I dedicated part of my work to decipher ancient inscriptions and texts that reveal valuable facts about ancient history.

**Tell us about a project you're working on!**

I am currently working on a project titled as "Deciphering Ancient Scripts with Scarce Annotations using Deep Neural Networks with Hardware Acceleration: A Case Study on Phoenician Epigraphy". My work helps historians and epigraphists in restoring and deciphering ancient texts and inscriptions, thereby revealing valuable facts about ancient history. It is important to me that my work has a purpose and that it makes a difference in the world.

## NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT



The DGE was delighted to welcome a total of 107 new degree seeking students to our university this semester! Now, we have 502 international Ragin' Cajuns representing 73 different countries.



# HOME COMING WEEK

## SEPT 25- OCT 1, 2022



### What is Homecoming?

Homecoming is a celebration to welcome former members back to a community. Schools and universities throughout the U.S. welcome back their alumni during homecoming, which usually takes place after a football team's longest stretch of away games. There are some fun traditions like the elected homecoming court that recognizes students' contributions to their community and a fun parade, as well as, a home football game. Homecoming week is essentially a time where the community can feel a sense of inclusion and pride in the culture of our university!

## RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Bourgeois Hall, our recreational center, is open to the public and offers a variety of ways to have fun and get a good workout in! You will find a number of ways to stay active from pick-up basketball to group exercise classes, as well as, ways to relax and unwind by getting mindful through yoga or getting some "you" time by the pool.

Group exercise classes began a few weeks ago and give students the opportunity to get fit together in a fun and inviting group setting with classes taught by certified instructors.

For more hours, to sign up for group exercise classes, or for more information, click [here](#).

## NOVEMBER GAME SCHEDULE:

### Football:

- vs. Troy (Nov. 5th)
- vs. Georgia Southern (Nov. 10th)
- at Florida State (Nov. 19th)
- vs. Texas State (Nov. 26th)

### Volleyball:

- vs. Southern Miss (Nov. 3rd)
- at App State (Nov. 11th-12th)

Sunbelt Conference Tournament (Nov. 16th)

### Men's Basketball:

- vs. Centenary College (Nov. 7th)
- vs Harvard (Nov. 11th)
- vs ETSU (Nov. 13st)
- at LA Tech (Nov. 17th)
- at SMU (Nov. 22nd)
- at Drake (Nov. 26th)
- vs Loyola (Nov. 29)

### Women's Basketball:

- vs. Houston (Nov. 7th)
- vs. Colorado (Nov. 15th)
- vs. Jackson State (Nov. 16th)
- at Texas Tech (Nov. 20th)
- at North Texas (Nov. 25th)
- at Abilene Christian (Nov. 27th)
- at LSU (Nov. 29th)



@ragincajuns



@louisianaragincajuns



# STUDENT RESOURCES & IMPORTANT DATES

*Take advantage of these resources our campus provides.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thanksgiving Day -  
Thursday, November 24

Last Day to Drop -  
Thursday, November 3

Last Day of Classes -  
Friday, December 2

Last Day of the Fall 2022 Semester -  
Thursday, December 8

Winter Intersession 2022: Class Begins -  
Monday, December 19

Spring 2023 Classes Begin -  
Wednesday, January 11



## RESOURCES

**Handshake** - Looking for a job as a student worker? Create a free account on the Handshake website and fill out a profile to find jobs specifically suited for you.

**Campus Cupboard**- The pantry provides free, nonperishable items to meet students and faculty's temporary food needs. Hours are on Monday 11 a.m. to 6 pm, Wednesday 11 am to 4:30 pm, and Thursday 11 am to 5pm. Campus Cupboard is located at 210 E. St. Mary Blvd, in the old bookstore at the corner of Rex Street.

**Counseling Center**- Located within the Saucier Wellness Center (OK Allen Hall), The Counseling Center provides personal counseling, crisis intervention, and short-term psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and groups. The Center offers an unlimited number of sessions, free-of-charge to University students, faculty, and staff.

**Career Closet** - The Career Closet provides students with free, gently used professional clothing items for interviews and career fairs. Current students can visit the Career Closet during business hours to shop for suits, ties, belts, shoes and other professional items. Career Closet is located at 210 E. St. Mary Blvd, in the old bookstore at the corner of Rex Street.

**The Writing Center**- Located in Dupre Library on the first floor, the Writing Center helps students improve on their writing skills. The tutors there provide guidance and share their experiences as writers.

**The Learning Center**- Located in Lee Hall on the 2nd floor, this center offers free individual or study group tutoring and many other services to help undergraduate students succeed in their areas of study.

## IEP SESSION DEADLINES

| <u>2022 – 2023 Sessions</u>          | <u>Deadline for Students<br/>outside the U.S.</u> | <u>Deadline for Students<br/>inside the U.S.</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Spring I 2023 (January 5 – March 10) | November 18, 2022                                 | December 16, 2022                                |
| Spring II 2023 (March 16 – May 19)*  | February 10, 2023                                 | March 10, 2023                                   |
| Summer 2023 (June 1 – July 28)*      | April 14, 2023                                    | May 26, 2023                                     |



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
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**Intensive English  
Program**

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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