May 14, 2021

**Orientation Assistant Applications Due Monday- Apply Now if Interested!**

**ISSS Summer Hours Start Next Week**

*During the summer, ISSS’s virtual office hours will be Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. Advisement will continue on Zoom and email. [Zoom appointments](#) are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am-3pm.*

**Important ISSS Announcements**
- Tax Filing + Sprintax Code for 2020 Tax Year- Taxes Due May 17
- Summer Travel Updates
- DHS Guidance & International Student Academic Continuity- Fall 2021
- **ISSS Seeking OA Applicants for Fall 2021 Orientation**
- Virtual International Celebration May 22nd
- OPT Q&A on May 19
- EducationUSA Seeking Current Students from Northeast Asia and the Pacific (NEAP) Region for Voices/Faces of NEAP Series
- ISSS Buddy Program-- Volunteers Needed to Help New Students in Fall 2021
- Participants Needed: Research Project Focusing on Chinese Native Speakers
- ETAP 830 Advanced Seminar in Language in Education Bilingualism and Multilingualism Perspectives

Follow us on Instagram [@ualbanyisss](#)
Tax Filing + Sprintax Code for 2020 Tax Year- Taxes Due May 17

ISSS has purchased Sprintax tax software to help international students and scholars to file their 2020 federal tax return. Tax returns are now due on May 17, 2021. To obtain a Sprintax tax code, please email isss@albany.edu no later than 2pm on Friday, May 14. Please include the following information in your email: first & last name, student id number, and the name of your employer.

If you were not employed, please go to: https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf to obtain form 8843. All F and J students who were in the U.S. in 2020 must file the 8843, even if they had no income. More information on the 8843 form is available on ISSS's website here: https://www.albany.edu/isss/68229.php#for8843

Sprintax is now also approved by the IRS for E-Filing of Non-Resident Tax Returns with the IRS. For more information, ask Sprintax or view their announcement here: http://blog.sprintax.com/nonresident-federal-tax-efiling-live/

Summer Travel Updates

If you are a continuing student currently inside the U.S. our office does not recommend international travel outside the U.S. this summer, if avoidable. As we have seen, travel risks are ongoing and the situation can change with little notice. The U.S. could impose further travel restrictions; flights can be limited or cancelled; and testing requirements can change.

We understand a student may have personal circumstances which require them to travel this summer. If you must travel, please contact ISSS for case by case advisement. Many factors may need to be considered as part of your travel plans. We want to remind students who are currently inside the U.S. that it is okay if the F-1 or J-1 visa expires while you’re within the United States; a valid F-1 or J-1 visa is only needed to enter the U.S. as a F-1 or J-1 student. While inside the U.S. students should keep their passport and I-20 or DS-2019 active to maintain status. We do not recommend international travel at this time, particularly if your visa is expired or will be expiring. Many embassies and consulates still have very limited availability for visa renewals. Therefore, trying to renew a visa at this time is very difficult, and students should avoid travel if possible.
New students or students currently outside the U.S. who expect to travel to the U.S. for Fall courses should contact ISSS for case by case advisement and to prepare for travel. More information for students traveling to the U.S. is on our website:
https://www.albany.edu/issss/93904.php#fall%202

The U.S. Department of State has granted a national interest exception (NIE) waiver to F-1 and J-1 students travelling from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, India, the Schengen Area, United Kingdom and Ireland. This waiver, under certain conditions, exempts F-1 and J-1 students from the Presidential Proclamations that restricted certain individuals from traveling directly to the U.S..

When entering the U.S., students must have a valid I-20/DS-2019 (continuing students must have a travel signature from within the past 1 year from the date of re-entry; students on OPT must have a travel signature from within the past 6 months from the date of re-entry); a valid F-1/J-1 visa; a valid passport (with 6 months validity remaining); and proof of a negative COVID test or COVID recovery. Please review country specific information for how the NIE waiver is applied below.

