



International Student Services Newsletter:

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International Student Services (ISS) sends out a quarterly newsletter. Since it contains the latest information about immigration and ISS services, it is very important that you read it!

Welcome

Welcome to all new students who arrived at Santa Clara this Spring. We look forward to serving your F-1 needs while you study here at Santa Clara. 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 we can help ease the whole process of acclimation for you.

STAFF CHANGES

Erik Tata, our new student intern, has joined the ISS team this Spring. Erik will be a sophomore this Fall. He is majoring in Finance. He adds even more diversity to our already international office, being half Indian and half Filipino. Although Erik was raised in McLean, Virginia, he spent three years in Uganda. Welcome Erik!

We also want to take this opportunity to say good-bye to Ariel Lee, our previous intern, who graduated in June. We will miss her but know that she has a bright future ahead of her. Congratulations Ariel!

ISS OFFICE LOCATION FOR THE SUMMER:

Please note that our office has been temporarily moved to the Campus Ministry Conference Room on the first floor of Benson Center, next to the information booth. We will be in this location, while they reconstruct and reconfigure our old space. We hope to be back in our permanent location effective August 18th! Our contact information remains the same.

FALL INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION – Want to help out and meet the new students?

This Fall's orientation will be held on Thursday, September 18th, from 3 – 5:15 pm in Benson Center, Williman Room. We are looking for both panelists for the American Culture 101 segment of the orientation and also for students to help Erik with checking in the documents and setting up the room. If you want to share your experience with the new students or come meet them afterwards, we would love your assistance in welcoming them to our community. If you would like to help out, please email Erik Tata at Etata@scu.edu.

INTERIM OPT RULE:

Our phones were ringing off the hook and our emails were inundated with messages from panicked students.

Here is a brief synopsis of the interim OPT rule, which became effective April 4, 2008. Please read the entire selection and then contact either Parinaz or Gillian if you still have any questions or concerns.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security released an interim final rule on Friday, April 4, 2008, extending the period of Optional Practical Training (OPT) from 12 to 29 months for **qualified F-1 non-immigrant students**. The extension will be available to F-1 students with a degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) who are employed by businesses in the E-Verify program. E-Verify is a free internet-based system operated by USCIS, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, which determines a new employee's eligibility to work.

The general provisions for this interim rule are:

- F-1 students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) fields and granted initial post-completion OPT are now eligible to apply for a one-time extension for 17 additional months, a maximum of 29 months.
- STEM students need to file form I-765. The form is being amended to capture information needed to determine student eligibility.
- F-1 students file timely (at least 90 days prior) for a STEM extension may continue employment while the application is pending until a final decision from USCIS, or 180 days, whichever comes first.
- Approved extensions allow for students to remain working for the STEM employer on the new EAD. If denied, the student must make preparations to depart or transfer to another school to continue studying.

To be eligible for the 17-month OPT extension, a student must have received a STEM degree in one of the following:

- Actuarial Science.
- Computer Science Applications.
- Engineering.
- Engineering Technologies.
- Life Sciences.
- Mathematics.
- Military Technologies.
- Physical Sciences.

Another aspect of the rule responds to the situation in which an F-1 student's status and work authorization expires *before* he/she can begin employment under the H-1B visa program. The interim rule addresses these problems by automatically extending the period of stay

and work authorization for students with *pending* H-1B petitions.

Cap Gap:

- "Cap-gap" occurs when an academic foreign student's (F-1) status and work authorization expire during the current fiscal year before the student can start approved H-1B employment during the next fiscal year beginning on October 1.
- This new interim final rule provides a permanent solution to the H-1B "cap-gap". Previous cap-gap provisions extended only the stay but not the employment authorization.
- F-1 classified non-immigrant students whose employer has filed an H-1B petition on their behalf and whose petition is selected, may now receive an extended/authorized stay for employment.

The interim final rule and additional information on the H-1B program is available at www.dhs.gov.

