July 23, 2021

**ISSS Summer Hours**
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**
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information for International Students
- Updates to USCIS Policy for F-1 Student Change of Status and "Bridge" Applications
- USCIS Formally Withdraws Proposed Rule to Remove D/S for F-1 Students and J-1 Exchange Visitors
- On-Campus Jobs-- Currently Accepting Applications and Job Fair on August 25th!
- ISSS Buddy Program-- Current Students Needed to Help New Students in Fall 2021
- Participants Needed: Research Project Focusing on Chinese Native Speakers

Follow us on Instagram @ualbanyisss
Email us at ISSS@albany.edu
Schedule a Zoom appointment with us: https://calendly.com/ualbanyisss1/phoneadvisement
COVID-19 Vaccine Information for International Students

All students planning to live on campus during the Fall 2021 semester must begin or complete their COVID-19 vaccination cycle by the time they arrive to move into their residence hall or apartment, with limited exceptions (on-campus international students who will not have started or finished a vaccine series by the time they reach campus, please refer to the international student section of the Vaccinate UAlbany website and the emailed letter you received from the Director of Residential Life on July 20, 2021). In addition, Governor Cuomo announced all students will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 upon final approval by the FDA of a COVID-19 vaccine with limited exemptions. That approval is imminent and could be as soon as mid-September, according to the FDA.

Both the U.S. CDC and NYS recommend that travelers be vaccinated before traveling internationally, however proof of vaccination is not required to enter the U.S. at this time. Proof of a negative COVID test or recovery from COVID-19 is required for air passengers entering the U.S.; this is required even if you are already fully vaccinated.

For more information about UAlbany vaccination requirements pertaining to all students, international students, and on-campus living students, please visit https://www.albany.edu/covid-19/vaccinate-ualbany.

Please also review our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for international students: These FAQs address the following questions:

Q. Are vaccinations required by the University and/or to enter the U.S.?

Q. Which COVID-19 vaccines will be accepted by the University?

Q. How do I submit proof of vaccination for COVID-19?

Q. What are the requirements for fully vaccinated international students?

Q. What are the requirements for partially or unvaccinated international students?

Q. How can I get food and supplies while in quarantine?

Q: Where can I get a COVID-19 PCR and/or antigen test in New York State?

Q. Can I get a COVID-19 Vaccine in New York State?

Q. What are the rules for requesting a vaccination exemption?
Updates to USCIS Policy for F-1 Student Change of Status and "Bridge" Applications

On July 20, 2021, USCIS announced the following:

"U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced new policy guidance that eliminates the need for individuals who have applied for a change of status (COS) to F-1 student to apply to change or extend their nonimmigrant status while their initial F-1 COS application is pending.

Under the previous policy, applicants needed to maintain status up to 30 days before the program start date listed on their Form I-20, Certificate for Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, which required them to file extensions, or an initial COS and subsequent extensions ensuring that they would not have a "gap" in status.

To prevent a “gap” in status, USCIS will grant the change of status to F-1 effective the day we approve an applicant’s Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status. If we approve an application more than 30 days before the student’s program start date, the student must ensure they do not violate their F-1 status during that time. An example of a violation would be engaging in employment, including on-campus employment, more than 30 days before the program start date as listed on their Form I-20.

The new policy will reduce workloads and costs for both the applicants and USCIS. USCIS is in the process of revising the Form I-539 instructions to reflect these changes."


Updates to the Form I-539 instructions are expected soon. Students with a currently pending change of status application are recommended to consult their/an immigration attorney if they have questions about how this change can impact their case.

Students still must have their change of status approved by USCIS by the requested program start date on the I-20; if your USCIS change of status is not approved by that date you will need to contact ISSS to defer the change of status I-20 to a future term (if there continues to be time remaining in your academic program).

USCIS Formally Withdraws Proposed Rule to Remove D/S for F-1 Students and J-1 Exchange Visitors

The Biden Administration and DHS have formally withdrawn the proposed rule to eliminate D/S for F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors.
This decision follows DHS receiving over 32,000 public comments on the proposed rule.

On-Campus Jobs-- Currently Accepting Applications and Job Fair on August 25th!

Check out these on-campus jobs, currently hiring through [Handshake](#)!
- Student Assistant - Registrar's Office, Apply by Sunday, Jul 25
- Intramural Sports Official, Apply by Sunday, Aug 1
- Group Exercise Instructor, Apply by Sunday, Aug 15
- Fitness Assistant, Apply by Monday, Aug 16
- Graduate and Undergraduate Research Assistantships 2021-2022 Academic Year
- Graduate Assistant, Multicultural Resource Center, Apply by Friday, Jul 23
- University at Albany MBA for Executives Program Assistant, Apply by Friday, Dec 31

Also, save the date for the Part-Time Job Fair on August 25 from 1:00-4:00pm!

F-1 students may work on-campus up to 20 hours per week during the semester. J-1 students may also work on campus up to 20 hours per week during the semester but need permission from ISSS or their J-1 program sponsor before starting on-campus employment. More hours may be possible during the breaks while classes are not in session if also allowed by University student employment policies.

Please remember that F-1 and J-1 students may not work off-campus unless they are granted authorization by ISSS and any other relevant agencies before starting off-campus work. Off-campus work authorization is only granted under certain circumstances and working without authorization is considered a serious violation of status which could result in a loss of status and/or eligibility for future benefits. Consult ISSS if you have questions.

ISSS Buddy Program-- Current Students Needed to Help New Students in Fall 2021

Are you a returning UAlbany student? 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/MUqk7p9afsj3qipN9

“If you are a new student requesting a buddy please do not use the link above. You can request a buddy while registering for International Orientation”

Participants Needed: Research Project Focusing on Chinese Native Speakers

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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