FROM THE FRONT

"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it"
AMANDA GORMAN POET AND ACTIVIST

Internship standard for international students reviewed

INTERNSHIP FROM PAGE 1

after the first memo, that his office was "not planning to make any changes" to its process of approving the Curricular Practical Training program at the time.

"OISS has been reviewing this guidance and working directly with individual schools and programs to ensure CPT requests clearly meet the standard that CPT must be an integral part of an established curriculum and directly related to a student's major area of study," Say wrote in a Tuesday email to the News, citing the second ICE memo. "We are confirming program requirements as part of that review."

ICE's second message, on Aug. 24, clarified that schools cannot approve internships for international students based on optional courses. Yale will continue processing internship approvals when practical training is required for students' academic programs, Say wrote.

Last week, Harvard halted CPT approval for most of its schools, and Princeton said it would likely not approve more CPT, while Brown said it will temporarily restrict approval. Universities across the country have similarly paused CPT authorization or tightened their policies.

Say wrote that he has not released a "broad announcement" yet because the office has been coordinating with individual schools and programs to determine whether the program meets the requirements for CPT approval. His office will share further updates as more information becomes available, he added.

In its first memo to universities that sponsor student visas, on Aug. 12, ICE said designated school officials are certifying sponsorship information under the penalty of perjury and emphasized that they must only approve internships that are "truly integral" to students' academic programs.

The federal government has seen a rise in "authorizations that do not meet regulatory requirements, specifically those not constituting an integral part of an established curriculum," ICE also said in that memo.

ICE's two August messages and Yale's review follow the Trump administration's series of efforts to limit international students' ability to study and work in the U.S.

In July, the Department of Homeland Security announced a rule that established a "fixed time period of admission and an extension of stay procedure" for international students and scholars admitted into the nation on an F-1 or J-1 visa.

Prior to that change, international students and scholars could stay as long as they met the requirements of their F-1 and J-1 status, which include making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degree or research projects. Now, they are admitted for a fixed length of up to four years, and students whose programs extend beyond these four years need to apply for an extension of stay.

International students see threat to career exploration

Five international students at Yale told the News they were concerned about the updates from ICE and worried Yale could be next to limit CPT approval. All five students spoke under the condition of anonymity fearing retaliation from the federal government.

"To be honest, I feel a little bit stressed," one graduate student said. "I know it is really difficult to find a job in the U.S. after graduation as an international student, and it is really important to get an internship during the summer to find a job after you graduate."

She further said it is relatively common for graduates of her program to pursue careers not directly related to their field of study. By strictly limiting international students to pursuing only internships directly related to their field of study, she said, the tightening of CPT approvals could have a great effect on the career choice of the international graduates of Yale.

"My first reaction was that this could change almost all of the career plans I had made before coming to Yale," another graduate student wrote in a text message to the News. "My original plan was to finish my PhD, work in the U.S. for a couple of years to gain industry experience, and then decide what I wanted to do next. What concerns me most is the uncertainty."

The student further wrote that she had not expected such changes to U.S. student visa programs when she applied to Yale. Had she known about this beforehand, she said it would factor into how she compared studying in the United States with that in other countries.

"The ability to do internships and potentially work in the U.S. after graduation was also part of how I imagined my Ph.D experience and my career," she wrote.

An undergraduate student said in an interview that restricting international students' ability to pursue internships outside her specific field could hurt their college experience.

"College is precisely when students are supposed to explore what kind of work they want to do. An internship can answer questions that a classroom simply cannot," she said. "So requiring the experience to already be embedded as a mandatory degree restricts exploration before students know what direction they want to pursue."

Yale had 1,230 students in practical training programs, including CPT, in 2024, according to the OISS.

Contact
LEO NYBERG *at leo.nyberg@yale.edu and*
GILLIAN PEIHE FENG *at peihe.feng@yale.edu.*

After year of cuts, students blast Lewis' leadership

LEWIS FROM PAGE 1

complaining — or not necessarily complaining, but giving their feedback on cuts that we weren't notified of prior to them being cut," Sinkler added.

In the spring, Lewis apologized for "any perception" that he might not recognize the funding phaseout's effects on students. Lewis told the News in March that he had forgotten about the changes to summer storage support and did not mention the phaseout in a meeting with Yale College Council leaders.

In his email, Strobel wrote that Lewis' current five-year term is set to end in June 2027. The provost's message linked to a form with an open space for comments, which Strobel wrote would be considered confidential. The form lists faculty, staff, students and members of The Parents Leadership Council — a group that engages in volunteer work and philanthropy related to the College — as possible respondents.

"As we consider Dean Lewis's reappointment, President McInnis and I are eager for the community's input," Strobel wrote. "We are particularly interested in your thoughts about the state of Yale College under Dean Lewis's leadership, his strategic vision, and his ability to guide Yale College into the future."

Six of the seven students interviewed by the News on Monday said they had a generally negative impression of Lewis, and the same number expressed doubt that the administration would take survey responses seriously when deciding on Lewis' reappointment.

Emily Singh '28 said that she didn't think the survey results would be taken into consideration, claiming that from her perspective, student advocacy has "not been received very well by administration" in the years that she has been at Yale.

Strobel did not immediately respond to a request for details behind the reappointment process, including how students' response will be incorporated.

Elsa Holahan '27 said she was not planning on filling out the form, in part because she was unclear about what Lewis' role as dean entailed. Four of the seven interviewed students, including first-years, said they were not aware of the specifics of Lewis' job or the policies he has pursued.

"I think any administrative job feels somewhat unattached to student life," Holahan said. "I also don't know how well they communicate what these administrators do in general. I don't think it's something specific to him, but I don't know what anybody on Hillhouse does."

