Important ISSS Announcements
- All Students: Please Complete the Spring 2021 Reporting EForm
- Office Closed Monday (1/18) for Martin Luther King Jr Day (Holiday)
- New Students: Reminder that Orientation Begins January 26th
- January 26th CDC Begins Requiring Negative COVID Test for Air Passengers to U.S.
- Key Reminder: Quarantine and COVID Testing Requirements for Spring 2021
- UAlbany International Student Facebook Group-- A Good Way to Find Housing!
- Employment Workshop Schedule for Spring 2021 (OPT, CPT, and STEM OPT Workshops)- first OPT workshop next week!
- USCIS Lockbox Address Update

Upcoming Events & Other Announcements
- Save the Date: Doctoral Discussion Forums 1/19, 1/20, 1/21
- Giftcard Raffle for Research Study on UAlbany International Students and Asian/ American Students
- Three Minute Thesis Competition
- Purple Pantry Food Bank On Campus

All Students: Please Complete the Spring 2021 Reporting EForm

Welcome to Spring 2021 at UAlbany!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all international students are require to complete the mandatory Spring 2021 Reporting EForm by February 14, 2021. You can access the EForm here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/94087.php

This form will allow the ISSS office to report accurate information to the university and to SEVIS as
required. In addition, students who will be outside the U.S. for the entire semester can apply to have their international student health insurance waived through this online form. Please note that students who received an insurance waiver in Fall 2020 will not automatically receive a waiver this spring. The Spring 2021 Reporting Eform must be completed by all students.

We are asking all international student to complete this form. This includes students in any non-immigrant visa status, and both those inside and outside of the United States.

Failure to complete the form by 2/14/2021 may result in potential negative impacts such as:
1. Hold/Block on your academic record that will stop you from registering for classes
2. Lack of opportunity to apply for a waiver to the mandatory international student health insurance requirement
3. Proper activation/registration in SEVIS, the government's mandatory international student tracking database

If you have not already read ISSS's DHS guidance for Spring 2021--particularly in regards to online course load restrictions-- please do so now: https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/UAlbany_CIEGS_ISSS_Spring%202021_Policy_Guidance_for_F-1_J-1_Students.pdf

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Good luck with the Spring 2021 semester.

Office Closed Monday for Martin Luther King Jr Day (Holiday)

The ISSS Office will be closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day. Please note that many other offices may also be closed and local businesses may have limited hours.

New Students: Reminder that Orientation Begins January 26th

Welcome, new students! International Orientation begins January 26th; you will be emailed the Zoom meeting links in the days before. If you have not yet registered for Orientation please do so
now by visiting our New Student website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php and following the pre-arrival checklist based on your admit type (freshman student, undergraduate transfer student, or graduate student).

**January 26th CDC Begins Requiring Negative COVID Test for Air Passengers to U.S.**

Starting on January 26, 2021, the U.S. Center for Disease Control will require any person entering the U.S. to have a negative viral COVID test within 3 days of boarding their flight. You can read more here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html. Please check with your airline for more information if you plan to travel to the U.S. after that date.

**Key Reminder: Quarantine and COVID Testing Requirements for Spring 2021**

Before arriving to campus, please review the University (https://www.albany.edu/covid-19/pre-arrival-requirements-students) and the New York State (NYS) https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory quarantining requirements carefully.

All students are required to follow the University’s Pre-Arrival and Arrival Quarantine and Testing Procedures, including submitting waivers if you will take a fully remote schedule and not come on campus for any reason this Spring term. In addition to the University requirements, students returning to Albany who are travelling from out of state or internationally are also responsible for following the NYS quarantine requirements.

Students who will live-on campus must also follow the move-in instructions from the Office of Residential Life: https://www.albany.edu/covid-19/news/2021-out-state-and-international-student-information

In terms of COVID testing, there are NYS run and funded facilities which don’t require insurance. Before getting tested please confirm with the testing site that it is state funded and/or insurance and payment isn’t required.
Students can search for local test sites by Zip Code here: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you. Again, we suggest finding a state run facility and/or a facility which does not require insurance or other payment. If the facility requires insurance or other payment students are responsible for the costs.

Please continue to monitor the UAlbany COVID-19 website for the latest information: https://www.albany.edu/covid-19

UAlbany International Student Facebook Group-- A Good Way to Find Housing!

Looking for a roommate or apartment? Many fellow students and landlords post rooms available on the UAlbany International Student Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/161720563847596. Check it out!