ISSS will continue to update students as the situation develops. More information can be found on NAFSA’s website here: https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry#nieniv

Students traveling from the Schengen Area, UK & Ireland: New and continuing F-1 students (including those on OPT) and J-1 exchange visitors may automatically qualify for a NIE waiver to enter the U.S. If you have questions or concerns about your eligibility for a NIE when traveling from these countries please contact your local embassy/consulate.

Students traveling from China, Iran, Brazil, South Africa or India:

New F-1 and J-1 students entering the U.S. on an initial I-20 or DS-2019 with an August 15, 2021 start date may automatically qualify for a NIE waiver to enter the U.S.; please contact your embassy or consulate if you have questions. The earliest new students may enter the U.S. is 30 days prior to their program start date (July 16, 2021 for students with an August 15, 2021 program start date). Students must obtain a valid visa before entering the U.S. (see documentation requirements for entry above).

Continuing F-1 students (including those on OPT) and J-1 students should contact their embassy/consulate for information on the NIE waiver to return to the U.S. There are conflicting reports of when continuing students are eligible to use this NIE waiver for
entry (i.e. whether continuing students may use it starting 30 days prior to the start of classes, or only August 1st or later).

DHS Guidance & International Student Academic Continuity- Fall 2021

It has been determined that the University at Albany will continue to provide academic continuity plans to overseas-based international students (new and continuing) unable to return to the U.S. for the fall 2021 semester. The University will therefore continue the process of working with undergraduate students through CIEGS and Academic Advisement Services while graduate students will need to work with Graduate Education/academic departments for scheduling assistance. As the University transitions back to in-person instruction, fully remote/online schedules will be limited to overseas students unable to return to the U.S. for the upcoming semester due to circumstances beyond their control, such as inability to obtain a visa, impeding timely travel for fall semester classes, or travel ban impositions. Because fully remote/online schedules will be limited, all other international students should expect that their course schedules will include in-person instruction in Albany this Fall. Graduate students may be able to make other arrangements if approved by their academic department.

On April 26th, DHS announced a continuance of its March 2020 guidance. Students who were actively enrolled and in an active F-1 or J-1 SEVIS status as of March 9, 2020 may enroll in a fully online course of study and maintain status during Fall 2021; this includes continuing students enrolled from outside the U.S. who are unable to return in-person in Fall 2021 (full-time registration is still required). Students who do not meet this criteria are required, according to DHS guidance, to enroll in a minimum of one in-person or blended/hybrid course to maintain F-1 or J-1 status during Fall 2021. While DHS has extended flexibility with online course loads, course modality availability may differ depending on a student’s level of study and/or academic program.
ISSS Seeking OA Applicants for Fall 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.

We are planning both in-person and virtual events as a part of our Fall 2021 International Orientation. Applicants must plan to be physically present in Albany between August 15-August 21. If selected for the position you must be enrolled in Fall 2021 to be hired.

Orientation Assistants will be paid $12.50 an hour for approximately 10-12 hours of work.

Applications are due by Monday, May 17 at 12:00pm (noon) EST. To apply, click here: https://forms.gle/9rfVmMPPr8mZwCwx86
CIEGS and ISSS will host a virtual International Celebration for Spring 2021 graduates and their families on Saturday, May 22nd at 9:30am EST. A Zoom link will be sent after 5/15/21 to spring 2021 graduating students.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

This is a post-Commencement event. If you are looking for information on University Commencement, please visit their website for the latest updates:
https://www.albany.edu/commencement
OPT Q&A on May 19th

**OPT Q&A**  
Wednesday, May 19 from 3:30-4:30pm  
Join Zoom Meeting  
https://albany.zoom.us/j/93269183491?pwd=eHZDbGtZR3NNUdpdXJEb0JOQUVCdz09  
Meeting ID: 932 6918 3491  
Passcode: 456428

This 1 hour drop-in time is for students who have already watched the OPT workshop recording to ask any questions they have to an ISSS advisor live on Zoom. These Q&As are not intended as a substitute for the required Post-Completion OPT workshop, but are a supplemental program. Students should attend or view the recording of the Post-Completion OPT workshop in advance of attending an open Q&A: [https://www.albany.edu/isss/87855.php#workshop](https://www.albany.edu/isss/87855.php#workshop)

**EducationUSA Seeking Current Students from Northeast Asia and the Pacific (NEAP) Region for Voices/Faces of NEAP Series**

EducationUSA in the Northeast Asia and the Pacific (NEAP) region, which covers Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, and the Pacific Islands, has undertaken a project to promote U.S. higher education by identifying student and alumni groups in colleges, universities, local communities in the United States, and home countries. Students from NEAP respond positively to seeing faces of people from their country, hearing native language, and being able to speak to students from their country that have experienced a U.S. education.

