ISF Autumn 2012- Forum Results

1: What events would you like to see during the year?

- Something where we can meet other students (13)
  - Food socials, festivals
- Excursions out of Hyde Park (6)
  - Downtown concerts, boat tour (2), going to neighborhoods (5), outlet mall

Smaller trends (1 each):

- Workshops about UShip
- Book Club
- Academic/Idiomatic English session
- Time Management Workshop
- American Culture Workshop

2: What was the first difference in American culture that stood out to you when you first arrived in the US?

- Communication relationships (8): helpful, friendly, nice, talkative people; but while people are nice and helpful, they keep distance and it’s difficult to build friendships
- Food (5): greasy, fast food, larger portions
- Security Issues (2): obsession with security, anxiety about how to assess what “danger” means
- Taxes/Tips (2)

3. After you arrived in Hyde Park, did you have to go downtown or leave Hyde Park? How did you find information about transport? Was it easy to get where you needed to go?

- No problems/minor problems (26) – Maps in front office are helpful

Smaller trends:

- Hard to understand CTA system
- Easy to find info, but it takes a long time to get somewhere
- Expensive
- Google Maps is confusing, the CTA apps are helpful

4: What is the biggest challenge you face as an international student? What is your biggest concern?

- everything ok/not encountered a problem yet (14)
- Language (7): not understanding; one person mentioned that her friends did not come to OIA events precisely because they do not feel confident with language
- Transfer/exchange students/students-at-large (4): problems with course registration. Are the last to register and do not get into the classes they want, still unresolved despite complaints.
- **SSN (4)**, Without SSN, things are “insanely frustrating”

**Smaller trends** (1 each):

- not enough events to socialize/make friends
- I-House separated from other dorms
- hard to find a job
- Don’t know how much things should cost
- Too many forms to fill out for OIA
- Roommate issues
- Healthcare information
- SALs don’t have an academic adviser

5: **What is one suggestion you would give to make this forum better?**

- Variety of food/drinks (8)

**Smaller Trends** (1 each):

- Hold it before quarter begins
- Should be more interactive
- Should be shorter
- More concise information
- More structured agenda
- Include info on jobs, where to shop, & zip cars

**Other Comments:**

You (OIA) are pretty well organized! Good job!