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Important ISSS Announcements
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- Employment Workshop Schedule for Spring 2021 (OPT, CPT, and STEM OPT Workshops)- OPT filing for May graduates starts February 14th
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Upcoming Events & Other Announcements
- Intersections Kickoff January 29th
- Colloquium, "Cognitive Maps Across Domains," February 12th
- Three Minute Thesis Competition
- International Student Career Search Tips Podcast
- Spring 2021 Virtual Career Fairs in March
- Top Strategies for a Successful Job Search- 1/26/21
New Student International Orientation begins on Tuesday, January 26th and runs through Thursday, January 28th. This Orientation will be conducted over Zoom so that students may participate from anywhere-- inside or outside the U.S. All new students are required to attend Orientation. New international freshmen and transfer students will also attend a required freshman and transfer orientation on Friday, January 29th.

New Students will be emailed the full schedule and Zoom links soon. You can also find the schedule and review your pre-arrival checklist here: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/new_students.php) and check out our Virtual Resource Table here: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/94203.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/94203.php)

While we welcome our new cohort of students ISSS will not offer Zoom advising appointments between Monday January 25th-Thursday January 28th. Normal Zoom appointment scheduling resumes Friday January 29th. You may also email ISSS@albany.edu. We appreciate students' patience in allowing additional time for email responses and processing of EForm requests while we welcome and assist our new students.
Employment Workshop Schedule for Spring 2021 (OPT, CPT, and STEM OPT Workshops)- OPT filing for May graduates starts February 14th

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
Friday, February 5, 3:30-5:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting
https://albany.zoom.us/j/99013175054?pwd=YUtPYjl4akZGZFkyRjNxdENJUFFFQ09

CPT Workshop
Wednesday, February 10, 3:30-5:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting
https://albany.zoom.us/j/92152390115?pwd=U0JqbfFtsTEdPWGU3MmljbfG0WTZCZz09

Key Reminder: Please Complete the Spring 2021 Reporting EForm by February 14th

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.

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 sites, 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](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](https://www.albany.edu/covid-19)

**Tax Filing Update for 2020 Tax Year**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that the nation’s tax season will start on Friday, February 12, 2021, when the tax agency will begin accepting and processing 2020 tax year returns.

The February 12 start date for individual tax return filers allows the IRS time to do additional programming and testing of IRS systems following the December 27 tax law changes that provided a second round of Economic Impact Payments and other benefits.

ISSS is working to obtain Sprintax, tax preparation software for international students. Once we have obtained Sprintax, we will make an announcement in our weekly newsletter.

[Read More](#)

**New York Virtual Field Trip 2021- Green Finance & Accountability**

On January 26-28, 2021, Coventry University (Coventry, United Kingdom), Fidelity International, and the University at Albany will host a joint virtual field trip on Green Finance and Accountability. This is a free event and all UAlbany students are invited to participate. The events and topics are as follows:

- **Tuesday, January 26 (Self-paced)**
  - Building Inter-cultural Competencies

- **Wednesday, January 27 (10 AM – 12 PM EST/3 PM-5 PM BST)**
  - Guest Speaker by Fidelity International Sustainability Analyst
  - Interactive Session: Sustainability and You

This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with students from Coventry U.

- **Thursday, January 28 (Self-paced)**
  - Culture and Economics in New York

Interested students may e-mail Rachel Moody at [rsmoody@albany.edu](mailto:rsmoody@albany.edu) for registration information.
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
Upcoming Events

Intersections Kickoff January 29th at 4pm

Join the kickoff for Intersections- a new student series on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This interactive webinar will introduce the Blackboard program and allow you to reflect on your personal identities. This session will also provide you with an overview of on campus resources that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Join the Zoom webinar by clicking Read More.

Colloquium, "Cognitive Maps Across Domains," February 12th

Dr. Michael Peer, Israeli Fulbright, University of Pennsylvania, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem presents: “Cognitive Maps Across Domains” on Friday, February 12, 2021, 2:45 pm. Join Zoom meeting by clicking "Read More."

Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Graduate School at the University at Albany is hosting a Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition in Spring 2021. 3MT is a competition for research master’s and doctoral students to develop and showcase their research communication skills. To learn more, click “Read More.”

International Student Career Search Tips Podcast

ICAway records a podcast that focuses on international student career search tips and interview professionals in a variety of fields. Check it out by clicking read more!
Spring 2021 Virtual Career Fairs in March

Register now for the Virtual Career Fairs in Business; Science and Technology; Healthcare & Human Services; and Education, Law Enforcement, Government and Non-Profit. Click read more to register.

Top Strategies for a Successful Job Search- 1/26/21

12:00pm - 1:00pm EST
It’s (finally) 2021, and despite the impact of COVID, there are new positions opening up. Join executive recruiter and career search consultant Alison Johnson BA ’92, MBA ’99 for an information-packed webinar that will show you what you can do DIFFERENTLY to set yourself apart from your peers. What actionable steps and strategies can you apply to identify the right positions? What are the implications of the virtual interview process? What are recruiters and employers talking about right now, and what happens behind the hiring scenes? Click Read More to register.

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