If you are a current student from Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan or the Pacific Islands who is interested in helping with this project, please contact ISSS@albany.edu

**ISSS Buddy Program-- Volunteers Needed to Help New Students in Fall 2021**
Want to help welcome new international students to the University, learn about a new culture, and participate in fun events and activities?

ISSS is seeking current students to volunteer as "Buddies" to welcome new international students in Fall 2021. This program pairs current students with new students to promote cultural exchange and help welcome new students to UAlbany.

To volunteer, please register here: [https://forms.gle/MUqk7p9afsj3gipN9](https://forms.gle/MUqk7p9afsj3gipN9)
Participants Needed: Research Project Focusing on Chinese Native Speakers

Are you curious about your writing proficiency? We are looking for you.

Academic Writing Across Cultures!

Are you curious about how the two languages in your mind (English and Chinese) interact with each other when you write? Do you want to test your language fluency and language articulation when you see a picture? Explore your writing skills in academic writing by doing a vocabulary survey.

Join this study if you are:
- a Chinese native speaker
- currently a university student who is studying or residing in USA and has an upper-intermediate English language proficiency (or satisfy the English language requirement for university entrance)

Please contact the principle researcher via mdinh@albany.edu to schedule a time convenient for you.

Participation Time Required: 50 min for questionnaire completion via Zoom (no video or identity required). You will receive a $15 Amazon gift card after completing the survey.

Are you a Chinese native speakers who are studying in the United States for more than 3 years? Have you ever wondered if the Chinese language affects your English writing and vice versa? Let’s explore how your brain works with two languages in your bilingual mind by joining my research!

My name is Hanh Dinh. I am a PhD student at the Department of Educational Theory and Practice, School of Education at SUNY Albany. I am reaching out to you for my dissertation research because your input can help me to investigate how Chinese undergraduate and graduate students learn vocabulary and use two languages in their academic study. If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact me at mdinh@albany.edu to schedule a one-time 50-minute meeting via Zoom at your most convenient time. You will be given a questionnaire to complete within the meeting. Your identity and contact information will always be kept confidential, so a Zoom meeting does not require video or any recording.
The compensation for your time is $15 Amazon e-giftcard.

Thank you so much for your consideration. I enclose a recruitment flyer for your reference.

Best wishes,
Hanh Dinh

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**ETAP 830 Advanced Seminar in Language in Education**
**Bilingualism and Multilingualism Perspectives**

*Format: Online synchronous, 4:30-7:15 MONDAY*  
*SUNY Distinguish Professor Istvan Kecskes*

This course will provide an overview of the field of bilingualism and multilingualism from a linguistic, psychological and educational perspective. It will examine how bi- and multilinguals differ from monolinguals in language use, thinking, behavior and social identity. Special attention will be given to the cognitive effects of multilingualism, types of language contacts, code-switching, effect of age and bilingual and multilingual education and policy. Bilingual programs in European and Asian settings will be compared to U.S. and Canadian programs to explain how geopolitics, globalization, and cultural differences affect educational policy, structure, and the effectiveness of educational programs. The course can be helpful for doctoral students in Social Sciences and Humanities department or international doctoral students, who want to know more about the nature and the impact of bi-/multi-lingualism on the science of learning, intercultural communication, equity, and policy-making.

If you want to register for this course, please contact Dr. Kecskes at ikecskes@albany.edu

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Unsubscribe

1400 Washington Avenue SL G-40 Albany NY 12222

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

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