

International Student & Scholar Services

international student and scholar updates



Published monthly by International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), the International Services Newsletter brings you updates on immigration rules and regulations, university services and programs, and conveys opportunities for campus and community involvement.

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March 2008



OFFICE HOURS

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

A. Travel Update



Making travel plans for summer 2008 and need your I-20 stamped for travel by an ISSS advisor? Then don't miss the new TRAVEL CLEARANCE DAY on Wednesday, April 16th, in 248 Sparks Hall (the Map Room). Just stop in ANYTIME between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Just bring your Travel Clearance Form and I-20 then enjoy snacks with friends and the ISSS staff while your I-20 is processed on the spot!

B. Graduating in May?

Don't forget that April 21st is the deadline to apply for OPT. Be sure to attend an Employment Workshop and see an advisor in ISSS before that deadline if you are finishing your degree in May.



C. ALPHA Ceremony

Due to scheduling conflicts and office transition, ISSS will not be holding an ALPHA Ceremony this semester. However, if any international students are participating in May commencement would like to order a sash with their country's flag to wear at graduation, please see Attiyya Mujahid in ISSS as soon as possible for details.

ISAC TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. - MAY 8-12, 2008



Registration is now being taken for the annual ISAC Washington D.C. trip (May 8-12), and all the details are attached in the flyer and itinerary below. This is a special trip for Georgia State's international students, heavily subsidized by the International Student Association Council (ISAC), and it will be a fun educational opportunity for the 48 lucky participants! If you're interested, sign up ASAP at the Touch the Earth rental center (located at the back of the Recreation Center) with your \$90

DON'T FORGET YOUR TAXES!!!

Filing federal income tax forms is the personal responsibility of each international student. All F-1 and J-1 students, regardless of whether or not they have earned money, are required to file an annual tax form. Tax forms should be filed between February 1 and April 15 each year. For more information regarding taxes, visit our website www.gsu.edu/iss.

MONDAY—FRIDAY
8:30AM—5:15 PM

Walk-In Advisement
Hours

Monday
10AM—12PM
1:30AM—4PM

Tuesday
1:30PM—4PM

Wednesday
10AM—12PM
1:30AM—4PM

Thursday
1:30PM—4PM

Friday
10AM—12PM
1:30AM—4PM

Website:
www.gsu.edu/iss

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OUT OF STATE TUITION WAIVER

To apply for an out-of-state tuition waiver from International Services for summer term 2008, please apply before the Friday, April 7 deadline. Applications for fall term 2008 will be due on Friday, June 16. Applications are available now from the front desk. Remember that these are given out to students with severe economic need who are within two terms of graduation. For more information and the application form, call or come by the International Services office.

BECOME A V.I.S.A LEADER



VISA Leaders needed for Fall 2008 Do you need leadership experience for your resume? Looking to make new friends and help out new international students at Georgia State? Then maybe being a VISA Leader is the experience for you! VISA leaders play a vital role at international orientation by welcoming the new international students, giving campus tours, showing them the 'inside scoop' on how to get around Atlanta, and assisting with the advising and registration processes. VISA Leaders for fall are paid \$300, and go through a three-day FUN training course. If you are interested, please contact Jasmine Shi in ISSS. Applications are available from the

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FORUM ~ MARCH 25, 2008



You are invited to attend "Cultural Connections: Dialogue on International Student Experiences" a student lunch and learn forum for students to discuss their perspectives and personal experiences of living and learning in a new culture. This forum is planned for international students as well as students from the U.S. who have studied abroad. Please join other students in a discussion forum to talk about cultural transitions, cultural adaptation, culture shock, overcoming cultural barriers, and how diplomacy and peace can be promoted by educational exchange. Free lunch will be served.

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Time: Noon until 1:00 p.m.

Place: 235 University Center (V.I.P. Room, across the hall from Cinefest)

Advance reservations are required and event limited to 30 students. Please RSVP to ombuds@gsu.edu or contact 404-413-2510 to register.

Announcements

- ⊗ As part of this year's **International Spring Festival** (March 26-April 4), the VISA Leaders and ISAC are teaming up to present a Global Grillout for all international students on Friday, March 28. It will be held at Indian Creek Lodge from 4-8pm, and like the fabulous Grillouts during orientation, it will feature lots of food, fun, games, and prizes. If you've enjoyed the Global Grillouts at orientation, don't miss this great party with your fellow international students! Come have fun and meet new friends!
- ⊗ Parade Your Flag! Tuesday, 1 April (11:30am-1pm) Volunteers are needed to carry their country's flags during the annual International Spring Festival's Parade of Flags. Call or stop by the ISSS front desk to sign up (404.413.2070).
- ⊗ Fashion Show Participants Needed! Friday, 4 April (5-9pm) The International Spring Festival's annual Fashion Show needs students to model their country's traditional clothing. Contact Chidum Uzochnikwu at gsuASA@gmail.com if you or your friends would like to participate.
- ⊗ Job Search Seminar for International Students on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, from 2-4pm in 245 UC. Advisors from ISSS and University Career Services will present the workshop. The workshop covers the areas of the "immigration evolution" as well as career search tips for international students. The immigration evolution is the multiple steps involved in the process of on-campus employment, off-campus internships, optional practical training after graduation, to the H-1B employment status, and possibly ending in US permanent residency. Career search tips review the strengths and weaknesses that international students bring to a job search and shares numerous resources with the students to help ensure that the labor-intensive and challenging process of your job search will end successfully.
- ⊗ Trip to Charleston, SC Enjoy a weekend in Charleston, South Carolina at a great price (March 21-23, \$85/student)! Experience the historic downtown Charleston waterfront and Battery, a nighttime ghost walking tour, a tour of the Civil War submarine the H.L. Hunley, and a professional soccer double-header on Saturday night, featuring 4 teams from Major League Soccer! After the games, relax at the Three Lions Pub, a world-famous soccer pub/restaurant located at Blackbaud Stadium where the games will be played. In addition, you'll taste some of the best food from some of the South's most famous restaurants! The trip is sponsored by Georgia State University Recreational Services Touch the Earth Outdoor Trips Program. Trip payment and registration will be done at the Touch the Earth Office in the bottom floor of the Student Recreation Center. Call Touch the Earth at 404-413-1772(3) for any questions, and see the attached flyer for more details.

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