Lewis wrote in a Monday statement to the News that he is aware that the budget cuts made last year were not ideal. He said that he hopes to create more opportunities for students moving forward, citing the announcement of free laundry for undergraduates last spring.

"Fortunately, although we had to make some difficult decisions last year, the College budget is now balanced so I expect we will be on a pretty even keel going forward financially," he wrote.

In anticipation of the endowment tax hike that took effect this July, Lewis' office halved the number of non-competitive summer grants available to students on financial aid. The move, which was announced last November, was met with a YCC-sponsored petition that demanded the restoration of funding and was signed by a quarter of undergraduates.

Jonah Hicks '30 said that in his first weeks at Yale, he has heard from upperclassmen that Lewis is "not a very well liked figure," but that he was not sure why.

Singh said the overall impression she has received of Lewis from her friends and the broader campus community was "not favorable."

Four out of the seven students mentioned unprompted Lewis' comment that students should "not to buy too much stuff."

Nelly Cepeda '29 said that Lewis "doesn't get Yale," adding that she felt as though there was a limited period of time for her and her friends to adjust their storage plans once they found out about the summer storage funding phaseout.

"That really put a sour taste in my mouth," Cepeda said.

Lewis said that he is proud of the progress he has made with students. The dean wrote that he feels a sense of accomplishment knowing he has worked with students to expand financial aid for low- and middle-income students and strengthened academic advising.

Lewis was named dean of Yale College in May 2022.

Contact
ANAYAH ACCILIEN
at anayah.accilien@yale.edu
SARA AGRAWAL
at sara.agrawal@yale.edu.



Garrett Curtis / Staff Photographer
Pericles Lewis, who is being considered for a second term as Yale College dean, came under fire last year for unpopular budgetary decisions.

Yale becomes final Ivy to welcome ombudsperson

OMBUDSPERSON FROM PAGE 1

role, and my sense is that the University is as well," Osborne-Adams said in a Wednesday interview.

The structural independence of an ombudsperson "allows it, in practicality and perception, to be free," Osborne-Adams said, adding that that independence leads to impartiality, which in turn "inspires trust" in the role. She emphasized that community members can come to her with anything, noting that "there's no concern that's too small."

University President Maurie McInnis announced last October that Yale was creating an ombudsperson position, and that a search advisory committee had been formed. The news arrived after years of faculty and student calls to establish an ombuds office at Yale, which was the last Ivy League institution to add the position.

Osborne-Adams, whose selection was announced in May, began her role on Sept. 1. Before coming to Yale, Osborne-Adams had served as ombudsperson at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 2018. In addition to previous ombuds positions at other universities, her legal experience includes work in the federal judiciary.

"I hope that adding a university ombudsperson will strengthen Yale's community by providing a confidential, neutral, and independent place to navigate workplace or academic concerns and clarify goals and options," McInnis wrote in a Tuesday email to the News.

McInnis added that she anticipates "the role will help Yale address systemic issues by engaging constructively across the community while remaining separate from formal dispute-resolution channels."

"Dawn Osborne-Adams stood out for her expertise, judgment, and deep commitment to this work, and we are excited to welcome her to Yale," Elizabeth Conklin and David Post, co-chairs of the search advisory committee who selected Osborne-Adams, wrote in a joint Thursday statement to the News.

Osborne-Adams said as the inaugural ombudsperson, she understands many people may not understand the position and looks forward to beginning "a journey to cultivate understanding across campus."

The co-chairs added that since the position is new for Yale, they "want to make sure the community has a clear picture of what an ombudsperson is and is not." The role is grounded in four core values — confidentiality, impartiality, independence and informality — they wrote.

"While the ombudsperson reports directly to me, Dawn Osborne-Adams operates independently of existing formal or informal dispute resolution procedures and administrative offices," McInnis wrote in her Tuesday email. "In addition, the ombudsperson works under rigorous confidentiality standards."

As an ombudsperson, Osborne-Adams works to support "informed, deliberate and enlightened decisions," with the individual retaining control, she said.

When asked about her long-term goals, Osborne-Adams said she hopes to "create something that's going to sustain over time." For that to happen, she said, a "foundation needs to be built" through "many, many conversations," as she works to understand "the soul and fabric of the University."

Alex Rich GRD '27 was president of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate the year prior to serving on the search advisory committee, and said she had "extensively talked" with McInnis about establishing an ombudsperson position. She was invited to join the committee when it was later convened.

Having a neutral and confidential source for people to approach is critical, Rich said, emphasizing the importance of a "guarantee of confidentiality" for graduate and professional students.

"If you have an issue with your mentor or a member on your thesis committee, oftentimes you're directed to talk to your director of graduate studies, which is another faculty team member in the department," she said. "So oftentimes that kind of creates a tension, a lot of students won't report issues because of that."

Another important role of the ombudsperson is directing people towards the correct resources, Rich, who was the only student on the five person search advisory committee, said.

"We have so many resources on Yale's campus," Rich said. "It's just that people can't find them and they're super decentralized and no one knows how to access them."

She said that the committee received feedback that people wanted someone knowledgeable who could walk them through their options and direct them towards the proper resources.

Raekwon Fuller DRA '27, the current president of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate, is in his third year in the leadership body. He recalled years of conversations about the addition of an ombudsperson from his previous roles as co-chair of the advocacy committee and general senate body member.

"I think the ombudsperson acting as an impartial, neutral source is actually very healthy for the relationship and communication between Yale faculty, staff and students and the administration," Fuller said.

Dartmouth was the latest Ivy League before Yale to implement an ombudsperson in 2022.

Contact
ARIA LYNN-SKOV
at aria.lynn-skov@yale.edu.