April 28, 2023

ISSS Announcements
- Travel Reminders for Summer
- Volunteers Needed for International Buddy Program- Fall 2023!
- Limitations on Online Courses for F-1 and J-1 students for Fall Semester (& Summer for Students Graduating this Summer)
- OPT Information for Graduating Students
- Verified DUO Push
- Text Student Auto: End of Semester Automotive Solutions for International Students

Upcoming Events
- Clean Water Awareness Event (Apr 29)
- Negotiating Job Offers (May 2)

Advising by Appointment- In-Person or on Zoom
- Schedule an appointment

Walk-in Advising (no appointment required)- In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172)
- Effective April 24: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00-3:30pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172
Travel Reminders for Summer

Traveling this summer? 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.

Volunteers Needed for International Buddy Program- Fall 2023!

The International Buddy Program is designed to provide newly admitted international students an opportunity to get to know current UAlbany students (we call them “Buddies,” and they include American and International students). As a current UAlbany student you have experience, information and resources to offer to new incoming students.

To volunteer please sign up here

Undergraduate students have the option to earn credit through RSSW.
Limitations on Online Courses for F-1 and J-1 students for Fall Semester (& Summer for Students Graduating this Summer)

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 classes, 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 a student plans to graduate at the end of summer session the student must enroll full-time and not exceed the online course limitations. Fifty percent (50%) or more of the coursework must be taken at the University at Albany. PhD students enrolled in 899 course registration during the preceding Spring term should contact ISSS for case-by-case assistance- summer enrollment in 899 is typically not required. If you are graduating this summer and will not enroll full-time in your final term you must apply for a DHS reduced course load

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

Read More

OPT Information for Graduating Students

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

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**Verified DUO Push**

ITS is introducing 2-Step with Duo’s new Verified Push feature to further secure the University’s information security environment for everyone using the Duo Mobile app. This advanced security feature requires verifying your identity with a 3-digit code. Get a preview of this secure method of authentication.

Using Verified Duo Push:
**If you are already using the free Duo Mobile app, your registered devices will begin using Verified Duo Push automatically.** When logging in, you'll need to verify your identity by entering a 3-digit code instead of choosing to “Approve” or “Deny” a Duo notification.

Other Options:
If you have the Duo Mobile app installed and are using it to verify with another method, such as text or phone, select “Other Options” on the first screen prompt. This retrieves a list of all your registered verification options, and you can select your preference, including texts or prompts.

If you are currently verifying by text or phone without the Duo Mobile app, there are no changes.

Using International Phone Numbers:
If you are using a phone with an international number, Duo verifications can only be received using the Verified Push or Mobile Passcode options; verification by text or phone will not be available. **These methods will continue to work on phones with U.S. numbers.**

If you have questions or are unable to use the Duo Mobile App, please contact the ITS Service Desk so we can assure your continued access to campus IT services.

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**Text Student Auto: End of Semester Automotive Solutions for International Students**

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As the semester comes to an end, we understand that many of our international students might need assistance with their vehicles, whether it's storage or transportation to another state or country. That's why our partnership with Text Student Auto is here to help!

**Summer Car Storage:** 🌞
Worried about where to store your car during the summer break? Text Student Auto has got you covered! They have partnered with local storage facilities to offer discounted rates for international
students. To find a storage facility near you, just Text Student Auto at (518) 851-8240, and their team will guide you through the process.

Car Transportation Services:
If you need to transport your car to another state or country, Text Student Auto can help you find reliable and affordable transportation services. Their network of trusted partners ensures that your vehicle will be safety and securely transported to its destination. For more information, text (518) 851-8240, and their team will assist you with your transportation needs.

Maintenance Tips for Long-term Storage:
Before storing your car for an extended period, it's essential to make sure it's well-maintained to prevent any potential issues. Text Student Auto is here to help, offering a comprehensive checklist to ensure your vehicle remains in excellent condition throughout the storage period. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or for assistance in completing the checklist; Text Student Auto is happy to talk you through the process!

Remember, Text Student Auto is here to support your automotive needs, making your end-of-semester transition as smooth as possible. Just scan the QR Code to connect with them, a member of their team will answer within 1-2 minutes 24/7/365!

Upcoming Events

Clean Water Awareness Event
(Apr 29)

Earth Day event: CLEAN WATER AWARENESS, this Saturday at 12:30pm, located at Campus Center 375.

In recognition of Earth Day that takes place on April 22nd, UNA-USA UAlbany decided to create a program in relation to Earth Day. This event will be focused on the United Nation

Negotiating Job Offers (May 2)

Even when you know you want the job offer, you typically should not say "yes" and take it on the spot. You want to take the time to evaluate the offer to be certain that the position and the compensation are right for you. This workshop will provide you with tactics to politely and professionally negotiate your offers.
Sustainable Development Goal #6 which is, "Clean Water And Sanitation For All." Tuesday, May 2nd, 12 p.m. or 6 p.m.

Register to attend: bit.ly/GradCareerDev

Read More

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https://www.albany.edu/iss

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