March 10, 2023

Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, March 12 at 2am. Set your clocks one hour forward (many Smart devices will do this automatically).

ISSS keeps normal business hours during Spring Break.

ISSS Announcements
- Travel Reminders for Spring Break
- Limitations on Online Courses for F-1 and J-1 students for Fall Semester (& Summer for Students Graduating this Summer)
- OPT Information for May Graduates (+ Premium Processing Information Released)
- ISSS Orientation Assistant Application/ Other On-Campus Job Postings
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief (SSR) Workshop- March 23
- Sprintax/Tax Filing Assistance Information- Sprintax Code Now Available
- Let's Talk

Upcoming Events
- Help for Turkey- Fundraising & Memorial Event (March 30)
- Irish Heritage Celebration with Paul Muldoon (March 15)

Advising by Appointment- In-Person or on Zoom

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am-12:30pm
- Schedule an appointment.

Walk-in Advising (no appointment required)- In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172)

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 12:30-4:00pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172
Travel Reminders for Spring Break

Traveling this break? Please review the required documents and other considerations for travel. If you need help or have questions please speak with an ISSS advisor:

If you will travel please make sure to request a travel signature on your I-20 or DS-2019.

Please make sure you have all documentation required to re-enter the U.S. This includes an I-20/DS-2019 with a valid travel signature when re-entering the U.S. (travel signatures for enrolled students are valid for 1 year; travel signatures for students on OPT are valid for 6 months), a valid passport (with at least 6 months validity remaining), and a valid F-1/J-1 visa; and proof of full vaccination for COVID-19. Students on OPT must also carry their EAD card and are highly encouraged to carry proof of employment. If your OPT is pending please speak to an ISSS advisor before traveling internationally.

Limitations on Online Courses for F-1 and J-1 students for Fall Semester (& Summer for Students Graduating this Summer)

As students begin to register for summer and fall courses, please keep in mind that the DHS flexibility which allows F-1 and J-1 students to take more online courses than usual expires at the end of the Spring 2023 semester. That means that barring any continuation from DHS, after the Spring 2023 semester F-1 and J-1 students are more limited in how many fully online courses they can take.

After the DHS guidance expires at the end of Spring semester the normal limitations will resume. No more than one online or distance education course (or 3 credits) may count toward the minimum number of credits needed for full-time enrollment during the semester. If the F-1 or J-1 student only needs one course to complete the program of study that course cannot be fully online.

For purposes of immigration reporting "fully online" courses refer to classes coded as fully online. In-person classed, hybrid/blended classes with an in-person component; and arranged classes with an in-person component do not count as "fully online" courses.

This means that undergraduate students who are enrolled full-time must take at least 9 credits that are not fully online. Graduate students who are enrolled full-time must take at least 6 credits that are not fully online. Students who are on an authorized reduced course load to enroll less than full-time must consult ISSS to ask whether they are eligible for any fully online classes, and if yes how many.

If you have any questions as you begin planning your course schedules after this semester please don't hesitate to reach out to ISSS@albany.edu
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
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

USCIS Announces Premium Processing Launch dates

Online filing of Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service, is now also available to F-1 students in these categories. USCIS continues to accept the latest paper version of this form by mail.

Premium processing expansion for certain F-1 students will occur in phases, and students requesting premium processing should not file before these dates:

- **Beginning March 6**, USCIS will accept Form I-907 requests, filed either via paper form or online, for certain F-1 students who already have a pending Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, if they are filing under one of the following categories:
  - (c)(3)(A) – Pre-Completion OPT;
  - (c)(3)(B) – Post-Completion OPT; and
  - (c)(3)(C) – 24-Month Extension of OPT for STEM students.
- **Beginning April 3**, USCIS will accept Form I-907 requests, filed either via paper form or online, for F-1 students in the above categories when filed together with Form I-765.

USCIS will reject premium processing requests for a pending Form I-765 if received before March 6, and will reject any premium processing request for an initial or concurrently filed Form I-765 that is received before April 3.

To file Form I-907 online, an applicant must first create a USCIS online account, which provides a convenient and secure method to submit forms, pay fees, and track the status of any pending

Students should note that:

- The premium processing fee is optional. Students may opt for regular processing, which currently has a fee of $410 (for the I-765 form for OPT/STEM OPT)
- The premium processing fee is in addition to the regular $410 filing fee for the I-765. The current premium processing fee for F-1 students filing an I-765 is
$1500. This means students opting for premium processing of the I-765 would need to pay $1500 in addition to the baseline fee of $410.

ISSS Orientation Assistant Application/Other On-Campus Job Postings

Join the Team

Apply to be an Orientation Assistant for Fall 2023 International Orientation

Apply at:
https://tinyurl.com/FallOA

Applications Due April 10, 2023
Must be enrolled in Fall 2023 and available to work in-person in Albany August 14-August 20

ISSS is seeking Orientation Assistants to serve as peer mentors and coordinate activities during Fall 2023 International Orientation (August 14-August 20).
Applicants must plan to be physically present in Albany between August 14-August 20. If selected for the position you must be enrolled for Fall 2023 to be hired. Orientation Assistants will be paid $14.20 an hour for approximately 10-25 hours of work.

