Follow us on Instagram @ualbanyisss

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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ISSS Office Operations for Fall 2020

ISSS will continue to provide remote advisement and programming to students this term. While our physical office location in SL G-40 will remain closed, we are here for you and best reached by email (ISSS@albany.edu) or Zoom advising appointment, which you can schedule through our website. Document processing requests are proceeding as normal through use of our Eforms. Please continue to check our newsletter for updates and events which we will offer virtually throughout the semester so that you are able to engage with us no matter where you currently are in the world.

Read More

ID Card Pick-Up This Weekend

If you need or have lost your ID Card, e-mail IDCARD@albany.edu. There is no cost associated with obtaining your first University ID Card, however, subsequent replacements will incur a $20 fee.

Cards that are ordered by noon on Friday, August 21 can be picked up at the Downtown Campus mask distribution tables on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23 between noon and 6pm.

ID Cards that are ordered later than August 21 can be picked up at the Podium level entrance to the Campus Center (in front of the small fountain) table Monday-Friday between 10am-2pm, during the week of August 24.

If you have not yet uploaded your photo, follow the instructions at the following link: https://www.albany.edu/welcome/idcard.php?c=fr.

Additionally, don’t forget to download your UAlbany Virtual ID Card. All students must have a photo on file and an active Mobile ID. Installation instructions are listed below.
1. Download CBORD Mobile ID the app store
2. Choose ‘UAlbany’ from the server list
3. Log in with your NetID and password and set up a pin

If you have questions related to obtaining your University ID card or downloading your Virtual ID please contact University ID card by e-mailing IDCARD@albany.edu.

USCIS Updates: Fee Changes, New I-765 Edition, and I-9 Update Due to EAD Delays

USCIS issued an announcement last night regarding Form I-9 Verification During EAD Production Delays Due to COVID-19, which you can read in full here.

This notice allows for the temporary use of an I-797 EAD approval notice (not a receipt notice) as a List C # 7 document that establishes employment authorization (but not identity) for I-9 purposes.
To qualify, the I-797 approval notice must have "a Notice date on or after December 1, 2019 through and including August 20, 2020." I-797 approval notices with Notice dates outside this range will not qualify (meaning that any approval notices issued after August 20th wouldn't qualify under this announcement). Employers who use this flexibility will have to re-verify the employee on Form I-9 with the actual EAD (or suitable other combination of documents) by December 1, 2020.

USCIS is also increasing the filing fee for several of its forms, effective October 2nd. After October 2nd, the I-765 filing fee (used for OPT and other work authorizations) will increase to $550, and the I-539 filing fee (used for changes of status and reinstatement) will increase to $390 for online filing and $400 for paper filing.

Additionally, USCIS will be requiring an updated edition of the Form I-765 dated 08/25/2020 for applications postmarked on or after August 25, 2020. This is the form used to file for employment authorization, such as OPT and/or STEM OPT.

The current edition of Forms I-765 and I-765WS, dated 12/26/19
• Will be accepted if the application is postmarked before Aug. 25, 2020
• Will not be accepted if the application is postmarked on or after Aug. 25, 2020

The updated edition of Forms I-765 and I-765WS, dated 08/25/20
• Will be accepted if the application is postmarked on or after Aug. 25, 2020
• Will not be accepted if the application is postmarked before Aug. 25, 2020

Community Service Course- Receive 3 Credits for Intercultural Learning and Service

Are you interested in helping incoming international students adjust to being a student at UAlbany? Do you enjoy community service activities? Are you looking to earn 3 extra credits this semester? Are you available on Friday afternoons between 1:00 and 3:00 PM? If you answered yes to all of these questions, then please consider joining our Fall 2020 RSSW course!

The RSSW course is designed to help students better interact and understand cultural development. Students are required to make presentations about culture, participate in the buddy program, and attend RSSW classes every Friday. Three credits will be awarded for completing the course. Please see the course details below:

Advantages:
• Learn about another culture;
• Communicate and build a friendship with foreign students;
• Increase experience in volunteer work;
• Earn three academic credits.

Description and Requirements:
• Course: RSSW 290 (totally virtual);
• 100 hours of community service required;
• Be a "Buddy" to two or more international students and meet a minimum of 1-hour (in-person* or
Fall 2020 International Buddy Program

The International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) Office is currently recruiting volunteers for the International Buddy Program for this fall semester.

The International Buddy Program, which is jointly organized by UAlbany’s Cultural Connections organization and ISSS, pairs incoming international students with current students to help them navigate campus life. The program is designed to provide an opportunity for newly admitted international students to meet current UAlbany students. Current students who sign up for our program will be paired with two or more international freshmen who apply to the program.

