Happy Spring Semester! Classes Start Monday!

**Important ISSS Announcements**
- Full-time Registration Requirements for F-1 and J-1 Students
- Demographic Data Check in MyUAlbany: SEVIS USA address, SEVIS Foreign address, email address, and phone number
- **Key Reminder:** Please Complete the Spring 2021 Reporting EForm by February 14th
- New Students: Orientation Session Recordings & More
- Tax Filing + Sprintax Update for 2020 Tax Year
- Employment Workshop Schedule- OPT filing for May graduates starts February 14th
- Giftcard Raffle for Research Study on UAlbany International Students and Asian/ American Students

**Upcoming Events & Other Announcements**
- Adult Coloring Contest January 29
- Movie Night: Just Mercy, January 30
- Employer Event with Regeneron
- Spring 2021 Group Exercise Schedule
- Register for Spring 2021 Virtual Career Fairs (March)
- CAPS 2021 Virtual Groups
- Undergraduates: Use APlus Tutoring Services!
- StudyNY Photo Contest

Follow us on Instagram @ualbanyisss
Email us at ISSS@albany.edu
Full-time Registration Requirements for F-1 and J-1 Students

F-1 and J-1 students must be registered full-time or on an approved reduced course load as a condition of maintaining F-1 and J-1 status. For undergraduate students 12 or more credits is full-time. For graduate students 9 or more credits is full-time.

Students may only drop below full-time registration if they have first been granted a reduced course load authorization by the ISSS office (more information on applicable reasons for a reduced course load is available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/89007.php).

In order to help students maintain status, a bar will be put in place which will prevent F-1 or J-1 students from dropping below full-time registration credits. This means that you will not be allowed to drop a course after that time unless you were approved for a reduced course load by ISSS. **If you qualify for a reduced course load but have not yet submitted a reduced course load authorization request 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 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.

Please be aware that 0% liability for dropped courses ends on February 7, 2021. More on financial liability can be found here: https://www.albany.edu/cost-aid/financial-liability-dropping-courses-or-withdrawing

If you have any questions please contact ISSS@albany.edu.
Demographic Data Check in MyUAlbany: SEVIS USA address, SEVIS Foreign address, email

F-1 and J-1 students must report updates to their physical address, phone number, and email within 10 days to maintain their status. This reporting is done through the Demographic section of MyUAlbany. Please check your information now to make sure it is up to date. Instructions are available here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/89000.php

Special note for students living outside the U.S.: If you have lived in the U.S. previously, please leave your SEVIS USA address as your most recent U.S. address. If you have never lived in the U.S. you are not required to report a SEVIS USA address at this time.

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

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all international students are required 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

The Spring 2021 Reporting Eform must be completed by all students. This form will allow the ISSS office to report accurate information to the university and to SEVIS as required. In addition, students who will remain 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.

We are asking all international students to complete this form. This includes students any student in non-immigrant visa status, and students both 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.
New Students: Orientation Session Recordings & More

Check out our New Student Virtual Resource Table here: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/94203.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/94203.php)

You can find Orientation session recordings on our Blackboard page. Here are instructions for accessing our Blackboard page: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/Accessing_Blackboard_Instructions.pdf](https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/Accessing_Blackboard_Instructions.pdf). There is a new section on the left-hand column called "Spring 2021 Orientation Recordings." Click that for the recordings (here's a screenshot: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/spring%202021%20recordings.png](https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/spring%202021%20recordings.png)).

Tax Filing + Sprintax 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.

Employment Workshop Schedule- OPT filing for May graduates starts February 14th

[Read More](#)
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=YUtPYjl4akZGFkyRjNxdENlUFFFFQT09

**CPT Workshop**
Wednesday, February 10, 3:30-5:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting https://albany.zoom.us/j/92152390115?pwd=U0JqbfIstEEdPWGU3MmljbfG0WTZCZz09

**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
Adult Coloring Contest January 29

Join Residential Life for an Adult Coloring Contest! Grab N Go option available! ALSO: Post a picture of your creation on the Residential Life IG Page @ualbanyreslife to win a prize!

Read More

Movie Night: Just Mercy, January 30

Join Student Activities for a streaming of the film: Just Mercy (2019) featuring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, and Brie Larson. Get a one time only streaming link this Saturday night!

Read More

Employer Event with Regeneron

Spring 2021 Group Exercise Schedule
Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:00pm - 1:30. We invite you to interact with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc! Career Services will be online to share insight into their company, unique culture, potential career paths, and internship/co-op opportunities. The target audience for this experience includes students pursuing their bachelors, masters and PhD degrees. We look for students in the following major categories: Life Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science or related.

Zumba, Core Blast, HIIT, Pilates and more! Click Read More for the Spring 2021 in-person and online schedule.

Register for Spring 2021 Virtual Career Fairs (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.

CAPS 2021 Virtual Groups

Click "Read More" to learn about CAPS Groups and to see if there's a group that sounds useful for you. For more information about a particular group click on the group leader's email as noted on the flyer or call 518 442-5800 to learn more about how to join.
Undergraduates: Use APlus Tutoring Services!

A+ Tutoring & Academic Support is always here to help you! They are offering online tutoring and remote academic coaching sessions for undergraduate students to make sure you get the support you need. Click Read More for more info.

StudyNY Photo Contest

The 6th Annual Study New York "Why I Love Studying in New York" photo contest is open! Students can showcase their campus and win prizes ($100 Amazon Gift Cards)!

Unsubscribe

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