

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

**Included In This Issue:****Welcome****ISS Office Hours****Fall International Orientation****I-20s and Winter Travel****SEVIS Fee Increase****Form I-765 Update****Optional Practical Training (OPT)****Employment Workshop****Coffee Mornings****WELCOME!**

Welcome to all new and returning students! The staff at International Student Services (ISS) looks 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 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.

FALL INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

At the Fall Orientation last month, we welcomed **212** new F-1 international students to the SCU community. Additionally, we had 15 students on the J-1 Visa join us.

Graduate Students: **162**
Undergraduate Students: **35**
Exchange Students: **15**

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.

40 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES REPRESENTED:

The new F-1 students welcomed this Fall represent 40 different countries. These include:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Burma, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, UK, Vietnam.

To view photos from the orientation, please visit the following web page:

<http://www.scu.edu/advising/internationalstudents/orientation.cfm>

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: The signature is valid for one year, for multiple entries. However, for students who are on post-completion optional practical training (OPT), the signature is valid for six months, not one year. To

request the signature, please bring your document to ISS, at least one week before departure.

SEVIS FEE INCREASE

Congress has mandated a fee increase to support the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). As such, the new I-901 SEVIS Fee will increase from \$100 to \$200 and will be implemented on October 27th, 2008 (30 days after rule publication). Most applicants for admission to F-1 and J-1 programs in the United States must pay a SEVIS fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The fee is generally paid before an application for a visa can be made. For more information about this fee (also called the I-901 fee), please visit the following web page: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/index.htm>

FORM I-765 UPDATE

If you will be applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT), please be sure that the I-765 form you submit has the following revised date on it: 05/27/08. No previous editions will be accepted by USCIS.

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 new 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 can be 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 assistance.

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:

**Wednesday, November 12th from 11:00am – 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. Charina Garcia, Immigration Attorney, will host the H-1B segment.

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

COFFEE MORNING

Come join us at the next Coffee Morning social on **December 3rd, Benson Center, Conference Room 21**. 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. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with Erik Tata at: ETata@scu.edu. We hope to see you there!

**MUCH SUCCESS 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)

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