

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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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 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. If afternoons work better for you, please contact the International Student Services Front Desk at 408-551-7037 or Gillian August-Thorp at 554-5260 or Parinaz Zartoshty at 408-551-7090 to schedule an appointment.

SPRING INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION

This spring, we welcomed **26** new international students to the SCU community. Of the 26 new students, 19 are Graduate Engineers, 6 MBA and 1 Undergraduate Exchange student. New students were welcomed to the University and then listened to presentations concerning

health insurance, immigration matters, International Programs and Club, adjustment issues, and employment opportunities.

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

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING

If you have applied for 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 file. You may also fax a copy of the card to: 408-554 -2709. In addition, please remember that current **USCIS regulations mandate that students on post-completion OPT need to report the following information to ISS:**

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

Also please remember that students on Post-Completion OPT may not accrue an aggregate of more than 90 days of unemployment under the initial 12-month period of OPT. No 60-day grace period is allowed. Days of unemployment will be counted from the start date indicated on the EAD card.

One Solution: Immigration has provided an opportunity for students to volunteer with a non-profit organization, or participate in an unpaid internship for at least 20 hours a week. If students **volunteer or intern without pay** at least 20 hours per week in their area of study

(where this does not violate any labor laws), this time would **not** be counted against the 90 days of unemployment.

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 advice.

Additionally, general information on the OPT process can be found at the following link:

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

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. However, you may **not** exceed 20 hours per week while school is in session. F-1 students may engage in up to 40 hours per week of on-campus employment during breaks and during the summer quarter!

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP SYNOPSIS

ISS invited Charina Garcia, Immigration Law Attorney to speak about employment options upon the completion of Optional Practical Training. The employment seminar was held on Wednesday May 6th, in the Williman Room. Ms. Garcia's presentation was extremely informative and focused H-1B sponsorship and other non-immigration employment options. Read more about Ms. Garcia at: www.cornerlaw.com.

Additionally, Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Director, Career Center, gave an overview of H1 Base and LinkedIn. Both are wonderful employment resources for any international student interested in working in the U.S.

If you were not able to attend the seminar and would like to review what was covered, please visit our Orientation and Workshop web page at:

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

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

H-1B Cap Not Yet Reached, USCIS Announces

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency continues to accept H-1B petitions for the fiscal year 2010 program. As of May 11th, 2009, USCIS has received approximately 45,000 H-1B petitions counting toward the Congressionally-mandated 65,000 cap. The agency continues to accept petitions subject to the general cap.

In addition, the agency has received approximately 20,000 petitions for aliens with advanced degrees; however, they continue to accept advanced degree petitions since experience has shown that not all petitions received are approvable. Congress mandated that the first 20,000 of these types of petitions are exempt from any fiscal year cap on available H-1B visas.

For cases filed for premium processing during the initial five-day filing window, the 15-day premium processing period began April 7. For cases filed for premium processing after the filing window, the premium processing period begins on the date USCIS takes physical possession of the petition.

USCIS will provide regular updates on the processing of FY2010 H-1B petitions. The updates can be found on the USCIS' Web site at www.uscis.gov/h-1b_count.

SUMMER TRAVEL

If you are traveling outside of the U.S. this summer, be sure to check your I-20. The travel signature on your document must be less than 1 year old (for students on post-completion practical training, the signature is valid for six months), or you may have difficulty re-entering the U.S. to resume your studies. If you have any questions about travel, stop by ISS and ask before you leave for the summer. Additionally, you may visit the SCU F-1 travel web page at: <http://www.scu.edu/F1/travel.cfm> for more information.

GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS AND HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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 Desk); fax: 408-408-554-2709

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