



INTERNATIONAL ACAC 2026

Carnegie
Mellon
University



Conference Update #1

November 20, 2025

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Coming In December...

- Call for Education Sessions
- Exhibitor Application
- Sponsorship Application

Renew your membership for 2026 to ensure you don't miss any conference news. Renewal instructions can be found in your [Info Hub](#).

Conference Registration opens
March 18, 2026

Dear International ACAC Members,

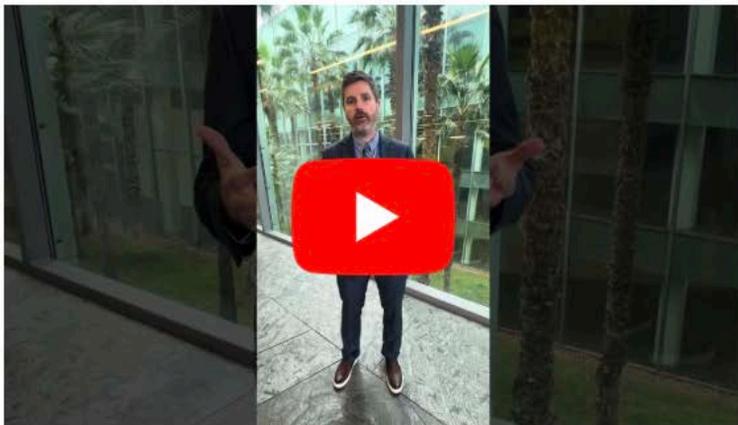
Greetings from Los Angeles - I am thrilled to invite you to the **2026 International ACAC Annual Conference** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, hosted by Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Pittsburgh, July 14-16.

Pittsburgh is known as the city of bridges, which speaks to an essential aspect of the impact our members have every day. Together, our members bridge cultural differences, connect communities around the world, and traverse myriad challenges to promote international student mobility. Our work has never been more crucial, and to celebrate our efforts, we encourage you to **participate in our photo challenge** to highlight our community as **#BridgeBuilders**.

International ACAC will be sending many more details to prepare you for this incredible event in future updates, and we wish you the best as you enjoy the last few weeks of 2025.

See you soon in Pittsburgh!

Daniel Marschner, Ph. D.
President-Elect, International ACAC
Director of International Admissions, Loyola Marymount University



Call for Conference Volunteers

Members are invited to contribute to the 2026 Annual Conference by joining any of the following Conference Committees:

- Bursary Committee
- College & Counselor Fairs Committee
- First-Timers' Committee
- Session Review & Selection Committee
- Special Events Committee

If you are interested, [complete the volunteer registration form](#) before **Friday, December 12**. We thank you in advance for volunteering your time to make next year's conference a success.

Conference Committee Volunteer Registration

Pre-Conference Institute: Monday, July 13

The Pre-Conference Institute is intended to provide attendees the opportunity to learn from fellow International ACAC members in a more intimate environment ahead of the annual conference.

Scheduling Change: Starting in 2026, the Pre-Conference Institute will be held for one day only. This allows participants in the Institute to make the most of conference programming and special events on Tuesday.

Volunteer Opportunity: Members are invited to **serve as Faculty** for the 2026 Pre-Conference Institute. Interested International ACAC members can apply submitting the form below by **Friday, January 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time**.

Pre-Conference Institute Faculty Application

Invitation Letter for Your Visa Application

A letter of invitation can be an imperative part of securing a visa. Request an invitation letter for the 2026 Conference.

Invitation Letter Request Form

The visa application process can be long, so we encourage you to start the process early if you will need a visa to enter the United States.

For more information about the U.S. visa process, please consult the following resources:

- Use the [Visa Wizard](#) to determine whether you need a visa to travel to the U.S.
- Learn more about the [Visitor Visa B and Visa Waiver Program](#).
- Look up the [U.S. Consulate or Embassy nearest you](#).

Conference Bursary Applications

International ACAC offers conference bursaries to encourage extended participation in the annual conference. Bursaries support members who work at institutions that are not able to financially support their attendance at the conference, as well as independent counseling and non-profit members.

Conference bursaries may cover part or all of the cost of Early Bird registration fees and on-campus housing. Bursaries do not cover other travel expenses such as flights, visa fees, ground transportation, and miscellaneous incidentals.

[2026 Conference Bursary Application](#)

The deadline to apply is Friday, **January 9**. Notification of awards will be sent in February.

International ACAC Counselor Bus Tour

The International ACAC Counselor Bus Tour will again take place immediately after the conclusion of the annual conference in Pittsburgh. The Bus Tour team is planning a schedule from July 17-23 (six nights), which will include visits to approximately 10-12 diverse university campuses between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. We anticipate including up to 30 counselors, who will be selected through an application process. More information, including the application form, will be released in early 2026.

Registration Timeline & Conference Costs

See the [registration timeline and conference costs](#).

Please note that there is tiered pricing based on when you register. Renew your membership and register early to ensure you get the best rate possible!

Conference Schedule Overview

The initial schedule for the 2026 Conference is now available. [Find it here!](#) A more detailed schedule will be shared in the coming months.

Conference Website

Carnegie Mellon University and The University of Pittsburgh are excited to welcome you to Pennsylvania in July! **We are all #BridgeBuilders.**

Learn more about the schools and the city of Pittsburgh on the [conference website](#).

#BridgeBuilders Photo Challenge

Building bridges is what International ACAC is all about. Our members bridge cultural differences, connect communities around the world, and traverse myriad challenges to promote international student mobility.

Show us how you and other members are **#BridgeBuilders**! We want to highlight our community and celebrate the ways in which we work together. Email your photos to Admin@InternationalACAC.org for a chance to be featured on our website, in upcoming conference updates, and at the annual conference in Pittsburgh. **Bonus points if you are able to feature a bridge in your photo!*

#BridgeBuilders