Applications are due by April 10, 2023. For more information and to apply click here.

Here are some other upcoming summer on-campus job postings:

- Cleaner: https://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=159274
- Facility Operations Assistant 1: https://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=159276
- Maintenance Assistant: https://albany.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=159277

Undergraduate students can also apply for on-campus research opportunities through CURCE:

- Current CURCE opportunities
- Summer CURCE opportunities

Read More
Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief (SSR) Workshop - March 23

University at Albany ISSS Workshops

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Special Student Relief (SSR)
Thursday, March 23 from 5:00-6:00 PM
on Zoom, Meeting ID: 9487 3179 693

If you are a student or scholar from a TPS eligible and/or a SSR eligible country* and would like to learn more about the benefits, policies and procedures associated with these immigration categories:

*Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen. Hong Kong - SSR only.

Know Your Rights
Wednesday, April 19 from 5:00-6:00 PM
on Zoom, Meeting ID: 9378 0835 029

Learn more about your rights in the U.S. in relation to your immigration status, travel into the country, and interactions with federal/local law enforcement and the judicial system.

Special Guest Speakers

Seth Leech
Immigration Attorney

Cianna Freeman-Tolbert
Immigration Attorney

from Whiteman Osterman and Hanna LLP

If you are a student or scholar from a TPS eligible and/or a SSR eligible country and would like to learn more about the benefits, policies and procedures associated with these immigration categories, please join Immigration Attorneys Seth Leech and Cianna Freeman-Tolbert from Whiteman Osterman and Hanna LLP, and UAlbany ISSS staff to learn more.

Thursday, March 23 from 5:00-6:00 PM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://albany.zoom.us/j/94873179693?from=addon
Sprintax/Tax Filing Assistance Information

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars file their 2022 federal tax return. There is no personal exemption for 2022. All non-residents must file a tax return if income was earned in 2022. To obtain a Sprintax code please complete this Google Form.

If you were not employed but were in the U.S. during 2022 you still must complete and file a Form 8843. Please contact ISSS with any questions.

Sprintax Nonresident Tax Webinar
In these tax webinars, international students, scholars and professionals will be run through everything they need to know about nonresident tax for the 2022 tax season. Topics will include who must file, tax residency, FICA, State returns, implications of misfiling as well as how to use Sprintax to prepare a compliant tax return.

- Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:00 AM EDT – Register here
- Thursday, March 21st @ 10am EST – Register here
- Wednesday, April 5th @ 2pm EST – Register here
- Tuesday, April 11th @ 12pm EST – Register here
- Thursday, April 14th @ 12pm EST – Register here

Let’s Talk

The Let’s Talk service gives you access to a 15- to 20-minute consultation with a CAPS clinician at convenient locations on campus. The service is often used by students who:

- Aren’t sure about counseling and wonder what it’s like to talk to a counselor
- Aren’t interested in counseling but would like a counselor’s perspective
- Have a specific problem and would like to talk it through with someone
- Have a concern about a friend and want advice on what to do

Let’s Talk is available during the fall and spring semesters when classes are in session.

There may be a short wait while we talk to another student. If we have already reached capacity that day, please visit Let’s Talk another day or use the instructions above to schedule an appointment.

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in the Arena Level Office A35 inside SEFCU Arena (Uptown Campus)
- 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays in University Library Office 94 inside the Educational Opportunity Program suite (Uptown Campus)
• 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays in the Student Affairs Suite Room 114 at the School of Public Health (Health Sciences Campus)

Note: Let’s Talk is not the appropriate CAPS service if you’re experiencing an emergency or if any of the following apply to your situation:

• Thoughts of harming yourself or others, and/or a recent suicide attempt
• Engaging in dangerous or high-risk behaviors, such as impulsive behaviors or an increase in substance use
• Unusual thoughts and/or behaviors, such as hallucinations or loss of touch with reality
• Recent traumatic experience, such as an assault, accident or death of a loved one

In these cases, please refer to our Emergencies page.

Upcoming Events

Help for Turkey- Fundraising & Memorial Event (March 30)

Thursday, March 30 from 7:00-9:30pm in the Campus Center West Auditorium

Irish Heritage Celebration with Paul Muldoon (March 15)

Wednesday, March 15 from 7-8pm
Irish American Heritage Museum
21 Quackenbush Square, Albany, NY

Celebrate Irish American Heritage Month with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon, “the most significant English-language poet born since the second World War” (Times Literary Supplement), and the author of more than 30 collections.
Sponsored by the Irish American Heritage Museum in collaboration with the Writers Institute.
Please join us for this fundraising and memorial event for the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey.

Donations to the Turkiye Earthquake Relief Fund can be made at https://donate.tpfund.org/ualbany

Co-sponsored by the Turkish Student Association, IELP, CIEGS, NYS Writers Institute and the UAlbany Foundation.

Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

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

The information contained in this email is provided as a service to international students, faculty and staff at the University at Albany. It does not constitute legal advice. We try to provide useful information, but we make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in this email or any associated site or form. Neither the University at Albany nor ISSS is responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this email, or for the results obtained from the use of this information. Nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel; students may wish to consult an immigration attorney on the specifics of their case as needed.