Employment Workshop Schedule for Spring 2021 (OPT, CPT, and STEM OPT Workshops)

Every semester, ISSS offers a number of employment authorization workshops for students. This includes live Zoom workshops on CPT, OPT, and STEM OPT. In order to meet the scheduling needs of students during remote learning, we will also offer recorded versions of these workshops on our website to make them easily accessible if you are unable to attend a live workshop. Additionally, we will now be offering open Q&A sessions on Zoom which students can attend if they have follow up questions after viewing a workshop recording.
You can find a full schedule and Zoom links on our website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT%20Workshop%20Schedule%20Spring%202021.pdf

Here are some upcoming workshops:

**Post Completion OPT Workshop**  
Wednesday, January 20, 3:30-5:00pm  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://albany.zoom.us/j/97123852005?pwd=L2pQQ210cjRYUUpaklVnJSS1VnZz09

**CPT Workshop**  
Wednesday, February 10, 3:30-5:00pm  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://albany.zoom.us/j/92152390115?pwd=U0JqblFsTEdPWGU3MmljbFg0WTZCZz09

**USCIS Lockbox Address Update**

As of an update on January 8, 2021, USCIS has listed the Chicago Lockbox as the filing location for F-1 student I-765 applications. If you have not yet mailed your OPT or STEM OPT application please be sure to mail the application to the USCIS Chicago lockbox (https://www.uscis.gov/i-765-addresses and click on the "Foreign Students" tab to see the mailing addresses). This does not mean a student is required to refile or take further action if they have an application which has already been delivered to the USCIS Dallas or Phoenix lockboxes.

**Upcoming Events & Other Announcements**

**Save the Date: Doctoral Discussion Forums 1/19, 1/20, 1/21**

Save the Date: Doctoral Discussion Forums 1/13, 1/14, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21

The 2020-2021 Doctoral Discussion Forums will be held during the winter break. There are two sessions for each Forum. Listed below are the topics for each session. The panelists will address each topic. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the talks. The more questions you ask, the more you will benefit from the Forums. To attend the Forums, please RSVP to receive Zoom meeting information.

**Session 2: Managing Your Dissertation and Planning Your Career Path**

**Topics:**
- Writing and defending the dissertation proposal
· Strategies for completing components of your dissertation
· Strategies for preparing for and defending your dissertation
· Creating your career path beyond your dissertation

**For Humanities**
Time: Tuesday, 1/19, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
RSVP: [https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd](https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd)
Panelists: Dr. Rachel Cohon (Philosophy)
Dr. Griffith Glyne (English)
Dr. Lotfi Sayahi (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)

**For Social Sciences**
Time: Wednesday, 1/20, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
RSVP: [https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd](https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd)
Panelists: Dr. Kajal Lahiri (Economics)
Dr. Melissa Tracy (Public Health)
Dr. Katherine Trent (Sociology)
Dr. Alan Wagner (Education)

**For STEM**
Time: Thursday, 1/21, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM
RSVP: [https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd](https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3mxLhuCOhYv75Gd)
Panelists: Dr. Melinda Larsen (Biological Sciences)
Dr. Igor Lednev (Chemistry)
Dr. Ryan Torn (Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Christine Wagner (Behavioral Neuroscience)

Panelists will also integrate how to deal with setbacks, time management, and building a support system into their talks.

Questions? Please feel free to contact Yu-Hui Chen ([ychen@albany.edu](mailto:ychen@albany.edu)).

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**Giftcard Raffle for Research Study on UAlbany International Students and Asian/ American Students**

UPDATE: Please note that we are including both East Asian and non-East Asian international students in the interviews/ Qualtrics surveys. Please disregard any text referencing “East Asians only.”

In search of volunteers for a research study on the impact of COVID-19 on international and East Asian American students at the University at Albany (Principal investigator, Professor Angie Y. Chung). The larger study (UAlbany IRB: 20X251) will involve a 20-30 minute phone or online interview, which will qualify you for two raffle entries for one of three $25 giftcards (Amazon, Korean BBQ Chicken, or Doordash). Or alternatively, you may complete the Qualtrics survey in the link.
below for one raffle entry. We have interviewers who can speak Mandarin, Korean, and Japanese if you prefer. If you are Korean, you will also have the option to participate in a fully paid 2-hour focus group session (York University IRB: e2020-213).

In order to qualify, you must be an East Asian international or Asian American student 18 years of age or older and currently enrolled at the University at Albany, regardless of student status, citizenship, place of birth, or background.

For more information, please contact Professor Angie Y. Chung (aychung@albany.edu).

Qualtrics Survey: https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6s7pE0fotHH0SPz
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