The Summer Bridge Program provides all incoming international students the opportunity to engage academically and connect with other new CIIS students before the start of the fall semester. The intensive program is designed to challenge you intellectually, sharpen your academic writing skills and give you an early introduction to Institute expectations and culture.

Over the past several years, the Summer Bridge has had high attendance of incoming international students—native and non-native speakers alike—who have greatly benefited from the program. Take a look at what students have to say. View the Summer Bridge video at www.ciis.edu/international.

We look forward to your joining us on an intellectual and social journey!

Introduction to the Summer Bridge Program

The skills required for academic success abroad are challenging for students unfamiliar with the culture of U.S. universities. New skills may be needed to flourish in the CIIS academic environment and cope with the large volume of reading assignments. International students will also have the advantage of getting acquainted with the culture of CIIS and the U.S. in general and ease into the start of the busy first semester. For all of these reasons, CIIS requires all incoming international students participate in the Summer Bridge Program as part of the International Student Orientation.

Course Content

This academic, skills-based program focuses on:

- Preparation for U.S. graduate–level course work or the unique requirements of our undergraduate program
- Practicing reflective writing in which students write about their personal experiences of the course content
- Understanding the U.S. academic environment, writing genres, and citation/plagiarism rules
- Developing a cultural understanding of CIIS classroom interactions and confidence for full participation
- Strengthening English writing skills for academic purposes
- Building skills for effective formal and informal communication in English

Additional Features

- Introduction to CIIS library
- Introduction to San Francisco public transportation through outings
- Opportunity to build a supportive community with other incoming students
- Course format leaves time to search for housing and campus jobs
- Textbooks provided for this course

Additional Events

- Optional resume and cover letter workshop on Friday, August 9
- Required New International Student Orientation August 16