Friday, August 25 2023

This is your ISSS weekly newsletter. Please read this newsletter every Friday for important reminders, updates, and upcoming events you may be interested in.

**ISSS Announcements:**
- ISSS Advising Hours - Fall 2023
- Maintaining Status: Reminders for F and J students
- Online Course Limitations for F and J students
- Arrival Reporting EForm & Orientation Make Up (for New Students)
- UPD Notices: Your Safety Is Our Priority

**Upcoming Events:**
- K-9 Meet & Greet with ISSS & UPD (August 30th)
- Cultural Connections Buddy Reception & Welcome Party (September 1)
- Library Workshops for International Students (ongoing)
- NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship Program

Check out the [Virtual Resource Table](#) for helpful information on many topics, like opening a bank account, getting a driver's license, applying for a SSN (if eligible), paying your bill, and more.
ISSS Advising Hours- Fall 2023

Walk In Advising Hours, In-Person or by Phone (518-591-8172)
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 1:00-3:30pm
- No appointment needed, just visit Science Library G-40 or call 518-591-8172
- Student and scholars can also email ISSS@albany.edu for assistance. The email inbox is monitored Monday-Friday during business hours.

Maintaining Status: Reminders for F and J students

As we begin a new semester we want to remind students of some of the requirements for maintaining F-1 status. Detailed requirements can be found on the Current Students page of our website.

1.) Check your demographic information in MyUAlbany to make sure your addresses, email, and phone number are up to date. The SEVIS USA address must show where you are currently physically living in the United States. Click here for further instruction.

2.) F-1 and J-1 students must enroll full-time or seek approval for a DHS/ISSS authorized reduced course load in order to maintain F-1 and J-1 status while enrolled less than full-time. For undergraduate students 12 or more credits is full-time. For graduate students 9 or more credits is full-time.

Students may only drop below full-time enrollment after they are approved for an authorized reduced course load by the ISSS office (review the reasons for a DHS reduced course load).

Next week a registration hold will prevent F-1 or J-1 students from dropping below full-time enrollment. Students will not be allowed to drop a course after that time without permission from ISSS. If you qualify for a reduced course load but have not yet submitted a reduced course load authorization EForm please do so as soon as possible. Processing times can take up to 7-9 business days, and if you submit the request late you may accrue tuition liability as a result. If you have already been approved for a reduced course load for Fall 2023 and need to make changes to your course registration after next week you must contact ISSS to seek this permission to make the change.

If you are trying to swap classes while maintaining full-time registration please add the new course you want first and then drop the course you no longer need.

0% tuition liability for dropped semester length courses ends on August 27, 2023.
3.) Review the on and off-campus employment rules for F-1 and J-1 students, especially if you are interested in working on campus and/or applying for CPT, OPT, or Academic Training to work off campus. It is very important to follow the employment rules and limitations in order to not violate your status. [Click here for more information.]

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**Online Course Limitations for F and J students**

Normal DHS limitations on online course loads resume this Fall 2023 semester. 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 classed, 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.

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**Arrival Reporting EForm & Orientation Make Up (for New Students)**

Welcome new students!

All new students must submit the [New Student Arrival Reporting EForm](#)

For any students who missed all or part of Orientation, you must:

1. Review all information on the ISSS website, particularly the pages related to [Maintaining Immigration Status](#).
2. **Review all information** from Online Orientation this summer.
3. **Complete your New Student Arrival Checklist**, including submitting your **New Student Arrival Reporting EForm**

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**UPD Notices: Your Safety Is Our Priority**

In the beginning of each academic year, we share information with students on how to remain safe while on and off campus. We strongly encourage you to review the information below and keep it in mind this fall semester. It is important that we all remain vigilant in protecting ourselves and others, both on and off campus.

Personal safety tips:

1. **Walk in groups**: When possible, walk in groups of three or more. Data shows that being with a group of people is safer than traveling alone.

1. **Stay in well-lit areas**: Do your best to travel in places that have good lighting.

