ISSS Weekly Newsletter

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.

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Special Messages from Interim Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Dean of International Education and Director of ISSS

UAlbany, CIEGS and ISSS are firmly committed to supporting and providing opportunities to our exceptional community of international students. While this week has been a difficult one for international students throughout the United States and around the world, we ask that you please take the time to read special messages of support and commitment from our Interim Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Dean of International Education, Dr. Gilbert Valverde, and Director of ISSS, Dr. Michael Elliott, linked below.

[Message from Dr. Gilbert Valverde, click here]
[Message from Dr. Michael Elliott, click here]

ISSS Policy Guidance on DHS Fall 2020 Federal Regulations

ISSS has created policy guidance for students in response to the DHS Fall 2020 federal regulatory guidance released on July 6, 2020. This ISSS guidance is divided into sections which address new and continuing F-1 and J-1 students from inside or outside the U.S. It is important to note that currently the University is updating the Fall 2020 schedule of classes. Once the schedule of classes is updated, students will have the opportunity to adjust their schedules with the assistance of their academic advisors and with feedback from ISSS on any immigration requirements or concerns you may have. We appreciate your patience as you wait for the Fall 2020 schedule of classes to be finalized. In addition, it is important to note that federal DHS guidance is always subject to change. ISSS is committed to continuing to advocate for our international students’ needs while also providing the most up-to-date institutional guidance based on currently existing DHS requirements.

To access the UAlbany CIEGS/ISSS Fall 2020 Policy Guidance for F-1/J-1 Students, please click "Read More" below.
Notice Regarding I-20 Reissuance and Continuing Student Eform

As you may have noted in our policy guidance, DHS requires that all students who will be engaging in study in the U.S. be issued a new I-20 with a special annotation that they will not be studying fully online by August 4th.

Next week, ISSS will send out an Eform which will ask all continuing students about their intended plans for Fall 2020 (that is, whether you intend to continue study from inside or outside the U.S.). We know that for many of you your plans may not be finalized, and that's okay. Even still, if you have any intention or are considering that you may study in the U.S. this Fall, we ask that you please indicate that on the Eform. Students who will be traveling to the U.S. soon and who therefore need the I-20 more urgently will have the opportunity to request one. Students whose plans must be adjusted later can also contact ISSS to update their prior response.

Please continue checking your Albany.edu email, as further instructions for completing this Eform will be sent next week. We thank you for your patience during this time.

Upcoming Webinars for New and Continuing Students on DHS Guidance

We welcome students to join us in upcoming webinars next week. Topics that will be discussed include the July 6th Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulatory guidance on international student study and UAlbany’s fall 2020 reopening plan. Students will also have the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns.

Continuing Students (Undergraduate and Graduate) and New Incoming Undergraduate Students

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and International Admissions and Recruitment (IAR) invite continuing international students and new international students admitted to an undergraduate program to participate in an information session on Wednesday, July 15th at 9:00 AM EST. Below are the Zoom meeting details. We hope to “see” many of you on Wednesday.

**Time:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Zoom Link: https://albany.zoom.us/j/96652927597

Meeting ID: 966 5292 7597

New Incoming Graduate Students

If you are a new incoming graduate student, ISSS and Graduate Admissions are hosting a Webinar on Thursday, July 16th at 9:00 AM EST. Please check your email for details sent from Soha Acosta in Graduate Admissions, including registration information and Zoom link.

Important Update: CDC and NYS Quarantine Protocol

Please attend to this very important message regarding the New York Governor's mandate for certain individuals to quarantine upon entering the State of New York, and Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and instructions for quarantining.

The Governor of New York recently issued an executive order mandating that anyone entering NYS after spending a certain amount of time in the COVID-19 highly impacted states listed here must quarantine for 14 days (this includes any possible transiting through those states). Any persons arriving to NYS from any of these listed impacted states who do not comply with the quarantine mandate as outlined are subject to penalties, including a substantial monetary fine, as outlined in the executive order. Additionally non-compliance may possibly result in immigration status implications. The quarantine order will be enforced by the NYS Department of Health and Albany County Health. The CDC quarantine recommendation for persons traveling to or within the US from impacted regions can be found here while CDC instructions on quarantine/self-isolation are located here. More information about quarantine requirements will be sent by UAlbany soon.
International Circle: Empowerment and Connection

This group safe environment to talk about creating connections, coping with stress, well-being, parental expectations, living in Albany, academic success, and to meet other international students! Interested in joining? Have questions? Please contact Dr. Vivian Wilson-Hwang (vhwang@albany.edu) or Jennifer Ho, MA (jho2@albany.edu), or click Read More for the flyer.
Breathing Space: An anti-racism support group

This virtual support group provides a safe discussion space for students negatively affected by racism, including violence directed toward People of Color. This group welcomes Students of Color and all allies who seek to end racism.

To learn more, please contact either of the group facilitators who are both staff psychologists at CAPS:
Shantel Powell (she/her) | slpowell@albany.edu
Brian Freidenberg (he/him) | bfreidenberg@albany.edu
DC JazzFest From Home Series

The DC JazzFest From Home Series is a weekly event occurring every Saturday at 7 PM on the DCJF YouTube Channel and Facebook page that will feature never-before-seen footage of performances from year’s past as well as live-streamed shows from DCJF artist alums.

ICAway Career Podcasts

ICAway provides networking and career branding strategies for International Students. Check out their podcasts.

10 Online Cooking Classes

Whether you want to get insanely good at baking or rule taco night, Delish has listed some of the best online cooking classes you can try right now.