

ISSS Weekly Newslet ter



Friday, January 19 2024- Welcome Back!

This is your ISSS weekly newsletter. Please read this newsletter every Friday for important reminders, updates, and upcoming events you may be interested in.

ISSS Announcements:

- ISSS Advising Hours- Spring 2024
- Maintaining Status: Reminders for F and J students
- Online Course Limitations for F and J students
- Arrival Reporting EForm & Orientation Make Up (for New Students)
- Beware of Scams!
- Sprintax Tax Filing Information for 2024

Upcoming Events:

- K-9 Meet & Greet with ISSS & UPD Therapy Dog (January 24)
- Cultural Connections Seeking Buddy Volunteers
- Library Workshops for International Students (February 23)

Check out the [Virtual Resource Table](#) for helpful information on many topics, like opening a bank account, getting a driver's license, applying for a SSN (if eligible), paying your bill, and more.

ISSS Advising Hours- Spring 2024

Walk In Advising Hours, In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172)

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00-3:30pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172

Student and scholars can also email ISSS@albany.edu for assistance. The email inbox is monitored Monday-Friday during business hours.

Maintaining Status: Reminders for F and J students

As we begin a new semester we want to remind students of some of the requirements for maintaining F-1 status. Detailed requirements can be found on the [Current Students](#) page of our website.

1.) Check your demographic information in MyUALbany to make sure your addresses, email, and phone number are up to date. The SEVIS USA address must show where you are currently physically living in the United States. [Click here for further instruction.](#)

2.) F-1 and J-1 students must enroll full-time or seek approval for a DHS/ISSS [authorized reduced course load](#) in order to maintain F-1 and J-1 status while enrolled less than full-time. For undergraduate students 12 or more credits is fulltime. For graduate students 9 or more credits is full-time.

Students may only drop below full-time enrollment after they are approved for an authorized reduced course load by the ISSS office (review the [reasons for a DHS reduced course load](#)).

On January 30th a registration hold will prevent F-1 or J-1 students from dropping below full-time enrollment. Students will not be allowed to drop a course after that time without permission from ISSS. If you qualify for a reduced course load but have not yet submitted a [reduced course load authorization EForm](#) please do so as soon as possible. Processing times can take up to 7-9 business days, and if you submit the request late you may accrue tuition liability as a result. If you have already been approved for a reduced course load for Spring 2024 and need to make changes to your course registration after next week you must contact ISSS to seek this permission to make the change.

If you are trying to swap classes while maintaining full-time registration please add the new course you want first and then drop the course you no longer

need.

0% tuition liability for dropped semester length courses ends on January 23, 2024.

3.) Review the on and off-campus employment rules for F-1 and J-1 students, especially if you are interested in working on campus and/or applying for CPT, OPT, or Academic Training to work off campus. It is very important to follow the employment rules and limitations in order to not violate your status. [Click here for more information.](#)

[Read More](#)

Online Course Limitations for F and J students

No more than one online or distance education course (or 3 credits) may count toward the minimum number of credits needed for full-time enrollment during the semester. If the F-1 or J-1 student only needs one course to complete the program of study that course cannot be fully online.

For purposes of immigration reporting "**fully online**" courses refer to classes coded as fully online. In-person classed, hybrid/blended classes with an in-person component; and arranged classes with an in-person component do not count as "fully online" courses.

This means that undergraduate students who are enrolled full-time must take at least 9 credits that are not fully online. Graduate students who are enrolled full-time must take at least 6 credits that are not fully online. Students who are on an authorized reduced course load to enroll less than full-time must consult ISSS to ask whether they are eligible for any fully online classes, and if yes how many.

[Read More](#)

Arrival Reporting EForm & Orientation Make Up (for New Students)

Welcome, new students!