1. **Be aware of your surroundings**: As you are walking, always be aware of who is around you. If you notice someone following you, move to an area where there are more people and call for help.

1. **Parties/social gatherings**: Avoid attending/hosting large gatherings with individuals you do not know and be mindful not to enter houses or apartments belonging to strangers.

1. **Alcohol**: If you are of legal age and choose to consume alcohol, do so with moderation. Avoid juice, punch, and other mixed drinks as they may contain other substances. If you did not make it, you don’t know what’s in it.

1. **See something, say something**: Be sure to carry your cell phone with you and don’t hesitate to call 911 if you see something that doesn’t look or feel right.

Download the **Guardian Safety App** through your Apple or Android app store to report suspicious activity to UPD via text. Take advantage of its safety timer feature for peace of mind while walking on or off campus.
Dial 911 in the event of an emergency off campus. If you need our help on campus, contact UPD at (518) 442-3131 or 911 from any campus phone.

Upcoming Events

K-9 Meet & Greet with ISSS & UPD (August 30th)

Wednesday, August 30
5:00pm-6:30pm

University Podium Entrance, next to Fine Arts Museum

Meet officers from University Police (UPD), including K-9 Officer Boomer! Hear more about how the UAlbany K-9 unit and officers keep campus safe and the services you can seek from UPD. Ice cream will be served.
The buddy program joins new students with continuing students. Join ISSS and Cultural Connections for the Buddy Program welcome party on Friday, September 1st at **5:30pm** in Campus Center Assembly Hall (2nd Floor of the Campus Center).

**Library Workshops for International Students (ongoing)**

**Workshop I: Introduction to Research Process**

**Date:** Friday, September 1

**Time:** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Place:** LI – B48 (University Library, Basement level)
Topics: what is a research paper, steps in the research process, choosing a research topic, finding background information and articles, using research databases, evaluating research materials, and hands-on exercises.

Workshop II: What is “plagiarism” all about? How to avoid it?

Date: Friday, September 8

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Place: LI – B48 (University Library, Basement level)

Topics: in-text citations and bibliography; why acknowledge sources; when to cite; differences among quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing; types of plagiarism; how to cite; tips for avoiding plagiarism; academic integrity; and hands-on exercises.

Workshop III: Citation Practice

Date: Friday, September 15

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Place: LI – B48 (University Library, Basement level)

Topics: DOI (digital object identifier), ways of providing in-text citations, formulating citations, and hands-on paraphrasing practice.

As Workshop II and Workshop III are closely related, you are strongly encouraged to attend Workshop II first.

To sign up for any of the workshops, please fill out the form at https://albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cSYfm1wtPRi0WY6

If you have any questions about the workshops, please contact Dr. Yu-Hui Chen (ychen@albany.edu) at University Libraries.

NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship Program

Bringing together the world’s brightest minds and the latest accelerated computing technology leads to powerful breakthroughs that help tackle some of the biggest research problems.
NVIDIA is now accepting applications for the NVIDIA Graduate Fellowship Program for the 2024-2025 academic year! The program, now in its 23rd year, is now accepting applications worldwide. It focuses on supporting doctoral students working in AI, machine learning, autonomous vehicles, computer graphics, robotics, healthcare, high performance computing and related fields. Awards are up to $60,000 per student.

Since its start in 2002, the Graduate Fellowship Program has awarded nearly 200 grants worth more than $6 million.

Details and Qualifications

The application deadline for the 2024-2025 academic year is Sept. 7, 2023. An internship at NVIDIA preceding the fellowship year is mandatory — eligible candidates must be available for the internship in summer 2024. The program is open to applicants worldwide. Eligible graduate students must have completed their first year of Ph.D.-level studies at the time of application in the areas of computer science, computer engineering, system architecture, electrical engineering, or a related area.

How to Apply

Please click here for more information on eligibility and how to apply. Please share this opportunity with your departments, students, and friends.

Apply before September 7, 2023.

Please feel free to forward this to appropriate colleagues in your organization.
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