

UAW 4121

International Solidarity Working Group



We are members of UAW Local 4121 concerned with matters affecting international student/scholar members of our union. Our union is comprised of more than 1,000 international students/scholars from virtually every country in the world. We are led by the rich experiences and deep expertise of international students/scholars and from researchers working on global issues to accomplish the following objectives:

- > Identify the challenges faced by international ASEs/Postdocs at the UW, and address them in the context of our collective bargaining agreement.
- > Advocate for the equal right of international ASEs/Postdocs to access resources needed to fulfill academic and professional goals.
- > Develop strategies to connect with and support larger global social justice movements.



Scan the QR code to learn more about who we are, what we do, and how to get involved!

**The Union of Academic Student Employees
and Postdocs at the University of Washington**

www.uaw4121.org



How does the union differ from other offices on campus?

Offices on campus like ISS, ISO, and FIUTS are affiliated with the university or the Graduate School. They provide necessary information to international students and help students navigate immigration law and policies. In contrast, our union is run democratically by ASEs and postdocs. We are affiliated with the United Auto Workers (UAW), which is an international union, through which we build power for better wages and working conditions. We use our voices on a national level and work collectively on policies affecting budgets, working conditions, immigration, and much more!

What does being involved in US politics mean?

Why is it important to non-US citizen ASEs?

Speaking up on issues in US politics is fundamental to building power and leading change, and is protected regardless of your citizenship or immigration status. Through collective action, non-US citizen ASEs have played important roles in changing local, state, and federal policies for the well-being of all ASEs. That said, non-US citizen ASEs sometimes hesitate to get involved with US politics because of the fear of deportation or retaliation. However, **all ASEs are protected by our collective bargaining agreement from retaliation or discrimination in the workplace for participating in political activities.** Additionally, we aren't aware of any case of an international student being retaliated against for joining the union. According to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "[t]he...U.S. Constitution protects demonstration, peaceful protest, and freedom of expression. International students are also protected."

What are the stakes of getting involved?

No time commitment is required. Once you're signed up, you'll remain as a member! You will pay dues for the quarters you have an ASE appointment. Everyone represented by the union receives the protections and benefits. Members come together to pool our resources to continue improving our rights and protections. **All ASEs regardless of citizenship or immigration status are eligible for membership, and your membership status is not public information.** In fact, non-citizen ASEs and Postdocs make up more than 30% of those represented by our union.

What can the union provide that ISS/ISO cannot when int'l scholars face different challenges?

Our union provides a platform where you can **connect with other international students and scholars** and build community and solidarity. Members of ISW have advocated for policy change on various levels, hosted info sessions, organized protests, and offered peer-to-peer support to other international scholars. We have resources for legal consultation to seek advice from immigration lawyers. That said, our work is shaped by the people who participate. Join us for our weekly meetings by emailing intl-workgroup@uaw4121.org.