

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

**Included In This Issue:****Welcome****ISS Office Hours****New Pick-UP Policy****Fall International Orientation****Employment Workshop****HUB Writing Center****I-20s and Winter Travel****Optional Practical Training (OPT)****Coffee Morning****WELCOME!**

Welcome to all new and returning students! We look forward to serving your F-1 needs while you study here at SCU. Please remember that we are here to help you with any immigration questions or issues you may be facing. We hope that your transition so far has been smooth. Please contact International Student Services (ISS) if there is any way that we can help ease the whole adjustment process for you. In addition, if you have any suggestions for the content of future newsletters or programs, we would love to hear from you.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES WALK-IN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Please note that no appointments are necessary during the walk-in office hours. Feel free to simply stop by. In the afternoons though, **we do ask that you please contact our office to schedule an appointment.** We want to limit the amount of advising in the afternoon, so that we are able to process your paperwork requests. So, if afternoons work better for you, please contact Erik Tata at 551-7037 to schedule an appointment.

NEW PICK-UP POLICY

In order to pick-up any documents from ISS (I-20s, SSN letters, etc.), you will need to present your Access Card for verification of your identification. Moreover, if you are asking a friend to pick up a document for you, you will need to send an email to ISS informing us of your friend's name who will be picking up documents on your behalf. Your friend would then need to present her/his Access Card to ISS Staff for verification purposes. This

new policy will take effect immediately and is intended to protect your privacy. Thank you for your cooperation!

FALL INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

At the Fall Orientation last month, we welcomed **173** new F-1 international students to the SCU community.

Graduate Students: **84**Undergraduate Students: **77**Exchange Students: **12**

International Student Services would like to thank all of you who participated in the Fall International Student Orientation. As always, your valuable input and support is greatly appreciated.

Also, if you have any suggestions or comments for future orientations, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are always looking for ways to improve and any feedback would much appreciated.

THE COUNTRIES THESE NEW STUDENTS REPRESENT:

Our new students represent 48 different countries, which include:

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Eritrea, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this workshop and learn about the H-1 B sponsorship process and F-1 employment options, as well as internet tools such as the H-1B Base and LinkedIn:

Wednesday, November 11th from 11:00 – 1:00pm in Benson Center, Williman Room.

The first segment of the workshop will focus on F-1 employment guidelines and the second segment will provide you with all the information you need to know about obtaining an H-1 B visa. Addie Hogan, Immigration Attorney, will host the H-1B segment. Ms. Hogan earned her J.D. at Santa Clara University Law School and graduated cum laude from University of California, Los Angeles with a double major in Psychology and Political Science.

Please RSVP to Erik Tata at etata@scu.edu.

HUB WRITING CENTER

HUB Writing Partners are especially trained to work with students for whom English is not their native language.

Working with a HUB Writing Partner will help students understand an assignment's requirements, will show them how to organize their ideas to best meet those requirements, and will show students how to revise and edit their writing.

**HUB Writing Center is located in Varsi Hall 145
Open for drop-ins every Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, from 3 till 11 pm**

WINTER TRAVEL

If you are an F-1 visa holder and are planning a trip outside of the U.S., please don't forget to check page 3 of your I-20 before you depart. If the document has not been SIGNED on page 3 within the past year for travel, you must request a travel signature from an ISS advisor.

PLEASE NOTE: Keep in mind that the signature is valid for one year, for multiple entries. (For students who are on post-completion practical training, however, the signature is valid for six months, not one year). To request the signature, please bring your I-20 to ISS, at least one week before departure.

In addition to the I-20, you will also need a valid f-1 visa stamp. It is recommended that you also carry your previous I-20s and an unofficial copy of your transcript in addition to recent financial documents.

If you are on OPT, you will also need your EAD card and a job offer letter.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

If you have graduated and have started your Optional Practical Training, please remember to bring in a copy of your EAD card when you receive it so that we can have it on record. You may also fax us a copy of the card to: 408-554 -2709. Also, please remember to provide us with your employer information as the interim OPT rule mandates that students need to be employed within 90 days of the OPT start date. Thank you.

If you plan to graduate this December, please be sure to turn in all your OPT paperwork at least 90 days prior to your intended OPT start date. The OPT process may seem confusing and overwhelming so feel free to make an appointment with either Gillian or Parinaz or to drop in during walk-in office hours for advise.

COFFEE MORNING

Come join us at the next Coffee Morning social on **Wednesday, November 18th from 10-11 am in the HUB Writing Center, located in Varsi Hall 145.** Coffee Morning is an informal monthly gathering providing you with an opportunity to get acquainted with other international students at SCU. It is a fun way to meet new people or simply gather with old friends for good conversation. This particular Coffee Morning will allow you to become familiar with the HUB's venue and resources. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with Erik Tata at: ETata@scu.edu . We hope to see you there!

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OF YOU THIS FALL QUARTER AND BEYOND!

Please remember that you must contact ISS immediately if you change your address, change your name or dependent's legal name, need a reduction in course load, or graduate early or prior to your program end date.

If you have received this email in error or would like to be taken off the international student mailing list, please contact Erik Tata at ETata@scu.edu

Tel: 408-551-7037 (ISS Front Office)

Gillian August-Thorp 408-554-5260 or Parinaz Zartoshty 408-551-7090