All new students must submit the [New Student Arrival Reporting EForm](#)

For any students who missed all or part of Orientation, you must:

1. Review all information on the ISSS website, particularly the pages related to [Maintaining Immigration Status](#).
2. [Review all information](#) from Online Orientation
3. [Complete your New Student Arrival Checklist](#), including submitting your [New Student Arrival Reporting EForm](#)

[Read More](#)

Beware of Scams!

Be vigilant! Scams can take many forms, from unsolicited employment offers, fake checks, threatening phone calls, false promises of exchange of gift cards for cash, etc... Protect yourself by clicking "Read More" and reviewing how to detect a scam.

[Read More](#)

Sprintax Tax Filing Information for 2024

How to obtain a Sprintax tax code will be in the newsletter on Friday, January 26, 2024

It is important to be aware that, if you were a nonresident present in the US during 2023, you're legally required to file a tax return if you received US income during 2023 by the 15 April 2024 deadline.

And even if you didn't work or receive income in the US, you're still obliged to file a Form 8843 with the IRS.

The US 2023 tax season will not start until January 2024, and we will be sharing information regarding how you can use the Sprintax software when the tax season begins.

Until then, there are many resources that you can access to learn more about your tax filing obligations to make the process of tax time even easier and less stressful for you. Below you can find some of the Sprintax resources to help explain the US tax system for nonresident international students and scholars:

- **Sprintax International Student US Tax Guide and Blog:** <https://blog.sprintax.com/f1-visa-tax-return-guide-international-students/>
- **Sprintax YouTube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/Sprintax>

- **Sprintax Free Educational Tax Webinars:**

You will find below, a list of the free, educational tax webinars that Sprintax will be making available to nonresidents prior to and during the US tax filing season. You may register using the registration links below for a session that works well for you:

- Thursday, January 25th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, February 7th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, February 28th @ 12pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Monday, March 11th @ 4pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, March 28th @ 3pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, April 3rd @ 2pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, April 11th @ 1pm EST – [Register here](#)
- Monday, April 15th @ 11am EST – [Register here](#)

Please be sure to keep an eye out for additional communication around your specific access to the Sprintax software when tax season 2023 begins in early 2024.

Upcoming Events

K-9 Meet & Greet with ISSS & UPD Therapy Dog (January 24)



UALBANY

Meet Roxy, UPD's Therapy Dog

When: January 24, 2024

Where: Science Library Atrium

Time: 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by ISSS



Wednesday, January 24
5:00-6:00pm
Science Library Atrium

Meet officers from University Police (UPD), including K-9 Therapy dog Roxy! Hear more about how the UAlbany K-9 unit and officers keep campus safe and the services you can seek from UPD. Snacks will be served.

Cultural Connections Seeking Buddy Volunteers



SPRING 2024

BUDDY PROGRAM

CONNECT WITH PEOPLE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

CONTACT ISSS@ALBANY.EDU
FOR MORE DETAILS

SIGN UP NOW!



Volunteer for the Spring 2024 International Buddy Program NOW! Connect with new incoming international students and build friendships! All are welcome to help.

Library Workshops for International Students (February 23)

Introduction to Research Process

Topics: what is a research paper, steps in the research process, choosing a research

topic, finding background information and articles, using research databases, evaluating research materials, and hands-on exercises.

Friday, February 23

10:00am-12:00pm

Minerva Room (University Library Basement)

What is “plagiarism” all about? How to avoid it?

Topics: in-text citations and bibliography; why acknowledge sources; when to cite; differences among quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing; types of plagiarism; how to cite; tips for avoiding plagiarism; academic integrity; and hands-on exercises.

Friday, February 23

1:00pm-3:00pm

Minerva Room (University Library Basement)

Citation Practice

Topics: DOI (digital object identifier), ways of providing in-text citations, formulating citations, and hands-on paraphrasing practice. Strongly encouraged to attend 1pm-3pm workshop first.

Friday, February 23

4:00pm-6:00pm

Minerva Room (University Library Basement)

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