

ISSS Weekly Newsletter



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
AND GLOBAL STRATEGY
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Friday, February 16

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 and other University offices will be closed on Monday, February 19 for President's Day.

Graduating this semester? Don't forget to apply to graduate in MyUAlbany! [Spring 2024 online degree applications](#) open on January 2, 2024 and are **due by TODAY, February 16, 2024. Late degree applications may be submitted until the online degree application closes on May 8, 2024. **Note:** Graduate students must also complete the [electronic submission of dissertation or thesis](#) by May 1, 2024.**

ISSS Announcements:

- OPT Information for Spring Graduates- **Fees Increasing Soon! + In Person Workshop 2/26**
- Sprintax Tax Filing Information for 2024
- Mother Languages Day (February 22)
- Business Job & Internship Fair (February 21)
- Library Workshops for International Students (February 23)

Upcoming Events:

- Applying to Graduate School Webinar (2/19)
- Bystander Empowerment Training (2/22)
- Text Student Auto
- StudyNY Photo Contest

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.

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

OPT Information for Spring Graduates

You can join ISSS for an [in-person OPT workshop](#) on **Monday, February 26** from **3-4:30pm** in **Physics 123**. See you there!

Important OPT Dates for Spring Graduates to Know:

- I-20 Program End Date for students graduating this Spring: **May 8, 2024**
 - **Bachelor's/Master's students** graduating this Spring will all have a program end date of **May 8, 2024**
 - **PhD students** may use defense date, thesis submission date, or last date of final term as the program end date for post-completion OPT purposes. The date you choose will change your application timetable, see OPT workshop for details.
- **Filing Opens February 9** for students with a May 8, 2024 program end date
- **Filing Closes July 6** for students with a May 8, 2024 program end date
- Students with a May 8, 2024 program end date may submit a **request for an OPT start date** for any date in this range: **May 9, 2024 through July 6, 2024**.
- **Upcoming USCIS fee increases:** USCIS is [increasing its filing fee](#) for the I-765 from \$410 to \$470 effective April 1, 2024 (for online filing- filing by mail will cost more). File before then to save cost on the fees. The I-907 premium processing fee for I-765 applications increases on February 26 from \$1500 to \$1685.

Students who are graduating and planning to apply for Post-Completion OPT Work Authorization should complete the following steps to apply:

1. [Watch the required OPT workshop](#) -- or attend the in-person workshop on February 26.
2. Review all instructions on the [OPT Request EForm website](#), including the [Supplemental Forms and Instructions](#)
3. [Submit the EForm](#) to ISSS to request a new I-20 recommending you for post-completion OPT
4. [File with DHS-USCIS](#) within 30 days of receiving the new I-20 from ISSS recommending you for post-completion OPT

If you have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor.

[**Read More**](#)

Sprintax Tax Filing Information for 2024



ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2023 federal tax return. There is no personal exemption for 2023. All non-residents must file a tax return if income was earned in 2023.

If you were employed in 2023, to obtain a Sprintax tax code, please complete the google form at this link: <https://forms.gle/fLCS214CgwR8wu1u6>. If you were not employed, please go to: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf> to obtain form 8843. For questions, please contact ISSS.

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; **if you register you will get a link to a recording of the session.**

- 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.

[Read More](#)

Mother Languages Day (February 22)

CELEBRATE MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2024
HUMANITIES 354

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES

[Mother Languages Day](#), Thurs, **February 22**, drop-in mini events all afternoon (**1-7:30pm**) in Humanities 354. See attached flyer.

Enjoy a day (2/22/24) filled with fun learning opportunities--mini classes (1pm), Q&A with students (1:30pm), chat with faculty (2pm), learn about desserts around the world (4:30pm)

--plus contests with prizes: essay/poetry contest (5pm-**students submit creative entries on "Why Language Matters to Me" by 2/14/24 to language@albany.edu**

-- use subject: essay-poetry contest, 600 words max);

stump the professor with slang (5:30pm); and international trivia (6:30pm).

Something for everyone! Come and see in Humanities 354.

Questions?: language@albany.edu

Business Job & Internship Fair (February 21)

The poster features a purple and yellow color scheme. On the right side, there is a photograph of a person in a white shirt and blue jeans holding a folder, standing in a hallway. The text is arranged in a structured layout with bold headings and icons.

