

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME and REMINDERS!

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.

Did you know that International Student Services is currently serving **over 600** students on the F-1 visa? We are excited about our growth. However, please also note that as a result, we have a lot more paper work and requests to process. We thus ask that you **please respect our policy that we require 5 working days to process any request**. No exceptions can be made in order to be fair to all students. It is your responsibility to take into consideration this timeline when making a request. Thank you for your cooperation.

WINTER QUARTER INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NUMBERS

This Fall ISS welcomed **49** new international students to the SCU community. The breakdown of these students by school is as follows:

Graduate Engineering: 27
Graduate Business School: 5
Undergraduate: 6 (3 of which are exchange students)
Law Exchange: 5
Graduate School of Education: 1

The breakdown by **country** is as follows:

India: 31
Australia: 2
Austria: 2
China: 1
Finland: 1
Indonesia: 1
Iran: 2

Japan: 2
Singapore: 2
Spain: 2
Taiwan: 1
Turkey: 2

The staff at International Student Services (ISS) is indebted to the continuous valuable input and support of all those presenters who participated in the Winter International Student Orientation. THANK YOU!!

If anyone has any suggestions or comments for future orientations, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are always seeking ways to improve and your feedback would be much appreciated.

OPTIONAL PRACTICAL TRAINING (OPT)

If you have not done so already, we encourage everybody who is graduating in March 2011 to apply for optional practical training as soon as possible. It is currently taking USCIS 60-90 days to adjudicate these applications. For complete information regarding OPT, visit the following web page:

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

Also, please note that ISS is **unable** to process your OPT request **unless your petition to graduate has been filed** in a timely manner with your respective department. For all departments, the deadline for petition to graduate for Winter 2011 has already passed.

SPRING 2011 PETITION TO GRADUATE DEADLINES

For Graduate Engineers completing their studies in June 2011, the petition to graduate deadline is Friday, March 11, 2011. The petition to graduate is an online form found here:

http://www.scu.edu/engineering/graduate/student_services/petition_grad_deadlines.cfm

For Graduate Business students, the deadline to petition to graduate is February 15, 2011. The petition to graduate is an online form found here:

<http://scu.edu/survey/?s=432>

For Undergraduates, the deadline to petition is February 18, 2011. Please contact the Registrar's Office for more information.

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

NEW MSIS CAPSTONE CONFIRMATION FORM

MSIS students who have completed the required units for graduation but have not yet completed their two-part MSIS Capstone course will be considered full-time by registering for a "three-unit MSIS Capstone course" (minimum) each term. Such students will need written approval from a departmental advisor stating that he/she is making normal progress toward completion of thesis/degree. This form should be completed by first the student and, second, the Graduate Business Programs and then forwarded to the International Student Services Office. The form is available in the GBP Office and ISS.

TAX INFORMATION

Please note that **All** foreign students must complete 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, 2011**. For more information on taxes, please visit:

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

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>

USCIS Reaches FY 2011 H-1B Cap

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on 01/27/11 that it has received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap for fiscal year (FY) 2011. USCIS is notifying the public that Jan. 26, 2011, is the final receipt date for new H-1B specialty occupation petitions requesting an employment start date in FY2011. For the detailed report go to:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=7fd9b9138c9cd210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=c94e6d26d17df110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD>

TRAVEL

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, you must request a travel signature from an ISS advisor.

For complete information on travel and re-entry to the US, please visit:

http://www.scu.edu/advising/internationalstudents/travel_reentry.cfm

SOME COMMON AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS

Many American Expressions originated on the ranches and farms across the country.

Don't beat a dead horse, is advice given for someone to stop arguing, because the decision has been made. If a deal has already been settled, it does not matter any more. So, why beat a dead horse?

The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence is a common expression, meaning that by human nature, people often believe others have it better. "That guy's lawn, or that guy's house looks better than mine," is classic envy or coveting of another's property.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL OF YOU THIS FALL 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 Christina Favela at CFavela@scu.edu

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