Follow us on instagram @ualbanyisss

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.

- ISSS Wintersession Hours and Closures
- Attention Graduating Students - Fall 2020 International Celebration on Saturday, December 12th at 9:30am
- ISSS Seeking Orientation Assistant Applicants for Spring 2021 Orientation
- Planning Ahead for 2021: Check Website and UAlbany Email Often for Updates
- Winter Break Travel Reminders & NYS Quarantine Requirements
- Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021
- Global Alumni Panel Event Recording Available

ISSS Wintersession Hours and Closures

The semester is wrapping up! To help you prepare, please take note of the ISSS office updates and availability below:

- The ISSS office will have limited availability starting at 12:00pm (noon) on December 24th through January 1st. Regular hours will resume on January 2nd. Zoom advisement will not be available during those dates.
- Students who hope to have a request processed prior to January 2nd are advised to submit all documentation and related forms for that request no later than Thursday, December 17th. Requests include, but are not limited to: requests for an I-20/DS-2019 extension; practical training requests (CPT, OPT, or STEM OPT); travel signature requests; and any requests for a
new I-20/DS-2918. If you do not submit all required documents by December 17th we may not
be able to process your request before the office closes for the holiday.

- The ISSS@albany.edu inbox will be monitored on a limited basis between December 25th-
  January 1st for urgent and unforeseen cases (please see below).
- **In case of emergency** during our office closure, please contact the University Police
  Department at 518-442-3131. (For example, if you are delayed at an airport because you did not
  bring sufficient documentation or the officer has questions about your status).
- If you have an urgent and unforeseen request during the closure please email
  ISSS@albany.edu. Examples of urgent and unforeseen requests may include: lost I-20 while
  travelling abroad; an urgent need for an I-20 extension that could not be requested prior to the
  closure due to reasons beyond your control; unforeseen travel emergencies. Because the
  ISSS@albany.edu inbox will only be monitored on a limited basis during this time-frame we ask
  that students make every effort to submit any requests possible prior to December 17th so that
  requests can be effectively addressed.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding with the above and wish you all a happy and safe
holiday season!

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**Attention Graduating Students - Fall 2020 International Celebration on Saturday, December 12th at 9:30am**

![Class of 2020!](image)

International students planning to graduate in fall 2020 or graduating in summer 2020 are welcome to
join our Live Zoom International Celebration taking place on Saturday December 12th from 9:30-
10:15am (EST). In order to receive an invitation with Zoom link days before the event, you need to apply
for graduation by December 7th: [https://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php](https://www.albany.edu/registrar/degree-application.php). If you do not receive the email with Zoom link please email us at ISSS@albany.edu for assistance.
Thank you and we look forward to you and your family joining the celebration.

**ISSS Seeking OA Applicants for Spring 2021 Orientation**

ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants to assist with welcoming our new students by acting as peer mentors, guides, and facilitating events and activities throughout the week. ISSS hosts a New International Student Orientation program every Fall and Spring semester. This program provides a warm and information reception for new international students. A successful applicant must have a friendly, helpful, and understanding attitude toward new students and be able to work with a culturally diverse group of students.

In Spring 2021, the ISSS Orientation will be fully remote. This means that Orientation Assistants would work remotely, primarily over Zoom. However, applicants must be physically present in the U.S. between January 21st-February 1st to qualify for student assistant employment. In order for students to be hired they must also be pre-registered for Spring 2021.

The 8-10 students selected for Orientation Assistant positions for Spring will be paid $11.80 an hour for approximately 10 hours of work. The net amount will be somewhat less after taxes are withheld. All students may request a reference letter from the Director at the conclusion of the Orientation program.

Applications are due by January 2nd, 2021 at 12:00pm (noon) EST. To apply, click here: [https://forms.gle/uHgdVq8L3MFiDZ5LA](https://forms.gle/uHgdVq8L3MFiDZ5LA)

**Planning Ahead for 2021: Check Website and UAlbany Email Often for Updates**

As we look ahead to the Spring 2021 term we want to remind students to please continue checking their Albany email accounts and the University website for updates throughout the break.

DHS has not yet released guidance for Spring 2021. Students should be prepared to make updates to their course schedule or plans should this new guidance require it. ISSS will continue to inform, support and advise students on any new developments. ISSS will email students when any new guidance is released to further explain how that guidance applies to University at Albany students. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Students should also keep themselves informed on University quarantining and testing requirements (these are in addition to any NYS quarantining requirements: [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory)). Keep yourself informed by checking your Albany email and the University's COVID-19 website for the latest information: [https://www.albany.edu/covid-19](https://www.albany.edu/covid-19)

In addition, ISSS maintains a COVID-19 FAQ specifically for international students, which you can find on our website here: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/93904.php](https://www.albany.edu/isss/93904.php)
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.

Global Alumni Panel Event Recording Available

Unable to make it to our Global Alumni Panel event on November 20th? You can view a Zoom recording following the link below:

https://albany.zoom.us/rec/share/WziGdTzApubZqz42UT3kdpOCzGa4cJAJcfcL6GY1umlOoJyACChqMb3U9gif_xp9.uco7XnunvxzEy5r7
Passcode: $5y+KSTx
Buddy Program Seeking Volunteers for Spring 2021

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.

Read More

Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

ISSS@albany.edu
https://www.albany.edu/iss

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competent legal counsel; students may wish to consult an immigration attorney on the specifics of their case as needed.