

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

**Included In This Issue:****Welcome****ISS Office Hours****Winter International Orientation****I-20s and Spring Travel****Form I-765 Update****Optional Practical Training (OPT)****Tax Information****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.

WINTER INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

At the Winter Orientation last month, we welcomed **45** new F-1 international students to the SCU community.

Graduate Engineering: **26**Graduate Business: **5**CP&E: **1**Undergraduate: **3**Undergraduate Exchange Students: **4**Law Exchange Students: **6**

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

THE COUNTRIES THESE NEW STUDENTS REPRESENT:

These new students represent 18 very diverse countries, which include:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, UK, Vietnam, West Bank.

TRAVEL DURING SPRING BREAK

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 document to ISS, at least one week before departure.

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: 10/06/08 and an expiration date of: 09/30/11. 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 March, please be sure to turn in all your OPT paperwork at least 90 days prior to your intended OPT start date, although you may apply up to 60 days after graduation. It normally takes 80-90 days to receive the EAD card so earlier application is recommended. For general information on the OPT process, please go to the link below:

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

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 advice.

TAX INFORMATION

Please note that **All** foreign students must complete the form 8843. Those of you with United States source income must file a tax return (1040NREZ) if you meet the filing requirements. A nonresident who received any wages last year **must file a tax return by April 15, 2008.**

IRS Forms:

F-1 students file either Form 1040NR or Form 1040NREZ. Form 1040NR is 5 pages long and can accommodate all types of income and expenses. Form 1040NREZ is only 2 pages long and is limited to specific situations. For information on which form to fill out please visit the following link:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=96431,00.html>

- 1040EZ and Instructions:
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nr.pdf>

- 1040NR: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040ez.pdf>
- 8843: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

All forms must be mailed to:

Internal Revenue Service
Philadelphia, PA 19255

Remember to keep a copy of everything you submit to IRS

If you require **assistance** in filing any of the above forms please contact one of the following organizations for **FREE** legal advise:

Tax Payers Assistance at 1-800-829-1040. The phone line is open Monday through Friday from 4am to 7pm.

Catholic Charities - Zanker
2625 Zanker Road -- 95134
By Appt. Only, call (408) 325-5124

Also, the following website from the University of Texas at Austin can be used and is designed specifically to help foreign students meet their U.S. tax obligations: <http://www.utexas.edu/international/taxes/>. UTA welcomes users from across the nation to access their site.

In addition, students are welcome to call the IRS Philadelphia Service Center to assist you over the phone or email IRS with your questions. That phone number is 215-516-2000 and the email address is www.irs.gov/taxlaw - then select alien issues.

Frequently asked questions:
<http://www.irs.gov/faqs/index.html>

MUCH SUCCESS TO ALL OF YOU THIS WINTER 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