

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

**Included In This Issue:****Greeting****ISS Office Hours****Winter International Orientation****Tax Information****HUB Writing Center****Optional Practical Training (OPT)****Monitor the End Date on your I-20****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and resolve anew for the future. For most of our readers, a new year also brings a new school term, and that fresh outlook can get you through (at least to spring break!).

We at ISS wish you all a great 2010!

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

This winter, we welcomed **37** new F-1 international students to the SCU community.

Graduate Engineering Students: 25
Graduate Business Students: 1
Undergraduate Students: 2
Law Exchange Students: 6
Undergraduate Exchange Students: 3

THE COUNTRIES THESE NEW STUDENTS REPRESENT:

Our new students represent 11 different countries, which include:

Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, India, Iran, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland.

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.

TAX INFORMATION

It's that time of year again!!

With the start of the New Year, people across the U.S. get ready to file their income taxes. In general, a nonresident who received any wages must file a tax return by April 15, 2010. U.S. Tax laws, like immigration regulations, are complex and change frequently. Please visit the internet resources below to find the most current information about your U.S. tax responsibilities.

IRS Forms:

Please note that **Form 8843** must be filed regardless if income was earned or not. If you do not need to file any other tax form/return besides form 8843, the deadline is June 15. If you require assistance with Form 8843, please feel free to contact ISS.

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

Frequently asked questions:

<http://www.irs.gov/faqs/faq13-6.html>

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/index.html>

- [1040EZ](#) and [Instructions](#)
- [1040NR](#)
- [8843](#)-all F-1 students must file this form each year regardless of whether or not you earned income in the US.

All forms must be mailed to:

**Internal Revenue Service
Austin, TX 73301**

Remember to keep a copy of everything you submit to IRS.

If you require assistance in filing your taxes, please contact one of the following organizations for FREE legal advice:

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

Catholic Charities - Eastside Neighborhood Center
2150 Alum Rock Ave. -- 95116
Thursdays (Mar. 10 - Apr. 14), 5pm - 8pm

Catholic Charities - Zanker
2625 Zanker Rd. -- 95134
By Appt. Only, call (408) 325-5124
Wednesdays (Feb. 9 - Apr. 13), 4:30pm - 7:30pm

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.

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**

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

If you have graduated and have started your Optional Practical Training, please remember to submit a copy of your EAD card when you receive it either in person, by fax or email, so that we can have it on record. Please also 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 March or June, 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.

Also please note this important change in the mailing address for OPT applications:

In a February 24, 2010 USCIS News Update, USCIS has announced a change in the mailing address locations for all I-765 applications. This includes applications for F-1 Optional Practical Training, STEM OPT Extensions, and Economic Hardship, Employment with an International Organization, and J-2 employment authorization.

Beginning NOW, I-765 application must be sent to a designated USCIS Lockbox facility. Applications will be reviewed and sorted at the Lockbox facility, and complete applications will be forwarded on to the appropriate Service Center for processing. Lockbox locations for filing the I-765 for F-1 Optional Practical Training applications are as follows if you live in **California:**

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Mail your application to:

USCIS Phoenix Lockbox
For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) deliveries:
USCIS
PO Box 21281
Phoenix, AZ 85036

For Express mail and courier deliveries:
USCIS
Attn: AOS
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S
Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034

MONITOR THE END DATE ON YOUR I-20

Please continue to check the end date on your I-20 and request an extension with ISS **BEFORE** the I-20 expires by filling out the appropriate paper work. For more information on requesting an extension to your program of study, please contact one of the ISS advisors.

**BEST OF LUCK 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