



## Student International Ambassador Application 2024

Return your completed application by email to Gracie Pekarci, [gpekarci@utk.edu](mailto:gpekarci@utk.edu)

**The Ambassador Application DEADLINE is 5:00pm, Wednesday, Feb 14th, 2024**

Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture (Smith Center) Student International Ambassadors (SIAs) are a select group of individuals working to internationalize undergraduate education at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA). This student-directed group integrates international experiences in and out of UTK classrooms, as well as promotes study abroad opportunities and the International Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) Minor by sharing international experiences with faculty, peers, alumni, and the public. SIAs also participate in leadership and service activities, network with international organizations, and develop leadership and other career skills.

SIAs represent the Smith Center at both on and off campus events such as the Herbert Student Career Fair, and UTK Study Abroad Fairs. They help organize, participate in, and administer the annual UTIA International Showcase and the Smith Center photo contest. Independently and with the advisors (Gracie Pekarci and Adam Willcox), they will present in classes their international experiences and recruit for the IANR Minor and Herbert study abroad programs. SIAs also mentor individuals and small groups of students in the IANR Minor and those preparing to study abroad. SIAs will also assist with “walk in” sessions in the Smith Center office 101 McCord Hall.

SIAs meet as needed (usually bi-weekly). The Smith Center will provide light refreshments and SIAs are responsible to organize activities during the meetings with assistance from the advisors. The SIAs and advisors will arrange and participate in one annual trip per year. SIAs will also receive a Smith Center t-shirt for events. Graduating SIAs will have access to loaned Smith Center stoles for their graduation regalia.

Applicants must have agriculture or natural resources international experiences independently or as part of a study abroad program. They are also expected to enroll in and complete the IANR Minor. Applicants must have successfully completed one semester of coursework with at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application. Applicants must be full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students. SIAs serve for at least one year, however, there is no limit on the number of years they can serve. Sitting ambassadors should discuss with the advisors if they would like to continue to serve for additional years.

SIAs are expected to wear their Smith Center shirt when conducting Ambassador duties, unless otherwise specified. Advisors reserve the right to release SIAs from the program if not performing as expected.

The SIA group is designed to be a service organization for students who desire to internationalize the UTIA student experience. The Institute rewards Ambassadors for their hard work and service in the following ways:

- Shirts to represent Smith Center at events
- Participation in one regional international engagement event per year
- Preference on Faculty-Directed Study Abroad applications and scholarships
- Refreshments at bi-monthly meetings
- Leadership, networking, and other career skills needed for an international agriculture and natural resources career
- Preference on the Peace Corps Prep application

**Student International Ambassador Application**

<i>Please type directly in the shaded areas of the form</i>	
Name	
Preferred Name (nickname)	
Mobile phone number	
Academic major	
Academic minor(s)	
Enrolled in IANR Minor?	
GPA greater than 3.0?	
Expected graduation term & year	
Describe your international experience(s) in agriculture or natural resources and how it has influenced your academic and personal development (250 word max)	
As a potential Ambassador, describe a novel approach to promote study abroad and the minor to fellow undergraduates (200 word max)	

## 2) Resume or CV

Please attach a resume (max 2 pages) that concisely describes your work experience, college organizations/activities, international experiences, and honors and awards. Attach your resume to this application.

## 3) Requirements of a Student International Ambassador

I understand that I must attend all ambassador meetings and represent the Smith Center at various events throughout the year. Upon rare occasion and by prearrangement with the primary advisor, missing a meeting may be excused.

YES     NO

I understand that continuation as a Smith Center Student International Ambassador each semester and year is based on my performance, involvement, and maintaining a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Therefore, the advisors reserve the right not to ask me back for subsequent semesters and years should I not perform as expected.

YES     NO

## 5) Signature

I understand that all documents part of this application for voluntary service are confidential and the property of the Smith Center. I further understand that I will not have the opportunity to personally review or inspect any of these documents. However, in an effort to promote a valuable educational experience and to improve interviewing skills, feedback concerning reasons for selection or non-selection will be provided at the applicant's request. This procedure complies with the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

I wish to submit this application for the position of Smith Center Student International Ambassador. I am aware of the responsibilities of this position as specified, and I fully intend to fulfill each one to the best of my ability if selected. I possess the minimum qualifications required for this position as specified on this form, and all information provided herein is accurate.

I understand that my signature below authorizes the Smith Center to review my disciplinary file in the Office of Student Conduct and my transcript for verification of my grade point average.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to both employment by and admission to the University.*

*The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.*

*Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 379963560, telephone (865) 9742498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 379964125.*