Also:**New USCIS regulations now mandate that students on post-completion OPT need to report the following information to their DSOs (Designated School Officials)**

- 1) Employers' Name and Address
- 2) Any change in your home address
- 3) Any periods of unemployment while on OPT

In addition, our office will need a copy of your EAD card on file. You may fax this to our office at (408 554-2709) or email us the information. It is crucial that you notify us of any changes in the above information during your time on OPT.

Under the new interim OPT rule, during the post-completion OPT period, F-1 student status is dependent upon employment. As a result, during any initial 12-month period of post-completion OPT, no student may be unemployed for an aggregate of more than 90 days. Otherwise the I-20 becomes INVALID.

SUMMER CO-OP REGISTRATIONS

Co-op Program registrations for eligible Engineering students will not be available for these two periods during the summer: July 16-25 and August 18-29. The reason for this is limited staff availability during the summer due to vacation schedules.

To process your co-op paperwork outside of these dates, please contact Enzie Lagattuta in the Career Center at elagattuta@scu.edu or 408-554-4420.

EMPLOYMENT REMINDERS

- All paid off-campus employment MUST be authorized by ISS before you begin working.
- All F-1 status students are eligible for on-campus employment.
- Employment is limited to students in specific programs. For complete information, please visit the following employment web page at: <http://www.scu.edu/F1/empl-offcampus.cfm> or contact International Student Services (ISS).

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.

- To re-enter the United States after a temporary leave of absence, international students will be required to show the immigration official at the port of entry a current passport, a valid F-1 visa, and the Form I-20 endorsed for travel by a DSO within the past 12 months. Students are encouraged to carry official transcripts, latest financial documents and enrollment verification as some students have been asked to provide these documents at the point of entry.
- US-VISIT Program: US-VISIT is an automated entry/exit system that will be applied to all visitors to the U.S., including F-1 and J-1 students and scholars.
- For up-to-date U.S. Department of State travel warnings please visit: http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html#s

COFFEE MORNINGS:

International Student Services will resume its Coffee mornings in the Fall. **What is a Coffee Morning?** It is an informal social gathering, offered on a monthly basis, providing an opportunity to get acquainted with other international students at SCU. Spouses are also welcome. The first Coffee Morning of the Fall quarter will be held on **Wednesday, October 8th, from 10-11 am in Conference Room #21 in Benson Center**. Please RSVP to Erik Tata via email: Etata@scu.edu. Refreshments will be served.

ADD TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any fun announcements, or would like to submit your art or writing, please send in your work to Parinaz or Gillian. We hope to get many contributions for our Fall issue!

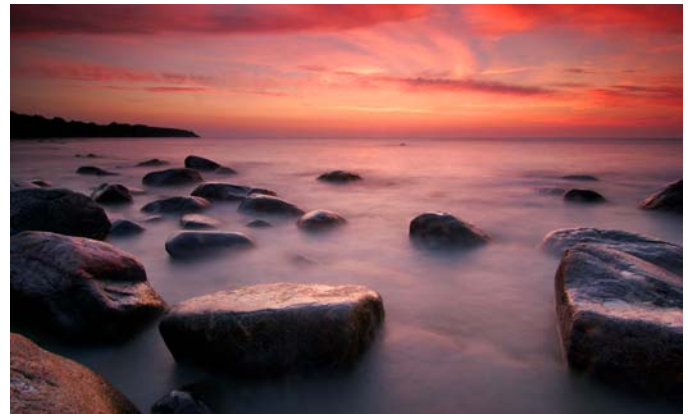
WALK-IN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9:00 am-12:00 noon

The Walk-in Office Hours will remain the same for the Summer and Fall quarters. Please continue to observe the allotted hours for walk-in times and remember to always call in advance to make an advising appointment in the afternoons. Thank you!

Parinaz in the office Monday-Wednesday:
408-551-7090 or pzartoshty@scu.edu

Gillian in the office Wednesday – Friday:
408-554-5260 or gthorp@scu.edu



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!

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.