2024
INDUSTRY-FOCUSED
CAREER FAIRS

BUSINESS
FEBRUARY 21, 2024
CAMPUS CENTER BALL ROOM/ASSEMBLY HALL

FAIRS WILL BE HELD:
10:00 AM- 3:00 PM

GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT
MARCH 6, 2024
CAMPUS CENTER BALL ROOM/ASSEMBLY HALL

LEARN MORE :
<https://campuscenteralbany.edu/events>

The Business Job & Internship Fair (Spr. 2024) will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Campus Center Ballroom and Assembly Hall. The Business Job & Internship Fair

is for all students majoring in business degree programs, other related fields, and students interested in working in the business field.

Freshmen and Sophomores, this is an excellent opportunity to see what a career fair is all about and start developing your networking skills. Juniors and seniors, there will be internship and full-time job opportunities for you to learn about. Hope to see you there!

FREE PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FAIR!

If you need assistance with your resume, or figuring out which companies to target schedule an appointment with a staff member on EAB Navigate or email career@albany.edu to schedule an appointment.

More Information

For more information, contact:

Career and Professional Development
career@albany.edu

[Read More](#)

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)

Applying to Graduate School Webinar (2/19)

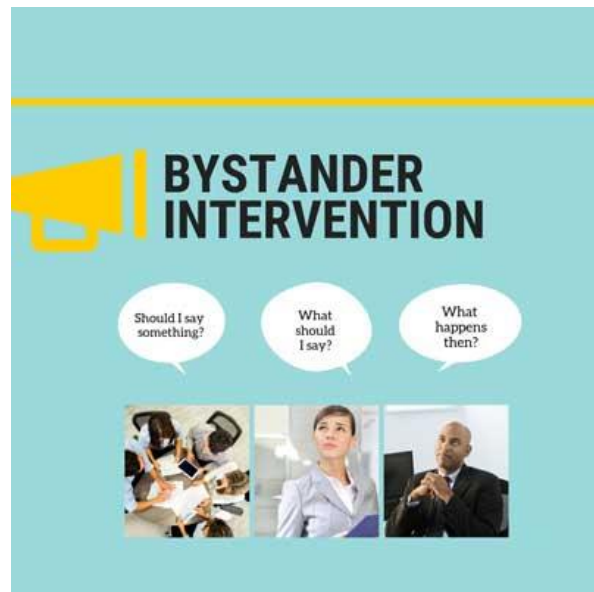


Monday, February 19 from 6:30-7:30pm online.
Register for Zoom link.

If you plan to continue your education beyond the bachelors, you should start the planning now! This workshop will cover the different graduate education options, how to determine the best program and degree, important steps in the application process and what makes a strong application.

[Read More](#)

Bystander Empowerment Training (2/22)



Thursday, February 22 from 5:30-6:30pm in HU 109

This training will explore the foundations of power based personal violence and the key components of both healthy and unhealthy relationships. This training will examine the experiences of sexual violence on college campuses and the systems and structures which uphold and perpetuate sexual violence within communities. You will explore your personal values around relationships and your values around supporting others in developing healthy relationships with their peers and overall community and learn about resources, knowledge, and skills to develop an action plan based in empowered bystander intervention and support.

[Read More](#)

Text Student Auto



Text Student Auto is a free, non-University affiliated service connecting college students to auto resources near campus. For more information on this service and the assistance it can provide please select "Read More."

This does not constitute an endorsement of this business on the part of the University nor a vouching for their business practices.

[Read More](#)

StudyNY Photo Contest



The 9th Annual Study New York Photo and Video Contest is underway. Take a picture or short video, choosing from 3 photo categories and 1 video category, and enter for a chance to be one of the 4 winners of a \$100 Amazon Gift Card and a chance to network with officials from NYC consulates and with educators from around the state at our annual reception as we present the winners with their awards!

Photo and Video Submissions are due by March 1, 2024. Go to www.studynewyork.us/photocontest for full details and to enter. Submit your photo or video entry (subject line: "Photo & Video Contest", with your name, your school, and the contest category).

[Read More](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

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