

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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ISS NEWSLETTER

International Student Services (ISS) sends out a quarterly newsletter. It contains the latest information about immigration and ISS services, as well as important reminders about work authorization, visa applications, and more. Please read it! View the ISS newsletter archive [here](#).

WELCOME

Welcome to all new and returning students! We hope that you had a good start to the New Year and wish you all the best for a successful 2012 at SCU. Happy New Year!

ISS OFFICE

International Student Services (ISS) is dedicated to the support of the international and exchange student community at SCU. Please remember that the staff at ISS is here to help you with any immigration questions or issues you may be facing. Feel free to contact ISS if there is any way that we can help ease the whole adjustment process for you. Walk-in office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary during these times. In the afternoons though, we ask that you contact our office to schedule an appointment. The ISS Front Office telephone number is: 408-551-7037.

ISS is currently serving **650** students on the F-1 visa and 5 on the J-1 visa. We are excited about our continued growth. However, please note that as a result of our increased numbers, we have a lot more paper work and requests to process. We ask that you ***please respect our policy of 5 working days to process any request.*** Thank you for your cooperation!

NEW WINTER 2012 STUDENTS

For students who are new to SCU this quarter and who did not attend the Winter Orientation, please carefully read the "[Maintaining F-1 Status](#)" web page. For J-1 students, please read "[Maintaining J-1 Status](#)."

WINTER GRADUATION: EXTENSION / POST COMPLETION OPT

If you have the end date: 03/23/2012 listed on your I-20 or DS-2019, and you are NOT graduating, you must apply for an EXTENSION. Remember, we cannot extend your document after the expiration date. If you require an extension, please download, complete and return the [Request for an Extension Form](#) to ISS **before** the end date on your document. If you have already completed all the required classes for your degree, you need to petition to graduate. ISS cannot extend your I-20/DS 2019 if you have already completed all required course work for your degree.

If you are graduating this quarter, and have not yet applied for OPT, you can still apply for it. Complete information regarding OPT can be found [here](#).

OPT STEM EXTENSION

If you are currently on OPT and wish to apply for the OPT Stem Extension, please be sure to submit your request prior to the end date on your EAD card. USCIS must receive your application **before** the expiration date of your EAD, but no earlier than 120 days before the expiration date. USCIS recommends that students apply within 90 and 120 days of the expiration date of the current OPT. Timely applications will automatically extend the 12-month OPT work authorization up to 180 days until you receive the 17-month OPT extension EAD.

WINTER 2012 PETITION TO GRADUATE DEADLINES

For Undergraduates, the deadline to petition is January 27, 2012. Please contact the Registrar's Office for more information. If you plan on applying for OPT, you must have petitioned to graduate before submitting your OPT paperwork to ISS.

For all other schools, please contact your respective departments for that information.

TAX FILING INFORMATION

All international students are expected to file a tax return. The deadline to file U.S. tax returns is April, 15, 2012. Please visit the internet resources below to find the most current information about your U.S. tax responsibilities:

<http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/iss/tax.cfm>

In addition, students are welcome to call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Philadelphia 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>

Please note that ISS staff cannot answer tax questions nor provide reference or lists of private tax preparers. However, we can recommend you to search online under "tax consultants and representatives" for additional help.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

If you are interested in meeting new people, having fun, and exploring our local Bay Area, then join the International Club! The club holds a variety of events throughout the year, ranging from beach/San Francisco/Tahoe trips to international dessert contests and informal BBQs. Please contact Christine Rudy at: Crudy@scu.edu for more information.

COFFEE MORNING SOCIAL

Join us for coffee to kick off the New Year and the Winter Quarter! Coffee mornings are an informal

gathering and an opportunity to meet and mingle with other international students at SCU. This quarter's Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday, January 25th, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., at the Writing Center (in the basement of Benson Memorial Center). Please RSVP to Ryan Dilag at iss@scu.edu if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING OR FUN PICTURE TO SHARE?

Each quarter ISS will include a picture to share with the international community here at SCU. The selected picture will be highlighted in our upcoming newsletter. If you would like to share some of your travel memories or fun times with friends (pictures taken either locally or internationally), please submit them to Ryan Dilag at: ISS@scu.edu. When submitting the picture, please include a brief caption of where and when the picture was taken. We look forward to highlighting your experiences through pictures!

This quarter's picture was submitted by Jaya Karda, Graduate School of Engineering. It was taken at Jagannath Puri in Orissa, India at the annual Temple Chariot Festival. The Jagannath Temple is a famous Hindu temple. The name Jagannath means "Lord of the Universe." Thank you for sharing the picture Jaya!



BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OF YOU THIS WINTER QUARTER!

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 Ryan Dilag at ISS@scu.edu

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