The ultimate goal of the International Buddy Program is to promote understanding and friendship among different cultural groups and to utilize the culturally dynamic environment on the UAlbany campus. In the fall semester, we will hold a cultural themed event at least once every two weeks as in the past. We hope that during the activity, students can have fun while sharing life experiences and cultures.

Student who sign up to be a buddy can choose whether or not to receive credit. Below are three credit options:

3 Credits Option:
• Course: RSSW 290;
• 100 hours of community service required;
• Be a “Buddy” to two or more international students and meet a minimum of 1-hour (in-person* or virtually) with your buddy/buddies every week or every other week in order to fulfill or exceed 35 hours for the semester;
• Attend mandatory weekly course hours (virtually) on Friday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM;
• Participate in intercultural training, career development, and other student success sessions;
• Give country/cultural presentations, one in the class and one outside of the class;
• Work together on planned service activities;
• Fulfill remaining hours with independent service activities (ideas discussed in class).

1 Credit Option:
• Course: RSSW 190;
• 35 hours of community service required;
• Be a “Buddy” to one or two international student(s);
• Meet a minimum of 1-hour (in-person* or virtually) with your buddy/buddies every week or every

If you would like to sign up to participate in the RSSW course, please click here. Also, please email isss@albany.edu with the subject “RSSW Course” if you have any questions.
other week in order to fulfill or exceed 35 hours for the semester.

0 Credit Option:
• Not part of a RSSW course;
• Be a “Buddy” to one or more international student(s) (no minimum or limit);
• Meet (in-person* or virtually) with your buddy/buddies several times during the semester (no specific requirement as to the frequency or duration of meetings).

*In person meetings must meet University and State requirements for ensuring health and safety of the community (e.g. physical distancing and mask wearing, hand washing and sanitization, etc.)

If you would like to sign up to participate in the Fall 2020 International Buddy Program, please click here. Also, please email isss@albany.edu with the subject “Buddy Program” if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events
Opening Weekend is underway, including Great Danetopia Virtual Resource Fair and a Virtual Candlelighting Ceremony! For registration and Zoom meeting information for any of the above events, please click "Read More."
Understanding and Connecting with the American, NY and Albany Communities

**Wednesday, August 26, 6:30-8:30PM EST**
**ZOOM: [https://albany.zoom.us/j/97926168418](https://albany.zoom.us/j/97926168418)**

Please join returned Peace Corp Volunteers of Northeastern New York as they share more about the U.S., NY and Albany culture and how to connect with Americans in those communities. RPCVs have volunteered internationally so have lived in and become part of other communities around the world. These RPCVs are now back living in NY.

Know Your Rights in the U.S. Workshops

**Monday, August 31, 6:00-7:00PM EST**
**ZOOM: [https://albany.zoom.us/j/98416422232](https://albany.zoom.us/j/98416422232)**
**Thursday, September 3, 4:30-5:30PM EST**
**ZOOM: [https://albany.zoom.us/j/98052597426](https://albany.zoom.us/j/98052597426)**

Join Immigration Attorney Jim Milstein and ISSS staff to learn more about your rights in the U.S. in relation to your immigration status and interactions with federal and local law enforcement as well as the judicial system.

Education Abroad Fair

**Wednesday, September 2, 11:00AM-2:00PM EST**

Join the first virtual UAlbany Education Abroad Fair on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 via Handshake. Learn about the 80+ study abroad, research, internship, and service learning options UAlbany has to offer, and ask any

Library Workshops - Research Process, Plagiarism, and Citation

**Friday, September 4, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am (E.S.T)**

*Library Workshop I: Introduction to Research Process*

What is a research paper, steps in the research process, choosing a research topic, finding background information and articles, using research databases, and hands-on exercises.

**Friday, September 11, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am(E.S.T)**

*Library Workshop II: What is ‘Plagiarism’ All About? How to Avoid It?*

**Friday, September 18, 2020, 10:00am-**
questions that you may have. While there may be a lot of uncertainty in today’s society, you can still plan ahead. Registration is available on Handshake, click "Read More" below.

11:30am (E.S.T)
Library Workshop III: Citation Practice

For more information or to register, please email Yu-Hui Chen at ychen@albany.edu

Read More

Professional and Career Development in Preparation for the Job and Internship Fair

Friday, September 4, 2020, 1:00pm-2:00pm (E.S.T)
Zoom: https://albany.zoom.us/j/94574533689

Join Kathleen Gargan, Assistant Director of Career and Professional Development, to learn more about how to be prepared for the upcoming Fall Job and Internship Fair events in September and October.

Read More

Virtual Job and Internship Fair

The Office of Career and Professional Development will offer job and internship fair events virtually in September and October. For more information, contact career@albany.edu.

Read More

Unsubscribe

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