ISPY Programs

See the group details below and get in touch with their leaders via email or through their Facebook group to get involved!

OISS encourages international spouses and partners to get involved and make your stay at Yale a positive and enriching experience. See the many ISPY events listed below and feel free to contact the group organizers for more details. If you would like to start a group of your own, please contact Molly Hampton, Associate Director for Engagement.[1]

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**African Cultures & Languages Group**

*Returning September 27, Wednesdays, 2:30-3pm, OISS, 421 Temple Street*

This group is for anyone interested in learning more about African Culture and learning some African languages. There will be a different topic every week and all are welcome to attend. Please join the [ISPY African Cultural Group][2] on Facebook for details and updates, and email africanculturalgroup.isp.yale@gmail.com with any questions.

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**Book Club**

*Postponed until Spring 2024*

This group is for anyone interested in reading a short book together to both practice English comprehension and getting to know a great group of people! We will meet each week and discuss a few chapters of our chosen book. If you're interested in learning more, please contact the group leader via email.[4]

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**Chinese Conversation Group**

*Returning September 29, Fridays, 2:30-3:30pm, OISS, 421 Temple Street*

The Chinese Conversation Group provides a relaxing environment that offers opportunities for conversing in Mandarin Chinese. People of all skill levels are welcome, including beginners, experts, native speakers, and everyone in-between. Please join us! You can improve your Chinese and learn more about China and Chinese culture by discussing a variety of topics. Please contact oiss.chinese@gmail.com or on Wechat with ID: Yale OISS Chinese Conversation!

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**Chinese Painting & Calligraphy**
Returning September 28, Thursdays, 3-4:30pm, OISS, 421 Temple Street

Our Chinese Painting and Calligraphy group is excited to try to jump-start this group again with two sessions this spring! Supplies will be provided for these first two sessions, so come learn the art of Chinese Painting. All are welcome and if you’re interested in helping to lead this group, please come to these first two sessions to learn how to get involved! This is an adults only group, so no children please.

Drawing Techniques

Returning September 21, Thursdays, 10 AM - 12 PM - OISS, 421 Temple Street (adults only)

Looking to flex your artistic muscles? Join us for our weekly meetings with Doron Wolf (check out his very impressive art website [6]) to learn various drawing techniques. Explore creativity in our weekly drawing meetings, mastering techniques like line, texture, light and shadow, and color. Immerse yourself as we use pencils, ink, soft pastels chalks, and markers, embarking on a comprehensive journey through drawing methods. Dive into still life, portraits, and landscapes during interactive sessions, nurturing observation and creativity. With group and individual guidance, you’ll gain practical experience to enhance your artistic ability. Whether a beginner or experienced, these sessions foster foundational skills and creativity, propelling your artistry. Join us to refine your craft and reach new heights in a welcoming community; adults only. For updates on weekly sessions, please join the group on WhatsApp [7]!

Pilates Group

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, OISS, 421 Temple Street

Looking to strengthen your body and mind? Join us for our weekly Pilates sessions with Eline Laga, a certified Pilates instructor, and active member of our ISPY community. Classical Pilates corrects muscular imbalances and improves posture, coordination, balance, strength, and flexibility. No prior experience is necessary and all fitness levels are welcome in our judgement-free zone. Release those feel-good endorphins and find your center as you flow through the movements. Leave feeling balanced, strong, and refreshed. For updates on weekly sessions, please join the group on WhatsApp [8]! See you on the mat as we strengthen, stretch, and smile our way to our best selves. Please bring your own mat!

Spanish Conversation Group

Returning September 26, Mondays, 1-2pm, OISS, 421 Temple Street

Our Spanish Conversation Group is back! This group is open to native or intermediate speakers who are looking to come together for an hour each week to socialize in Spanish. Please join us for an hour of good conversation and help us to reinvigorate this group! For weekly updates and more information, please join the group on WhatsApp [9]!

Babies @ Yale

Looking for a new leader! Interested, contact Associate Director of Engagement, Molly Hampton [10]

This playgroup is an ideal opportunity for little ones to begin socializing and learning about group play. This is also a great meeting place for parents and caregivers looking for opportunities to practice speaking English, and for everyone to share experiences, tips and ideas. As the International Center does not offer a child-proof setting, Babies @ Yale is recommended for babies and toddlers that will be content playing together behind the glass partition (up to approximately one year). The OISS has a limited number of toys and books available to the group. Families are invited to bring their own activities to share with the group. If you are interested in joining the group, and for details regarding summer meeting locations, please join the Babies @ Yale Facebook group [11].
Toddlers at Yale

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00am - 12:00pm - parks in New Haven (see Facebook group for details)

Meet fellow parents, bring your toddlers, and bond over shared experiences as international families in New Haven! This is best for toddlers ages 1-4. Please join the Toddlers at Yale Facebook group [12] to get updated information.

Job Hunters

Looking for a new leader! Interested, contact Associate Director of Engagement, Molly Hampton [10]

Are you looking for a job? (Or will you be looking for one in the future?) Join our group and learn from others about creating effective resumes in the American way and writing superb cover letters, networking like a pro, nailing job interviews, and in general just to get support through the (sometimes stressful) process of job hunting. You don't have to go through it alone! For more information please find us on the Job Hunters Facebook page [13]!