Happy International Education Week, November 16-20th!

This is the Weekly ISSS Newsletter that we send out every Friday. It includes very important immigration updates that you must be aware of, as well as information about events happening on campus and in the area.

Are you a part of a student organization and want to see your event advertised to your fellow students? Please send the details and/or flyer to ISSS@albany.edu.

**Important ISSS Announcements**
- International Education Week, November 16th-20th!
- International Circle: Drop-in Space for International Students- Today at 3:30pm!
- International Cafe November 17th
- Know Your Rights While Traveling Webinar- November 19th
- Global Alumni Panel Event November 20th
- OPT Workshop November 20th at 3:30pm
- Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021
- Winter Break Travel Reminders & NYS Quarantine Requirements

**Upcoming Events**
- The Art of Networking
- Wintersession Housing Information-- Apply if Staying On Campus
- Schedule of Classes for Spring 2021 Available
- Need to Talk? Feeling Stressed? Let's Talk is Available Virtually

Happy International Education Week, November 16th-20th!
International Education Week is an internationally celebrated week, organized by the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of State. To celebrate this year, the UAlbany ISSS office has put together programming to celebrate and serve our amazing international student and scholar community. Check out our Instagram @ualbanyisss and Facebook (University at Albany International Student & Scholar Services) for special messages from faculty and staff throughout the week! And don't miss out on our special virtual programming, which includes a Global Alumni Panel, Knowing Your Rights While Traveling Workshop, and International Cafe (more details below). See you there!

International Circle: Drop-in Space for International Students- Today at 3:30pm!
Friday, 11/13 at 3:30pm (https://albany.zoom.us/j/96673743794; Meeting ID: 966 7374 3794) - Am I Lazy? – A chance for students to talk about what it’s been like to adjust to remote learning and social distancing, and how it’s impacted your motivation.

Open to undergraduate and graduate students. No need to register or sign-up, just join the discussion! ISSS and Counseling and Psychological Services staff will also be able to answer questions and provide support.

International Cafe November 17th
Join staff from the Center for International Education and Global Strategy for our virtual coffee hour on Tuesday, November 17th at 3:00pm!

To register for a Zoom link, click "Read More" below.

Know Your Rights While Traveling Webinar- November 19th
Join Immigration Attorneys Jim Milstein, Seth Leech, and others along with UAlbany ISSS staff to learn more about your rights in the U.S. in relation to your immigration status and interactions with federal and local law enforcement as well as the judicial system.

**Thursday, November 19 5:30-6:30 PM EST**
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://albany.zoom.us/j/92406081491](https://albany.zoom.us/j/92406081491)

Global Alumni Panel Event November 20th
Global Alumni Panel-International Education Week

Friday Nov 20th 6 PM-7:30PM (EST)
Email ISSS@albany.edu for join link

Abhinay Tiwari
Master | Computer Science | 2017
Software Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center

Yi Zhou
Master | Social Welfare | 2017
Psychotherapist at Choices Counselling and Consulting

Li Zhang
PhD | Educational Policy & Leadership | 2016
PIRE Project Manager
C-BERT China Group Leader
Business Owner

Panel Agenda

ISSS will help you know about:
• How to navigate jobs as an international student?
• What do the current and future work situations look like?
• How to react during this Covid-19 time?
• How could international students better prepare for labor market?
• Q&A: bring your questions with you!

Friday, November 20th from 6pm-7:30pm
Zoom Link: https://albany.zoom.us/j/94265368908

Curious about what life is like for a UAlbany international student after graduation? Hear from three outstanding alumni about their experiences in the job search, working during COVID-19, and how best to prepare for your future. Don't miss out on this great event!

OPT Workshop November 20th at 3:30pm

Our next OPT workshop is on Friday, November 20th at 3:30pm.
Zoom Meeting Link: https://albany.zoom.us/j/98886261810
We encourage all students applying for OPT to attend one of the scheduled live OPT workshops on Zoom to ask questions and hear the latest information. You can find a full schedule on our website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/assets/OPT_CPT_Flyer_Fall_2020.pdf

But if you want a refresher, or your schedule is packed right now, you can also view a full recording on the OPT Request instructions page of our website, click on Read More below.

Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021

Earn One RSSW credit!
Sign up today to help welcome new international students this Fall!
Make a friend and learn a new culture!
Contact ISSS@albany.edu for further details

Register today →

For more information and to register to be a Buddy to a new student, "Read More" below.
The International Buddy Program is designed to provide an opportunity for newly admitted international students to get to know current UAlbany students (we call them “buddies”, and they include American and International students) before and upon their arrival in Albany. As a current UAlbany student, you have experience, information and resources to offer to new incoming students. Buddies are encouraged to be welcoming and lend a helping hand to incoming international students as newcomers. The ultimate goal of the Buddy Program is to promote understanding and friendship among different culture groups and to utilize the culturally dynamic environment on the UAlbany campus.

More specifically, the Buddy Program is designed to provide an opportunity for American and International students to interact regularly on a small group basis outside of the classroom setting. We believe such interaction will enrich cross-cultural as well as cross-language experiences and overall we hope that it will contribute to real understanding about people and cultures from all parts of the world.

Winter Break Travel Reminders & NYS Quarantine Requirements

The ISSS office does not recommend international travel at this time due to increased risks which could impact a student's return.

- Unfortunately, the global travel situation can change rapidly and with little notice, including travel restrictions, travel bans, and lack of flight availability
- DHS has not yet released guidance for Spring 2021, which could impact a student's return if outside the U.S.
- If you will travel please contact ISSS@albany.edu for further details and to review documentation needed to re-enter the U.S.
- Students travelling over break should check their UAlbany email frequently for any immigration or quarantine requirement updates.

Students remaining in the U.S. are cautioned if travelling to any state or country which is on the NYS Governor's high risk list, as they may be required to quarantine for 14 days upon return to New York State. This list includes most countries and states. Please review the NYS website for more information: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory

We know this upcoming break may be very difficult, particularly for international students who were unable to travel home last summer. Please know that you have the full support of ISSS during this time. If you are facing any challenges (such as housing, stress, or anxiety) please do not hesitate to reach out to us for resources and support.

Please also remember that the Spring term start date is February 1st, 2021.
Upcoming Events

The Art of Networking

Are you looking for opportunities to expand your network in order to succeed academically, personally, and professionally? Join Orientation and Transition Programs, The Alumni Association, and The Office of Career and Professional Development on Wednesday, November 18 at 1:30PM on ZOOM. Stop by for as long as your schedule allows to receive tips on networking from an esteemed panel of UAlbany Alums representing a variety of careers. Learn about different resources that UAlbany Offers that allows you to expand your network.

Wintersession Housing Information-- Apply if Staying On Campus

Need to stay on campus during the Winter Intersession break? If you need Intersession Housing and live in the Residential Halls, please fill out an application via the Residential Life MyInvolvement page. Please note that all residential buildings are closed. Should you need to stay, you must apply at MyInvolvement and you must be approved. Anyone approved to stay will be required to submit samples for weekly pooled surveillance testing. Please note that all rules and policies utilized during the Fall 2020 semester will remain in place during the Intersession. For more information, click "Read More" below.

Schedule of Classes for Spring 2021 Available

Need to Talk? Feeling Stressed? Let's Talk is Available Virtually
The Spring 2021 schedule of classes is now available and searchable by course modality (online, blended/hybrid, in-person, etc...). Please speak to your academic advisor to prepare to register for Spring 2021. Please note that DHS has not yet released guidance for Spring 2021 in terms of F-1 student registration requirements. Adjustments may need to be made the closer we get depending on the public health requirements at the time. ISSS will continue to inform, support and advise students on any new developments.

The Virtual Let's Talk service is a way to engage in a brief 15-20 minute consultation with a CAPS clinician. A secure zoom meeting will be available Monday through Friday 1:00-3:00pm when classes are in session. Click Read More below.

Unsubscribe

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